Master of Professional Studies (MPST) - MProfSt

	Distance education
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (March) Semester 2 (July) Semester 3 (November)
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Standard duration:	1.5 years full-time, with the expectation that the degree will be completed in no more than 4 years part-time
Program articulation:	From: Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies To: ; Doctor of Philosophy or other approved professional award.

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

Successful completion of the program will enable graduates to:

- demonstrate analytical, critical and creative thinking on their professional practice, work place applications and relevant theory;
- postulate directions for the investigation of unsolved problems in their work place
- demonstrate a high level of skill in identifying, analysing and synthesising complex information, concepts and theories in choosing and implementing solutions appropriate for addressing hypotheses related to work-based capacity building, professional practice and innovation
- undertake and write professional, evidence-based reports on projects relating to their professional practice
- demonstrate an awareness of the limitations of their projects and manage these limitations by generating and evaluating complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level
- demonstrate a high level of skill in assessing and addressing ethical/confidential concerns in their study and related professional practice
- develop work-based project plans and outcomes that integrate theory and practice and present this using communication and technical research skills that justify conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- evaluate, analyse and report the results of their projects that contribute to professional practice and scholarship in a manner appropriate to their audience.

Program aims

The aim of this program is to provide experienced professionals with the opportunities to demonstrate, autonomously and creatively the application of knowledge and skills in their professional practice and further learning. Creativity and initiative are encouraged in engaging issues that are relevant and meaningful to their

15000 words) or equivalent body of work which will include artefacts that have been developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course.

(3) **Optional Elective Postgraduate course work:** Students may elect to enrol in up to four units of advanced coursework to enhance their professional practice capacity. They may select up to four x 1-unit electives at postgraduate level, from Arts courses or other courses offered by the University of Southern Queensland (eg. Professional Communications; Community Participation & Engagement; International Relations; Cultural or Critical Theory; Identity, self and society; Health Sciences, Engineering; Education; Leadership and Management – you are encouraged to discuss the broad variety of options available with your supervisor). The intention of this option, based on a student design curriculum focus, is to give students the opportunity to customise their learning by completing courses that enhance their methodological and professional knowledge. Students must seek the prior approval of the Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts before enrolling in the elective courses.

(4) **Optional Publishable Article:** Students may elect to formulate and submit for blind review, a publication representing the study's (or part thereof) contribution to practice and/or relevant theory as appropriate. The article equates to 2 units and is assessed following standard academic blind peer-review processes. The purpose of this option is to illustrate against prevailing benchmarks, the specialised knowledge and skills associated with the student's relevant professional practice and demonstrate the appropriate cognitive and technical skills required at this qualification level. Peer reviewers will include independent academic and/or practice-based experts who will assess whether the work is publishable and meets the requisite critical, creative, analytical and communications skills associated with the Masters level qualification.

Program completion requirements

To graduate from the Master of Professional Studies a candidate must complete a minimum of twelve course units comprising no less than the completion of the core course WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies and the work-based research project WRP8010 Work-based Research Project A and WRP8011 Work-based Research Project B. Students are required to compile a final master's dissertation (minimum of 15,000 words including artefacts developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course and generated from the work-based project) or equivalent body of work for final examination by independent examiners. Students electing to complete a further work-based project WRP8012 Work-based Research Project C and WRP8013 Work-based Research Project D are required to compile a final master's dissertation (minimum 25,000 words including relevant artefacts developed in the WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies course and generated from the work-based projects) or equivalent body of work for final examination by independent examiners.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 4 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. Students must have reliable and ready access to e-mail and the internet. Broadband access would be a significant advantage.

Please refer to computer requirements

Twenty-four hour computer access is available at USQ.

Exit points

The exit point for students who do not complete the requirements of the Master of Professional Studies is the Graduate Certificate of Professional Studies. Students will be eligible for this award if, whilst enrolled in the Master of Professional Studies they have enrolled and completed at least 4 units at USQ.

Credit

Students entering the program with a Masters degree (AQF Level 9) or an Honours degree or Postgraduate Diploma (AQF level 8) may apply for up to six units of credit. The application for credit based on accredited prior learning normally is submitted when applying for admission to the program

Formal assessment of non-accredited prior learning is developed in the course WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies and is the only method of applying for consideration for credit for non-accredited prior learning (RPL).

The total number of credits granted will vary according to the assessed level of experience and expertise that can be shown to be of relevance to the student's intended work-based research project/s.

A maximum of six units of credit may be granted, which may be non-course specific. USQ is a participating university in the Professional Development Pathways initiative, and appropriate credit will be given in accordance with the scheme.

Credit for accredited prior learning and non-accredited prior learning may not exceed a maximum of six units in total.

Recommended enrolment pattern

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.

The 'standard' rate of progression for part-time students is 4 units per year for three years. Students are able to accelerate their progression through the program by enrolling in Semester 3 courses. Students should undertake the course WRP8000 Fundamentals of Professional Studies at the commencement of their program and prior to their enrolment in the course WRP8010 Work-based Research Project A unless agreed otherwise with their supervisor.

Recommended enrolment pattern for students undertaking a work-based project with no electives 'standard

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semesters in WRP8012 Work-based Research Project C and WRP8013 Work-based Research Project D. In terms of the latter enrolment pattern, assessment of the requisite body of work is undertaken during WRP8013 Work-based Research Project D and not WRP8011 Work-based Research Project B (please see "Program completion requirements" above).

An elective may be required in the event of RPL outcomes giving an odd number of units of credit when combined with