

Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies (GCPS) - GradCertProfSt

CRICOS code (International applicants): 096810E

	On-campus	External
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July) Semester 3 (November)
Campus:	Toowoomba	-
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Standard duration:	0.5 years full-time, 1.5 years part-time	
Program articulation:	To: Master of Professional Studies (Research)	

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

The Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies is a level 8 qualification and complies with the Australian Qualification Framework.

Program objectives

Successful completion of the program will enable graduates to:

- demonstrate specialised understanding within a systemic and coherent body of knowledge including the acquisition and application of knowledge in a professional area of 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 their project relating to their workplace in a professional manner
- demonstrate a high level of skill in identifying, choosing and implementing procedures appropriate for addressing hypotheses
- demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their project 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 project concerning changes to their workplace in a manner appropriate to their audience
- develop a workplace-based learning plan that integrates theory and practice.

Program aims

The aim of this program is to provide experienced professionals with Graduate Certificate level research opportunities (and some coursework as required) that will engage issues that are relevant and meaningful to them, help to sustain their communities and help to fulfil their lives.

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 Bachelor degree or equivalent, and
- A minimum of three years' work experience in the chosen field of professional practice.
- English Language Proficiency requirements for Category 3.

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. Credit awarded within the [Master of Professional Studies \(Research\)](#) is not carried across to the Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies.

The Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies articulates with the [Master of Professional Studies \(Research\)](#). Students may elect to complete the Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies as a standalone AQF Level 8 qualification or to articulate into the .

The Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies is also an exit qualification within the [Master of Professional Studies \(Research\)](#) for students who meet the Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies completion requirements (completion of [WRP9012 Fundamentals of Professional Studies](#) and [WRP9013 Professional Studies Research Project 2](#)).

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

The Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies is a four unit program consisting of:

- Completion of the course [WRP9012 Fundamentals of Professional Studies](#) (2 units)
- Completion of the course [WRP9013 Professional Studies Research Project 2](#) (2 units).

Program completion requirements

To graduate from the Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies a candidate must complete four course units at USQ as stipulated in the Recommended Enrolment Pattern below.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 2 years to complete this program.

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. This course requires substantial access to a computer and the internet. Students will be required to make use of up-to-date computer technology to facilitate learning, research, and the production of assessment material. Please refer to [computer requirements](#). Twenty-four hour computer access is available at USQ.

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 may be admitted to the program at the beginning of Semester 1 or Semester 2 or Semester 3. The 'standard' rate of progression for part-time students is 4 units per year. Students should undertake the 2 unit course [WRP9012 Fundamentals of Professional Studies](#) at the commencement of their program and prior to their enrolment in the 2 unit course [WRP9013 Professional Studies Research Project 2](#) unless agreed otherwise with their supervisor.

Course	Year of program and semester in which course is normally studied						Enrolment requirements	Comments
	On-campus (ONC)		External (EXT)		Online (ONL)			
	Year	Sem	Year	Sem	Year	Sem		
WRP9012 Fundamentals of Professional Studies					1	1, 2		two units
WRP9013 Professional Studies Research Project 2					1	1, 2, 3		two units.