

Doctor of Professional Studies (DPST) - DProfSt

	Distance education
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (March) Semester 2 (July)
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Standard duration:	3 years full-time, 6 years part-time
Program articulation:	From: Master of Professional Studies

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 640 678 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 usqassist@usq.edu.au

Program focus

The Doctor of Professional Studies is designed to enable professionals to engage in the highest form of authentic learning: to study as they engage in real world, real time activity; and to combine their work and study in ways that lead to benefits for both the individual and the organisation by creating new knowledge for professional use. Accordingly, the program aims to provide opportunities for professionals with the appropriate entry qualifications that enable them to critically review resources, to address theoretical and practical questions and issues in their workplace field, and to design and implement projects to further investigate these questions and issues. An essential feature of this program is that participants continue their employment while undertaking projects which integrate disciplined enquiry with complex practical work issues. It is expected that the documented results of these projects would be used to improve one or more aspects of the workplace.

Program objectives

Successful completion of the program will enable graduates to:

- develop a workplace-based learning plan that integrates theory and practice
- demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking in workplace applications
- postulate directions for investigation of unsolved problems in their workplace
- undertake and write reports on projects relating to their workplace in a professional manner
- demonstrate a high level of skill in identifying, choosing and implementing procedures appropriate for addressing issues, ideas and concepts
- demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their projects and manage these limitations
- demonstrate a high level of skill in assessing and addressing ethical/confidential concerns in their study and related work activity
- report the results of their projects concerning changes to their workplace in a manner appropriate to their audience
- enhance the knowledge base of their workplace, organisation or professional group(s);
- plan the implementation of possible changes to their workplace resulting from their research.

Admission requirements

Admission is by written application and interview. Students may begin the program in either Semester 1 or Semester 2. To be considered for entry, an applicant must normally possess a bachelor's degree with honours or a master's degree from an Australian University or equivalent, and have the equivalent of at least five years' experience in their field. Anyone wishing to gain entry to the program on the basis of equivalent qualifications and/or experience should contact the University for consideration for admission on this basis.

How to apply

Domestic students

[Application for postgraduate programs](#) may be made directly to USQ. You should ensure you submit your application by the [closing dates](#).

International students

This program is offered to international students. An international student is a person who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen and not an Australian permanent resident. Please refer to [USQ International](#) for information about entry requirements, visa arrangements and how to apply.

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. You 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](#).

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. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Program structure

The Doctor of Professional Studies (DProfSt) program is an 24 unit program consisting of :

- [WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio](#) (1 unit)
- [WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan](#)(1 unit)
- [WBL8002 Workplace-based Complementary](#)(1 unit)

and five workplace-based project units drawn from:

- [WBL8010 Workplace-based Project](#) (1 unit)
- [WBL8020 Workplace-based Project](#) (2 units)
- [WBL8030 Workplace-based Project](#) (3 units)

and the following 16 workplace-based project courses involving research into their workplace.

- [WBL9001 Workplace-based Learning Plan](#) (1 unit)
- [WBL9002 Workplace-based Project 2](#) (1 unit)
- [WBL9003 Workplace-based Project 3](#) (1 unit)
- [WBL9004 Workplace-based Project 4](#) (1unit)
- [WBL9005 Workplace-based Project 5](#) (1unit)
- [WBL9006 Workplace-based Project 6](#) (1unit)
- [WBL9007 Workplace-based Project 7](#) (1unit)
- [WBL9008 Workplace-based Project 8](#) (1unit)

- [WBL9009 Workplace-based Project 9 \(1unit\)](#)
- [WBL9010 Workplace-based Project 10 \(1unit\)](#)
- [WBL9011 Workplace-based Project 11 \(1unit\)](#)
- [WBL9012 Workplace-based Project 12 \(1unit\)](#)
- [WBL9013 Workplace-based Project 13 \(1unit\) \(1 unit\)](#)
- [WBL9014 Workplace-based Project 14 \(1unit\) \(1 unit\)](#)
- [WBL9015 Workplace-based Project 15 \(1unit\) \(1 unit\)](#)
- [WBL9016 Workplace-based Project 16 \(1unit\) \(1 unit\)](#)

A student's Learning Plan must be approved by the Program Coordinator before the student may enrol in any courses other than WBL8000, and WBL8001 or WBL9001. Modifications may be made to the original plan if this is deemed necessary by the student's USQ advisor but must be re-approved.

Program completion requirements

To graduate from the Master of Professional Studies program a candidate must complete, or be exempted from, twenty-four course units comprising:

- three courses [WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio](#), [WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan](#) and [WBL8002 Workplace-based Complementary](#)
- five workplace-based learning project units selected from [WBL8010 Workplace-based Project \(1 unit\)](#), [WBL8020 Workplace-based Project \(2 units\)](#) and [WBL8030 Workplace-based Project \(3 units\)](#)
- The sixteen (16) workplace-based Level 9 project courses WBL9001 to WBL9016 with at least 12 of these units being completed as part of the program

All students must attend a compulsory weekend following their entry into the program. No students will be granted exemptions from the residential workshop, WBL8000, and WBL8001 or WBL9001.

During these workshops, students will have opportunities to:

- be guided through the process of compiling a Learning Portfolio
- be assisted to develop a Learning Plan
- consider requirements for projects
- consult with their advisor
- network with other students to form support groups.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 9 years and a minimum of 3 years to complete this program.

Coursework

All students must complete WBL8000. Students must also complete WBL8001 either whilst in this program or as part of the Master of Professional Studies program. Under credit exemption arrangements, some doctoral candidates will not enrol in WBL8001 but will enrol alternatively in WBL9001. Appropriate knowledge, skills, understanding and expertise required to implement the Level 8 and Level 9 project(s) will have to be outlined in the Learning Portfolio, or must be covered in WBL8002. In some cases, it will be possible to learn relevant skills as part of the project courses, provided the learning methodology is included in the Learning Plan.

IT requirements

Computer literacy is now expected as part of professional life, and as an integral element in the studying and learning process. Many courses make use of the Internet through online discussion groups and course web pages. Some courses require substantial access to a computer because computer software or CD-ROMs are integral to the material being taught in the course. Students will be required to make use of up-to-date computer technology to facilitate learning, research, and the production of assessment material. A USB2 web-camera may be useful to facilitate communication with USQ Advisors.

Students are referred to recommended hardware and software requirements at <http://www.usq.edu.au/ict/students/standards/default.htm>.

Twenty-four hour computer access is available at USQ.

Articulation

A graduate from the Master of Professional Studies program or equivalent may articulate into the Doctor of Professional Studies program. Students who have completed or partially completed the Master of Professional Studies program will be given full credit for all courses completed or exemptions given whilst studying that program.

Exit points

The exit point for students who do not complete the requirements of the Doctor of Professional Studies is the Master of Professional Studies. To be eligible for the award of Master of Professional Studies, students must complete the requirements for that award.

Exemptions

The Learning Portfolio developed in WBL8000 Workplace-based Learning Portfolio may be submitted for formal assessment of prior learning. Assessment of the Learning Portfolio is the only method of applying for consideration for exemptions for this program. The number of credits granted will vary according to both the level of formal qualifications gained and to the deemed level of informal experience and expertise that can be shown to be of relevance to the program within the portfolio. USQ is a participating university in Education Queensland's Professional Development Pathways initiative, and appropriate credit will be given in accordance with the scheme. For further information on this initiative please contact http://education.qld.gov.au/staff/development/employee/teachers/pd_pathways/pd_pathways_contact.html.

Recommended enrolment patterns

Students may be admitted to the program at the beginning of Semester 1 or Semester 2.

All students must complete [WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio](#), and [WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan](#) or [WBL9001 Workplace-based Learning Plan \(1 unit\)](#) before enrolling in any other courses in the program.

In determining their enrolment pattern students must consider their workload and the maximum time allowed for completion of their program.

It may be possible to take courses during Semester 3 if a candidate wishes to accelerate progression through the program.

Recommended enrolment pattern for Students who have completed the Master of Professional Studies

Students who have completed the Master of Professional Studies program will enrol in WBL9001 Workplace-based Learning Plan in their first semester of enrolment and will, with the assistance of their Advisor, determine an appropriate Learning Plan and enrolment pattern to complete the program within the maximum allowable time.

Recommended enrolment pattern for students with no exemptions commencing in Semester 1

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)		
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	
WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio			1	1			
WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan			1	2			Co-requisite: WBL8000
WBL8002 Workplace-based Complementary			2	1			Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: WBL8001

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)		
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	
WBL8020 Workplace-based Project (2 units)			2	2			
WBL8030 Workplace-based Project (3 units)*			3	1			

Footnotes

* Upon completion of the courses in the table above, students will, with the assistance of their Advisor, determine an enrolment pattern to complete the program requirements within the maximum allowable time.

Recommended enrolment pattern for students with no exemptions commencing in Semester 2

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)		
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	
WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio			1	2			
WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan			2	1			Co-requisite: WBL8000
WBL8002 Workplace-based Complementary			2	2			Pre-requisite or Co-requisite: WBL8001
WBL8020 Workplace-based Project (2 units)			3	1			
WBL8030 Workplace-based Project (3 units)*			3	2			

Footnotes

* Upon completion of the courses in the table above, students will, with the assistance of their Advisor, determine an enrolment pattern to complete the program requirements within the maximum allowable time.

Possible enrolment pattern for students with 4 units of exemptions commencing in Semester 1

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)		
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	
WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio			1	1			
WBL8001 Workplace-based Learning Plan			1	2			Co-requisite: WBL8000
WBL8020 Workplace-based Project (2 units)*			2	1			
WBL9001 Workplace-based Learning Plan (1 unit)*			2	2			Co-requisite: WBL8001

Footnotes

* Upon completion of the courses in the table above, students will, with the assistance of their Advisor, determine an enrolment pattern to complete the program requirements within the maximum allowable time.

Possible enrolment pattern for students with 7 units of exemptions commencing in Semester 1

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (WEB)		
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	
WBL8000 Workplace-based Portfolio			1	1			
WBL9001 Workplace-based Learning Plan (1 unit)*			1	2			Co-requisite: WBL8001

Footnotes

* Upon completion of the courses in the table above, students will, with the assistance of their Advisor, determine an enrolment pattern to complete the program requirements within the maximum allowable time.