

Postgraduate Counselling Programs

University of Tasmania

Graduate Certificate in Counselling, M5I

Graduate Diploma in Counselling, M6I

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the UTAS postgraduate Counselling programs accredited by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA)?

The Graduate Diploma in Counselling is accredited by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA). Upon graduating, students may apply to register as a professional member of ACA, which is Australia's largest single registration body for Counsellors and Psychotherapists. For more information go to the [ACA website](#).

Eligibility for listing on the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) Register normally requires two years of postgraduate training. However, admission to the Register based on recognition of prior learning, practice and supervision is also possible. For further information, go to the [PACFA website](#).

The Graduate Certificate in Counselling is not an accredited program. With the relevant entry requirements, completion of the Graduate Certificate in Counselling may provide a pathway into the Graduate Diploma in Counselling.

Admission Requirements:

Applicants must have completed:

Graduate Diploma in Counselling:

- a degree with a major in psychology, behavioural or psychological science; or
- a degree in an affiliated area of human services, such as education, social work, law or nursing

Graduate Certificate in Counselling:

- one of the above

OR

- other equivalent qualifications or combination of qualifications which required at least three years of full-time tertiary study, or its deemed equivalent by the College of Health and Medicine

Short-listed candidates will also attend an interview and are required to submit a professional statement including statement of intent, relevant work history and professional references.

Please note that late or incomplete applications will not be considered for short-listing.

Please also note that meeting minimum entrance requirements does not guarantee entry to either program. Each year the number of applicants greatly exceeds the number of available places and a competitive selection process is applied.

Assumed Knowledge:

Applicants are expected to have qualifications and/or experience in an area of the human services such as teaching, nursing, pastoral care, justice or welfare, as well as demonstrating fundamental capacities for professional relationships, self-reflection and self-awareness.

Is off-campus or external study available for the Postgraduate Counselling Programs?

No, all coursework units require attendance at the Sandy Bay, Hobart campus. Full-time students are strongly encouraged to consider a part-time study option if they need to take on paid employment, due to the high coursework and study load of the programs.

Can the programs be studied on a part-time basis?

Yes, students unable to undertake full-time study may enrol part-time, with completion permitted over a maximum period of three (3) years for the Graduate Certificate in Counselling and three (3) years for the Graduate Diploma in Counselling.

Prospective approval from the Course Co-ordinator is required for any student seeking to study part-time.

Is mid-year entry available?

No, mid-year entry is not feasible for either program due to the structure of the programs.

What is the closing date for applications for entry?

Applications open in early August and close on 31 October of the preceding year.

In addition, all international applicants are required to provide:

Evidence a minimum score of 6.5 in each of the four IELTS examination components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in order to be eligible for enrolment. Please note that only Academic IELTS scores are accepted and test results must be achieved no more than two years prior to the date of application for the Counselling programs. IELTS documents must be provided at the time of application to the program in order for the application to proceed.

What are the selection criteria for the programs?

The Postgraduate Counselling programs comprise research study, academic, and practical aspects, designed to prepare professionals for practise in the field of counselling and entry to the program is highly competitive. For this reason, a number of selection criteria are used, and information is sought from a number of different sources - referee reports, academic records, relevant work experience (paid or voluntary), and performance at interview. All are considered relevant to the selection process.

Interview:

Shortlisted applicants are required to attend an interview, following which offers are made. NB: It is critical to note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

All applications must be supported by the following documentation:

1. Full official academic transcript/s to evidence that your undergraduate degree in psychology (or equivalent) has been completed. In some instances, transcripts will not be available until after the closing date and will need to be submitted as soon as they become available.
2. A curriculum vitae which includes details of any relevant work experience (including voluntary work).
3. A supporting statement specifically outlining your reasons for applying for a Counselling qualification at the University of Tasmania (1 to 2 pages maximum).
4. Two (2) academic and/or professional references. NB: Applicants are responsible for ensuring their references are submitted using the relevant method below before the closing date of 31 October. Applicants are advised to inform their referees that applications will not be assessed if references have not been received by the closing date.

References must be sent via email from the referee directly to the Division of Psychology at Counselling.Reports@utas.edu.au.

5. International students are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency. Please note that only Academic IELTS scores will be accepted and test results must be less than two years old

When will I hear whether my application has been successful?

All complete and eligible applications will be assessed in November. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by email and invited to attend an interview in Hobart in November-December. Applicants should make every endeavour to attend the interview in person, but if this proves to be impossible, video-conference interviews may be arranged where necessary.

Please note that final unconditional offers will not be made until final documentation is received.

First round offers will be made as soon as possible following the interview process. A second round of offers *may* be made a month later if any unfilled places remain. Every effort is made to advise students of the outcome of their application as early as possible.

How many places are offered each year?

The number of places in the Postgraduate Counselling Programs is limited by the availability of resources. Admission to the programs is highly competitive and applications always exceed available places. It should be noted that academic merit alone does not guarantee entry to either program.

Can I defer my offer of a place on the program?

No, it is not possible to defer. Offers for admission to the Postgraduate Counselling Programs are made on a year-by-year basis and offers not taken up in the year they are offered will lapse. Students who do not accept an offer for any given year will need to lodge a new application in any subsequent year they wish to apply, and that application will be considered equally with all other applicants in that year. Applicants who are made an offer that they decline cannot be guaranteed an offer following any subsequent application.

Can I reapply in a subsequent year if I did not get offered a place but meet the entry requirements?

Yes, unsuccessful students may reapply for the programs in subsequent years if they meet the eligibility requirements. The competitive entry process will apply and all applicants will be considered on their merits at the time of application with no preference given as a result of any previous applications. Second or subsequent applications are not guaranteed to receive an offer.

When do the programs commence?

The Postgraduate Counselling programs commence with a mandatory-attendance, structured Orientation Day session during Orientation Week (17-21 February 2020). The program for the Orientation Day session is emailed to students at the end of January. Semester 1 commences on the following Monday, 24 February 2020.

Enquiries regarding the University's admission procedures should be directed to the Admissions Office:

Domestic applicants email: admissions@utas.edu.au

International applicants email: international.admissions@utas.edu.au

All applicants email: course.info@utas.edu.au

Useful Links for Further Information:

Australian Counselling Association: <https://www.theaca.net.au/index.php>