Postgraduate Disability Studies

Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies
Master of Disability Studies
PhD in Disability Studies

Overview

Disability professionals play an important role in assisting people with disabilities to participate in the economic and social mainstream of society and be seen as valued members of their local communities.

The interests of disability professionals are broad, incorporating community rehabilitation, health, education, technology, advocacy, recreation, community living, employment and the arts. Moreover, disability professionals are able to apply their skills and knowledge to the diverse needs of people with developmental or acquired disabilities.

The Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies is a professionally-oriented program designed to meet the needs of practitioners working in community services that support people with disabilities. It is also suitable for those who would like to be so employed, and those who have an interest in developing and enhancing their skills and knowledge in the area of disability. The course is designed to provide you with professional knowledge and expertise in areas such as autism, intellectual disability, communication difficulties, management of physical and multiple disabilities, rehabilitation and learning following brain injury, transition from school to adult living, and technology and disability. Other areas can be arranged and developed in consultation with the department.

The Master of Disability Studies provides advanced professional experience for graduates from a range of professional fields associated with disabilities (eg nursing, psychology, social work, education, medicine). The course addresses general principles relating to disabilities, but you may specialise in a particular area of your interest including all of those listed for the Graduate Certificate.

Study program

Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies consists of 18 units. These can be completed on a part-time basis (eg one topic each semester over four semesters) or as one semester of full-time study.

Delivery and format of topics within the course will vary and may include fully external delivery, lectures, workshops, seminars and field based projects.

The pattern of study will vary according to your interests, and you may choose from a range of masters-level topics related to your specific interest.

The core topic Disability: Individual, Family and Society is a requirement. Some of the other topics cover areas such as autism spectrum disorder; intellectual disability; transition from school to adult life; design and evaluation of disability programs; leisure, disability and rehabilitation; ageing and disability; and mental health, disability, and rehabilitation.

Many topics are available through distance delivery.
Study program (cont)

Master of Disability Studies
The Master of Disability Studies consists of 72 units. These comprise coursework and the option to include a research project or dissertation. If you select the dissertation, you are encouraged in your first semester to identify a supervisor with interests in your specific area who will assist you in developing your studies.

The course may be completed on a full-time or part-time basis and arrangements can be made to undertake this program through distance delivery.

The pattern of study may vary according to your interests.

PhD in Disability Studies
The PhD in Disability Studies consists of the completion of a thesis based on original research which must be completed within four years of full-time study. You will be assigned two supervisors and are required to meet with them regularly to show evidence of progress.

Fees
For more information on fees go to: flinders.edu.au/fees

Entry requirements
Applicants for the Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies or Master of Disability Studies must normally hold an approved bachelor degree or equivalent qualification from an approved tertiary institution.

Applicants for the PhD who hold a bachelor degree with Honours Class 1 or 2A from Flinders University, or who hold qualifications deemed appropriate by the faculty to be at least equivalent, may be accepted for enrolment. Where an applicant has not achieved an honours degree, or has not gained a high enough grade in their honours year, additional requirements may apply before entry to candidature is approved.

The Faculty Board may, under certain circumstances and subject to specific conditions, admit others who can show evidence of fitness for candidature. If not a graduate, applicants must produce alternative evidence of fitness for candidature.

How to apply
Applications for most postgraduate courses at Flinders are made via GradStart at the South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre (SATAC) website: satac.edu.au/uniweb

For doctorates and courses which require direct application to the University, contact the Admissions/Prospective Students Office or go to How to apply at: flinders.edu.au/futurestudents

Further information
More detailed information on the program of study, topic descriptions and entry requirements can be found by navigating to Disability Studies on our postgraduate courses page via: flinders.edu.au/courses/postgrad

To discuss your study options contact:
Department of Disability Studies
P: (08) 8201 3745

For more information about the Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies contact:
Ms Ruth Crocker
P: (08) 8201 3423
F: (08) 8201 3646
ruth.crocker@flinders.edu.au

For more information about the Master of Disability Studies or PhD in Disability Studies contact:
Dr Paul Jewell
P: (08) 8201 2576
F: (08) 8201 3646
paul.jewell@flinders.edu.au

For general enquiries about postgraduate study options contact:
Admissions/Prospective Students Office
Flinders University
GPO Box 2100, Adelaide SA 5001
1300 657 671
postgradinfo@flinders.edu.au

International students interested in a postgraduate course at Flinders should contact Flinders International Office at: flinders.edu.au/askflinders or visit their website: flinders.edu.au/international

Further study
The courses articulate, enabling you to progress from the Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies to the Master of Disability Studies upon successful completion of the Graduate Certificate.