

Graduate Diploma of Counselling (GDCN) - GradDipCouns

You are currently viewing the 2023 Handbook. For study in 2024, please refer to the [2024 UniSQ Handbook](#).

	External
Start:	Trimester 1 (January) Trimester 2 (May) Trimester 3 (September)
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

Notes:

In 2023 the programs follows the Semester calendar. The [Academic Calendar and Important Dates](#) webpage will allow you to view and download a copy of the important dates for the Semester calendar.

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 Frame

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees v

Footnotes

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

£ In Semester 3, 2023 this course will be delivered as a Transition (9 week) semester, commencing on 13 November 2023 and concluding on 12 January 2024

Mental Health Counselling specialisation

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Mental Health Counselling) consists of seven Level 8 core courses and one approved course.

Compulsory Courses	Semester(s) Offered	Mode
COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications #	1	EXT
COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics #	1	EXT
COU8104 Counselling Frameworks #	2	EXT
COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts #	2	EXT
COU8031 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling	1	ONL
COU8032 Mental Health Practice 1	1	ONL
COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2	2	ONL
Choose one of the following courses below:		
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling	2	ONL
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice #	1	EXT
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs	2	ONL
COU8014 Relapse Prevention	2	ONL

Footnotes

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

IT requirements

For information technology requirements please refer to the [minimum computing standards](#) .

Residential schools

The attendance requirement of residential schools within this degree is indicated by the following letters: R = Recommended; HR = Highly Recommended; M = Mandatory. To find out more about [residential schools](#), visit the

