

Graduate Diploma of Counselling (GDCN) - GradDipCouns

	External
Start:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Residential school:	Ipswich or Toowoomba campus — mandatory
Standard duration:	1 year full time; 2 years part-time
Program articulation:	From: Graduate Certificate of Counselling To: Master of Counselling

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 269 500 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: study@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Phone: +61 7 4631 5543 Email: international@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email usq.support@usq.edu.au

Professional accreditation

Graduates of the Graduate Diploma of Counselling will be able to apply for membership of the [Australian Counselling Association \(ACA\)](#). Membership with the ACA enables registration as a Counsellor with the [Australian Register of Counsellors and Psychotherapists \(ARCAP\)](#).

Completion of at least 50% of this program (including two Foundation of Practice courses) is also a requirement for entry into the [Master of Counselling](#).

Program aims

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling aims to provide an introduction to counselling practice and enables registration with the ACA. The Graduate Diploma of Counselling provides an introduction to practice, allows for registration as a counsellor, and prepares students for further study. Depending on specialisation, the Graduate Diploma of Counselling further aims to equip students with in-depth knowledge of one of four specialist areas.

- Alcohol and Drug Studies
- Child, Youth and Family Therapy
- Mental Health Counselling
- Foundations of Practice

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is available to graduates of human services, health, nursing, psychology and other allied disciplines. The Graduate Diploma of Counselling contains mandatory Residential Schools and online tutorials as well as mandatory foundational courses in order to ensure that the training standards required for registration are met

Program objectives

On completion of the award, students should be able to:

- (1) Apply a core body of knowledge, including contemporary theories and models central to counselling assessment, and treatment.
- (2) Effectively utilise a range of advanced interpersonal, written, oral and digital literacy skills appropriate for communicating with diverse audiences including clients and professionals.
- (3) Apply critical reasoning, problem solving, and professional and ethical judgement with initiative to identify and resolve a range of therapeutic, professional, legal and ethical practice issues.
- (4) Consolidate theory and practice within an integrative framework to effectively provide counselling within diverse cultural and practice contexts and client groups.
- (5) Utilise relevant research literature, methodologies and findings to inform practice development and decision-making processes..

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a single national, comprehensive system of qualifications offered by higher education institutions (including universities), vocational education and training institutions and secondary schools. Each AQF qualification has a set of descriptors which define the type and complexity of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills that a graduate who has been awarded that qualification has attained, and the typical volume of learning associated with that qualification type.

This program is at AQF Qualification Level 08. Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional or highly skilled work and/or further learning.

The full set of levels criteria and qualification type descriptors can be found by visiting www.aqf.edu.au.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- Completion of an Australian university three-year bachelor degree in any area or equivalent.
- English Language Proficiency requirements for Category 3.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable [English language requirements](#).

If students do not meet the English language requirements they may apply to study a University-approved [English language program](#). On successful completion of the English language program, students may be admitted to an award program.

Program fees

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [FEE-HELP](#) provided they meet the residency and citizenship requirements.

Australian citizens, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who will be resident outside Australia for the duration of their program pay full tuition fees and are not eligible for [FEE-Help](#).

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Program structure

Each Graduate Diploma of Counselling consists of 4 Core Courses ([COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications](#); [COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics](#); [COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts](#); [COU8104 Counselling Frameworks](#)) and 3 or 4 courses related to a specialisation. Some specialisations also allow students to select a number of elective courses.

Program completion requirements

Students must have successfully completed the core and approved courses (as applicable) to successfully complete the program.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 3 years to complete this program.

Foundations of Practice specialisation

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Foundations of Practice) consists of five Level 8 core courses and three approved courses.

Related programs

Alcohol and Drug Studies specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

Child, Youth and Family Therapy specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

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Footnotes

- * Mandatory Residential School
- ^ Please note that in 2021, COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice will run in S2 (not S1 as indicated in the enrolment pattern). For 2021, students can choose between taking COU8006 in S2 OR taking COU5003 Introduction to Clinical Supervision, in S1. COU5003 Introduction to Clinical Supervision is in teach-out mode, and will be offered for the last time in 2021.

Mental Health Counselling specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

