

Doctor of Professional Studies (DPRS) - DProfSt

	Distance education
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (March) Semester 2 (July) Semester 3 (November)
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place Research training scheme (RTS)
Standard duration:	3 years full-time, with the expectation that the degree will be completed in no more than 8 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 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

Program objectives

On successful completion of the program, students should be able to:

- Identify work place issues, possible solutions and change initiatives
- demonstrate working at the leading edge of practice underpinned by theoretical understanding
- develop cognitive skills that demonstrates intellectual independence and a high level of critical thinking in generating original knowledge
- contribute to the advancement of knowledge relating to professional practice and leadership in their chosen profession
- apply knowledge and skills at a doctoral level acquired through research training embedded in the program to plan and execute original research
- integrate empirical, methodological and theoretical knowledge that engages current work-based issues and contributes to their practice as a professional
- demonstrate the capacity to add value to, and to help to sustain, contemporary learning communities in their profession
- demonstrate awareness of ethical dilemmas and conflicting values which may arise in professional practice and work situations
- take into account complex, unpredictable, specialised work contexts requiring innovative approaches, which involve exploring current limits of knowledge and, in particular, interdisciplinary approaches and understanding
- develop and extend a commitment to lifelong education and to fulfilling their own lives, organisational aims and those of others
- demonstrate communication skills to explain and present a complex investigation of originality for external examination against international standards for dissemination amongst peers and the community both nationally and internationally.

Program aims

The aim of this program is to provide experienced professionals with doctoral level research opportunities (and some coursework as required) that will engage issues and develop original knowledge that is relevant and meaningful to their professional capabilities, helps to build capacity in their practice environments / communities and helps to contribute to their self-awareness and intellectual independence.

Admission requirements

Admission is by written application and interview. 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.

Domestic and International Applicants from a non-English speaking background are required to satisfy [English language requirements](#).

If you do not meet the English language requirements you may apply to study a University-approved [English language program](#). On successful completion of the English language program, Applicants 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. 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](#) 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. You are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Research training scheme (RTS)

All Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents and New Zealand citizens commencing a higher degree research program will have their tuition fees paid for by the Australian Federal Government under the Research Training Scheme (RTS). The RTS place entitles a student to a maximum period of four years exemption full time or 8 years part time on tuition fees for a Doctorate program and 2 years exemption full time or 4 years part time for Masters by Research programs. As part of the enrolment process students are required to submit proof of citizenship and transcripts of all previous academic study. It is with this documentation that USQ can determine the eligibility for RTS. Students who are eligible for RTS are:

- those who have not consumed any RTS previously
- those who have already utilised RTS and have successfully completed a research program. Once a student completes a higher degree research program full entitlements of RTS are restored.

Program structure

The program requires the completion of 24 units. The program structure comprises three sections:

- (1) Compulsory completion of the courses [WRP9000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies A](#) and [WRP9001 Fundamentals of Professional Studies B](#) comprising 4 units if the course or its equivalent has not been completed before. These courses provides a program of structured learning that prepares students in

developing their research methodology, ethical considerations, reflective practice, project principles and learning planning and culminates in a learning portfolio (or equivalent) and project proposal for assessment and confirmation of candidature.

- (2) Optional elective postgraduate coursework. Students may elect to enrol in up to four units of advanced coursework, at postgraduate level, from the Arts courses or other courses at the University of Southern Queensland. The intention of this option is to include coursework in the structured work-based research project proposal that will enhance the student's capacity to make a significant contribution to original knowledge in their professional practice. Normally students will need to receive

Recommended enrolment patterns

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, distance education 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. Students enrol in the 2 unit course [WRP9002 Work-Based Research Project](#) prior to the commencement of each semester. Note: The research project is structured as a maximum of ten x 2-unit courses for accounting and administrative purposes.

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