

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

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 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 Schedule](#)

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, external or online. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Schedules](#).

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.

Core 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
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice [#]	1	EXT
Approved Courses		
Choose three of the following:		
COU8011 Assessment for Substance Misuse	1	ONL
COU8012 Motivational Interviewing	1	ONL
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs	2	ONL
COU8014 Relapse Prevention	2	ONL
COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling	1	ONL
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling	2	ONL
COU8031 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling	1	ONL
COU8032 Mental Health Practice 1	1	ONL
COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2	2	ONL
EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention [£]	1,3	ONL
EDU5335 Emotional and Behavioural Problems of Children and Adolescents [£]	1,3	ONL

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

Alcohol and Drug Studies specialisation

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Alcohol and Drug Studies) consists of eight Level 8 core courses.

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
COU8011 Assessment for Substance Misuse	1	ONL
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs	2	ONL
COU8014 Relapse Prevention	2	ONL
COU8012 Motivational Interviewing	1	ONL

Footnotes

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

Child, Youth and Family Therapy specialisation

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling (Child, Youth and Family Therapy) 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
EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention [£]	1, 3	ONL
COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling	1	ONL
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling	2	ONL
Choose one of the following courses below:		
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs	2	ONL
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice [#]	1	EXT
EDU5335 Emotional and Behavioural Problems of Children and Adolescents [£]	1,3	ONL
COU8014 Relapse Prevention	2	ONL

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 [Residential School Schedule](#) to view specific dates for your degree, or visit the [Policy and Procedure Library](#).

There are mandatory residential schools held at Ipswich or Toowoomba campus, and mandatory synchronous online tutorials for:

- [COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics](#)
- [COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts](#)
- [COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications](#)
- [COU8104 Counselling Frameworks](#)
- [COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice](#)

Articulation

A student who has successfully completed 50% of the courses in the [GDCN Graduate Diploma of Counselling](#) may apply to articulate into the MCCO. Entry into the MCCO is not automatic and students will need to meet additional requirements including having a GPA of at least 5.0, and an application that is supported by two referees as well as a structured interview (refer MCCO handbook entry).

A student articulating into a higher degree will only receive the award of the higher degree that they complete. Such students will be given full credit for all courses completed whilst studying the Graduate Diploma. Students must advise the Faculty in writing of their intention to articulate and this must occur prior to completion of the Graduate Diploma of Counselling.

Related programs

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is nested with the [Graduate Certificate of Counselling](#) and the [Master of Counselling](#).

Exit points

Students may exit after four courses with a [Graduate Certificate of Counselling](#) provided they have met the requirements within the program structure of the Graduate Certificate of Counselling.

Credit

Exemptions/credit will be assessed based on the [UniSQ Credit and Exemption Procedure](#).

Foundations of Practice specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
Year 1 / Semester 1 entry - Full Time Pattern								
COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications [#]			1	1			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics [#]			1	1			M	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
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice [#]			1	1			M	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
Semester 2								
COU8104 Counselling Frameworks [#]			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts [#]			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
Choose three courses from the list of approved courses								
Approved Courses								
COU8011 Assessment for Substance Misuse						1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8012 Motivational Interviewing						1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
COU8014 Relapse Prevention						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling						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
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling						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
COU8031 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling						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
COU8032 Mental Health Practice 1						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
COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2						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
EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention £						1,3		Enrolment is not permitted in EDU5325 if EDU3325 has been previously completed.
EDU5335 Emotional and Behavioural Problems of Children and Adolescents £						1,3		Enrolment is not permitted in EDU5335 if EDU3335 has been previously completed.

Footnotes

Mandatory residential schools

£ 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

Alcohol and Drug Studies specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
Year 1 / Semester 1 entry - Full Time Pattern								
COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications *			1	1			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics *			1	1			M	Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the fol

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
								lowing Programs: GCCO or GDCN or MCCO or PDEV or GCHH or GDHH or MOHH
COU8011 Assessment for Substance Misuse					1	1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8012 Motivational Interviewing					1	1		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8104 Counselling Frameworks *			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts *			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8014 Relapse Prevention					1	2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs					1	2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO

Footnotes

* Mandatory Residential School

Child, Youth and Family Therapy specialisation recommended enrolment pattern

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
Year 1 / Semester 1 entry - Full Time Pattern								
COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications *			1	1			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics *			1	1			M	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

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
EDU5325 Child Abuse and Neglect: Intervention, Protection and Prevention [£]					1	1, 3		Enrolment is not permitted in EDU5325 if EDU3325 has been previously completed.
COU8021 Couple and Family Counselling					1	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
COU8104 Counselling Frameworks [*]			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts [*]			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling					1	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
Choose one of the following courses:								
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice [*]				1			M	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
EDU5335 Emotional and Behavioural Problems of Children and Adolescents [£]						1,3		Enrolment is not permitted in EDU5335 if EDU3335 has been previously completed.
COU8014 Relapse Prevention						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO

Footnotes

* Mandatory Residential School

£ 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 recommended enrolment pattern

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
Year 1 / Semester 1 entry - Full Time Pattern								
COU8101 Counselling Skills and Applications *			1	1			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8102 Professional Counselling Practice, Identity and Ethics *			1	1			M	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
COU8031 Contexts of Mental Health Counselling					1	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
COU8032 Mental Health Practice 1					1	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
COU8104 Counselling Frameworks *			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8103 Counselling Issues and Contexts *			1	2			M	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 or MNSG or GDNG or GCNG
COU8033 Mental Health Practice 2					1	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
Choose one of the following courses:								
COU8022 Child and Youth Counselling						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
COU8006 Group Counselling Process and Practice *				1			M	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
COU8014 Relapse Prevention						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Residential school	Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
								GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO
COU8013 Introduction to Psychoactive Drugs						2		Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in one of the following Programs: GCAD or GDCN or MPPS or GCCO or MCCO

Footnotes

* Mandatory Residential School