

## Master of Counselling (MCCO) - MCouns

	External
<b>Start:</b>	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)
<b>Fees:</b>	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
<b>Residential school:</b>	Ipswich campus or Toowoomba campus — mandatory
<b>Standard duration:</b>	2 years full-time, 4 years part-time
<b>Program articulation:</b>	From: <a href="#">Graduate Diploma of Counselling</a>

### Contact us

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

### Professional accreditation

The Alcohol and Drug Studies, Child Youth and Family Therapy, Mental Health Counselling and Foundations of Practice specialisations in the Master of Counselling are accredited by the [Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia \(PACFA\)](#) and the [Australian Counselling Association \(ACA\)](#).

### Program aims

The aim of this program is to equip students with advanced counselling skills. The Master of Counselling prepares students for practice, e

The second pathway is called the Master of Counselling (Advanced Practice) and is designed to advance knowledge, research, and practice for applicants who are already registered professionals in counselling or related disciplines and thus are not required to meet initial registration requirements. This pathway does not require students to undertake foundational courses, residential schools, or a practicum. It offers maximum choices, flexibility, and a simpler admission process. However, it does not lead to registration as a counsellor. The Master of Counselling (Advanced Practice) includes two research options – a Research Project option that involves completion of a full Research Project, and a Capstone Experience option, that involves completion of a smaller piece of research.

The Master of Counselling is available to graduates of human services, health, nursing, psychology and other allied disciplines.

### **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, treatment, and clinical supervision.
- (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) Critically evaluate relevant research literature, methodologies and findings to inform practice development and conduct research.

### **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 A

OR (Advanced Practice)

- Membership of a relevant professional body, such as the Australian Psychological Association, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Counselling Association, or the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia.
- 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.

### **Requirements for professional experience placements**

Practical and/or clinical experience will be undertaken as part of the program (with the exception of the Advanced Practice stream). Students will negotiate supervised industry placement where they will have to demonstrate competency in those components of the course(s) that require application in a counselling situation.

Students undertaking practical and/or clinical experience are responsible for their own transport to and from their clinical placements and are also responsible for their own safety in organising that transport, whether public or private.

Students must have a Blue Card issued by the Commission of Children and Young People and Child Guardian in Queensland or its respective interstate equivalent, or be a registered health professional who qualifies for a professional exemption, to enrol in [COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#). These courses must 1 175.622 638.419 T

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

- For the qualifying specialisations (Alcohol and Drug Studies; Child, Youth and Family Therapy; Mental Health Counselling; and Foundations of Practice) the program consists of 7 core courses. These specialisations include 5 courses with Residential Schools ([COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics](#); [COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications](#); [COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts](#); [COU8104 Counselling Frameworks](#)), [COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice](#), a 2-unit Placement Course ([COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#)) and a Research Methods Course ([HSC8050 Research Methodology for the Human Sciences](#)) as well as 4 specialisation courses that vary depending on specialisation. Students can choose between completing a Research Project Pathway ([MSC8001 Research Project I](#); [MSC8002 Research Project II](#)) or a Research Capstone Project Pathway ([COU8040 Counselling Capstone Project](#)) and can select a number of elective courses depending on their specialisation and the research pathway chosen.
- For the Advanced Practice specialisation, the program consists of 1 compulsory Research Methods course ([HSC8050 Research Methodology for the Human Sciences](#)). Students can then choose between completing a Research Project Pathway or a Research Capstone Project Pathway and can select a number of elective courses depending on their specialisation and the research pathway chosen.

### Program Training Philosophy

USQ counselling programs prioritise high quality, research-informed, client-focussed, transferrable counselling knowledge and skills to ensure maximum versatility and responsiveness to client diversity. The programs emphasise respecting client dignity throughout treatment, and emphasise collaboratively designing and adapting treatment to fit client goals, values, strengths, preferences, and treatment response. The focus is on feedback informed therapy, and matching treatment to client needs and preferences.

## 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 5 years to complete this program.

## Foundations of Practice specialisation

This specialisation is completed as part of the [GDCN Graduate Diploma of Counselling](#). Completion of at least 50% of the [GDCN Graduate Diploma of Counselling](#) is a pre-requisite to enrolment in the [MCCO Master of Counselling](#). The [MCCO Master of Counselling \(Foundations of Practice\)](#) consists of 7 core courses, one of which ([COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#)) is a 2 unit course. Students can then either elect to complete a Research Project (4 units – [MSC8001 Research Project I](#) and [MSC8002 Research Project II](#)) or a Counselling Capstone Course (2 units – [COU8040 Counselling Capstone Project](#)). Students completing the Research Project may select 4 additional units, while students completing the Capstone Course may select 6 additional units. Students will be required to attend mandatory residential school workshops and mandatory online tutorials for five courses, [COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications](#); [COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics](#); [COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts](#); [COU8104 Counselling Frameworks](#)), [COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice](#). Students will also be required to take a

counselling practicum ([COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#)) as part of the Master of Counselling program.

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EDU5335 Emotional and Behavioural Problems of Children and Adolescents	1,3	ONL
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**Footnotes**

- # This course has a mandatory 4-day residential school and 10 hours of mandatory online tutorials.
- + 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.
- ^ Please refer to section headed "Requirements for professional experience placements" for information pertaining to COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum
- \* Two units

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<a href="#">COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2</a>	2	ONL
<a href="#">EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention</a>	1,3	ONL

**Footnotes**

- # This course has a mandatory 4-day residential school and 10 hours of mandatory online tutorials.
- + 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.
- ^ Please refer to section headed "Requirements for professional experience placements" for information pertaining to COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum
- \* Two units

**Child, Youth and Family Therapy specialisation**

The MCCO (Child, Youth and Family Therapy) consists of 10 core courses, one of which ([COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#)) is a 2 unit course. Students can then either elect to complete a Research Project (4 units – [MSC8001 Research Project I](#) and [MSC8002 Research Project II](#)) or a Counselling Capstone Course (2 units – [COU8040 Counselling Capstone Project](#)). Students completing the Research Project may select 1 additional unit, while students completing the Capstone Course may select 3 additional units. Students will be required to attend mandatory residential school workshops and mandatory online tutorials for five courses, ([COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics](#); [COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications](#); [COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts](#); [COU8104 Counselling Frameworks](#)), and [COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice](#). Students will also be required to take a counselling practicum ([COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum](#)) as part of the Master of Counselling program.

Core Courses	Semester(s) Offered	Mode
<a href="#">COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications</a> <sup>#</sup>	1	EXT
<a href="#">COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics</a> <sup>#</sup>	1	EXT
<a href="#">COU8104 Counselling Frameworks</a> <sup>#</sup>	2	EXT
<a href="#">COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts</a> <sup>#</sup>	2	EXT
<a href="#">EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention</a>	1, 3	ONL
<a href="#">COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling</a>	1	ONL
<a href="#">COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling</a>	2	ONL
<a href="#">COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice</a> <sup>#+</sup>	1	EXT
<a href="#">HSC8050 Research Methodology for the Human Sciences</a>	1,2	ONL
<a href="#">COU8050 Masters Counselling Practicum</a> <sup>^*</sup>	1,2	EXT
<b>For Research Project Option</b>		
<a href="#">MSC8001 Research Project I</a> <sup>*</sup>	1,2	ONL, ONC
<a href="#">MSC8002 Research Project II</a> <sup>*</sup>	1,2	ONL, ONC
Choose one (1) of the following		
<a href="#">COU8011 Assessment for Substance Misuse</a>	1	ONL
<a href="#">COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs</a>	2	ONL
<a href="#">COU8014 Relapse Prevention</a>	2	ONL
<a href="#">COU8031 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling</a>	1	ONL
<a href="#">COU8032 Mental Health Practice 1</a>	1	ONL
<a href="#">COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2</a>	2	ONL

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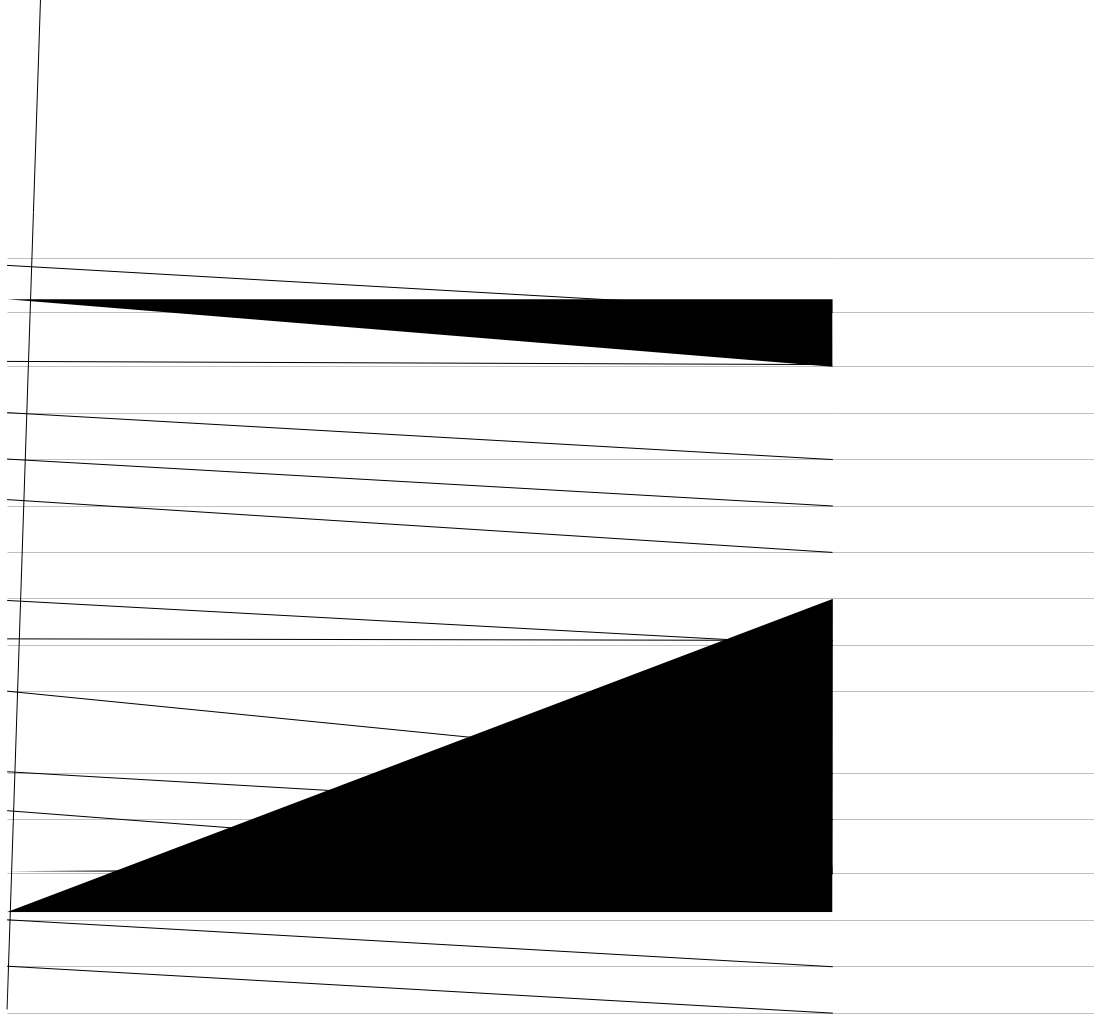
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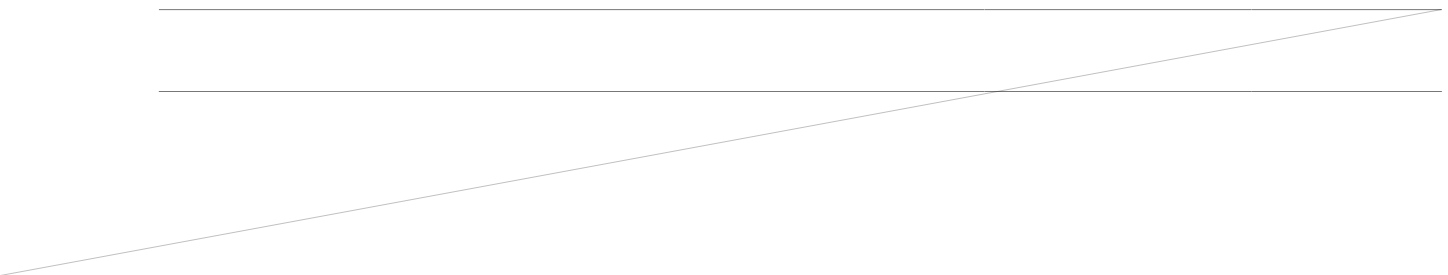




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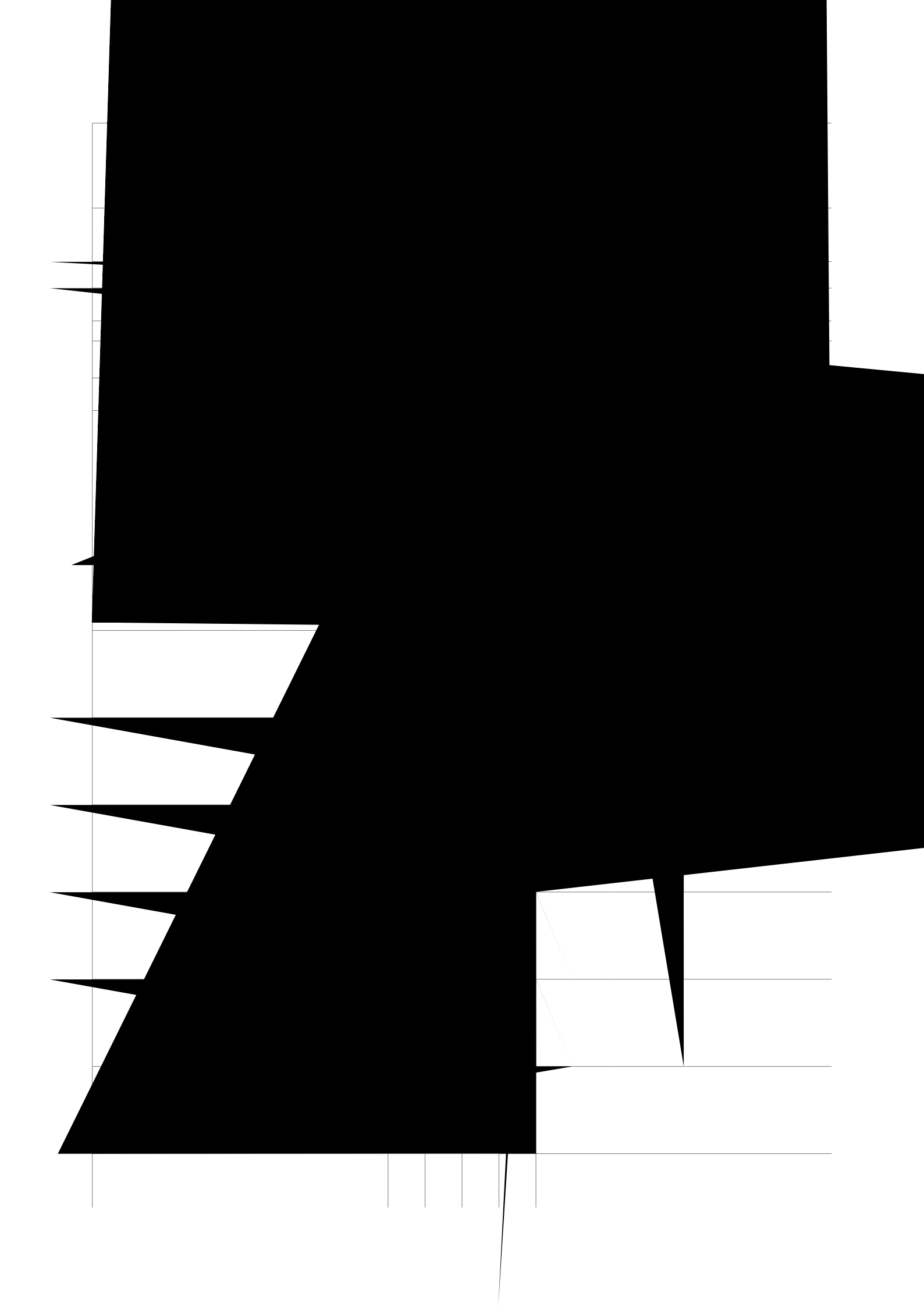
**Footnotes**

\* Two units

# This course has a mandatory 4-day residential school and 10 hours of mandatory online tutorials.

**Foundations of Practice 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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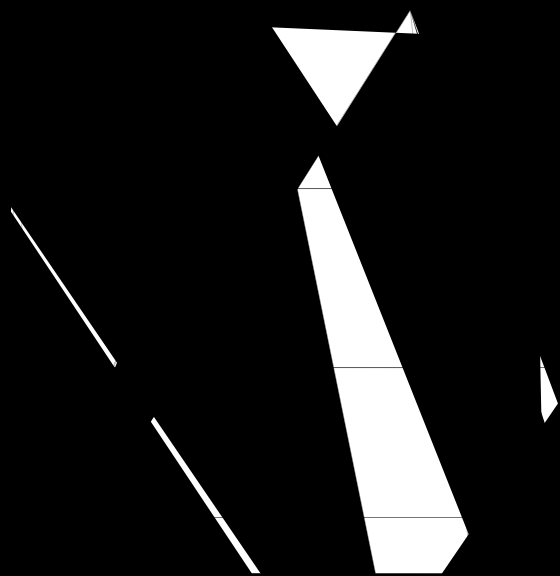
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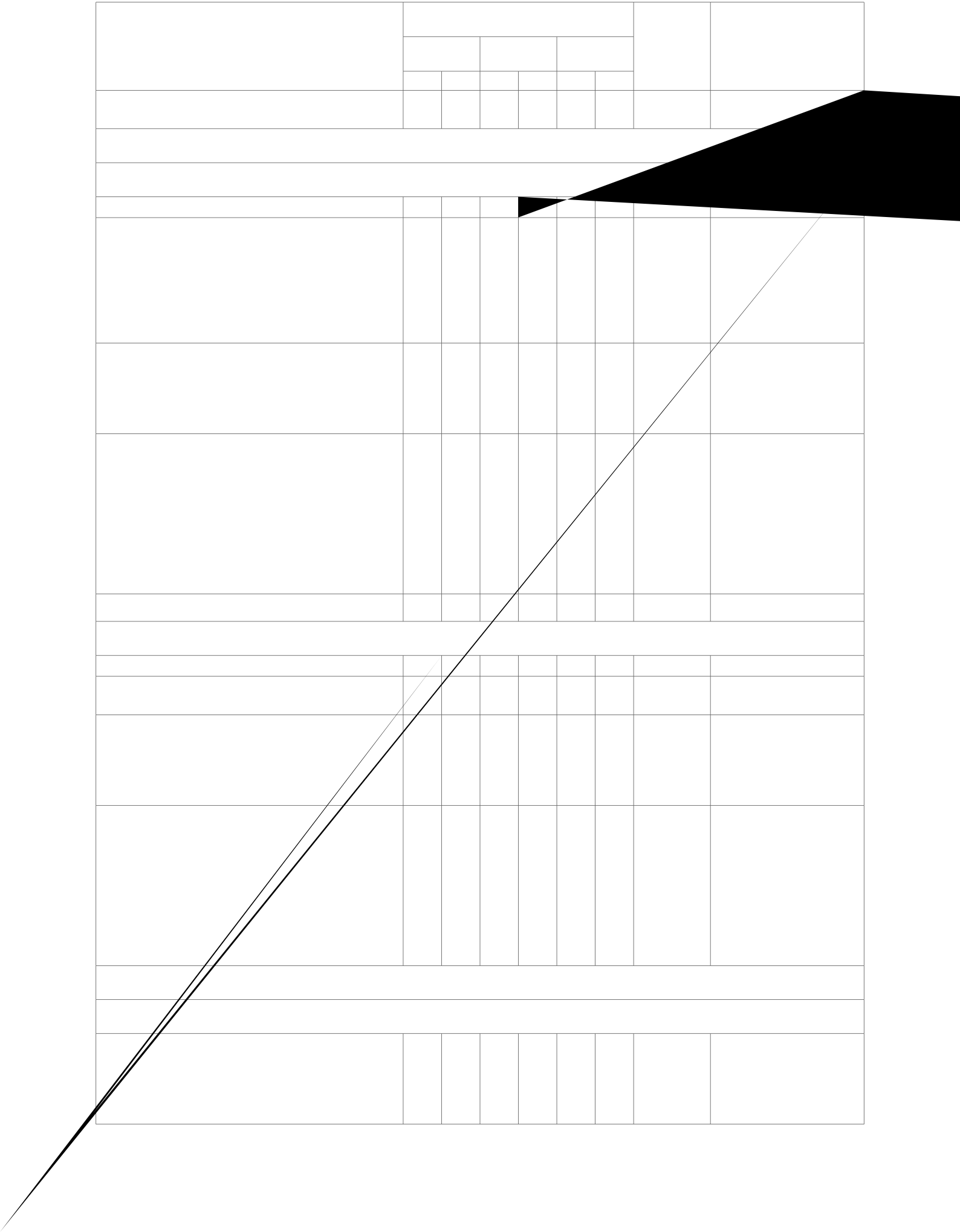
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	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j	Vb^o	Pb j		
<a href="#">COU8012 Motivational Interviewing</a>						1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
<a href="#">COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs</a>						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
<a href="#">COU8014 Relapse Prevention</a>						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
<a href="#">COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling</a>						1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV or GCHH or GDHH or MOHH
<a href="#">COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling</a>						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV or GCHH or GDHH or MOHH
<a href="#">EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention</a>						1,3		Enrolment is not permitted in <a href="#">EDU5325</a> if <a href="#">EDU3325</a> has been previously completed.

#### Footnotes

\* Two units

# Mandatory Residential Schools.

^ Please refer to section headed "Requirements for professional experience placements" for information pertaining to [COU8050](#).

### Advanced Practice 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.

Students should consult the Program Coordinator via [usq.support@usq.edu.au](mailto:usq.support@usq.edu.au).