



School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences

2017 Master of Dietetics (H718) Information

The Master of Dietetics is accredited by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA). The Master of Dietetics is a three-trimester (18 month) professional training program in dietetics that will develop specialist skills related to the professional practice of nutrition and dietetics. Students will build on their undergraduate knowledge in nutrition, physiology and biochemistry and develop skills in dietary management in both health and disease. Students will be provided with the opportunity to develop competency in dietetic practice through extensive professional practice placements which include dietetic practice in hospital, community and food service settings.

Career opportunities for graduates

- Clinical (hospital) dietetics
- Community and public health nutrition
- Private practice
- Food industry
- Sports nutrition
- Dietetic education and research
- Food service
- PR, marketing, communications, media
- Health promotion, policy development

See the School's careers website for detailed dietetics career pathways <http://www.deakin.edu.au/exercise-nutrition-sciences/careers>

Why study Dietetics at Deakin?

Deakin University has a strong history in teaching and research in nutrition and dietetics. Dietetics has been taught at Deakin University for over 35 years and was the first dietetics course offered in Australia. All academic staff who teach core dietetic units are dietitians. Students studying at Deakin will gain the added advantage of being exposed to academic staff actively involved in many areas of research and are experts in their field such as childhood obesity, food insecurity, dietary approaches to hypertension, nutrition in aged care facilities and clinical nutrition.

Course Duration and Location

Students normally complete the course in three trimesters of full-time study (refer to course outline on the following page). The course commences in Trimester 1 each year (beginning early March) so students will complete the course in the middle of the following year. **There is no mid-year intake into the course.** The Master of Dietetics **is only offered via on-campus mode** on the Melbourne Campus at Burwood.

During the course, students will complete a minimum of 20 weeks of external professional practice (in Trimester 2 of first year and Trimester 1 of second year) in a variety of settings (hospital, community and food service).

Because of the need for professional practice at external sites, all students undertaking the course should be aware of the required need for travel to placement sites. This may include regional placements. Whilst course staff aim to match placement sites with students' living circumstances to minimise travel times, this is not always possible and significant travel times may be needed to attend placement sites.

It is also important to note that workshops, placements and assessment tasks integral to the course may take place outside of Deakin University teaching periods.

Course Outline

The course consists of a 12 credit point core unit program over three teaching trimesters. Unit details are available on the University website at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/university-handbook/2016>

YEAR 1	TRI 1	Dietary Modification to Improve Health HSN754 <i>(1 credit point)</i> <i>Co-requisites: HSN744 and HSN070</i>	Nutrition Research Skills HSN740 <i>(1 credit point)</i>	Principles of Dietetics HSN744 <i>(2 credit points)</i>
	TRI 2	Food Service Management HSN742 <i>(2 credit points)</i> <i>Pre-requisites: HSN740, HSN744 and HSN754</i>		Community Nutrition HSN745 <i>(2 credit points)</i> <i>Pre-requisites: HSN740 and HSN744</i> OR Clinical Dietetic Practice HSN747 <i>(2 credit points)</i> <i>Pre-requisite: HSN744 and HSN754</i> <i>Co-requisite: HSN742</i>
YEAR 2	TRI 1	New Unit HSN7xx <i>(2 credit points)</i>		Community Nutrition HSN745 <i>(2 credit points)</i> <i>Pre-requisites: HSN740 and HSN744</i> OR Clinical Dietetic Practice HSN747 <i>(2 credit points)</i> <i>Pre-requisite: HSN744 and HSN754</i> <i>Co-requisite: HSN742</i>

Notes on the course structure:

1. **HSN740 - Nutrition Research Skills and HSN744 – Principles of Dietetics**, offered in the first trimester of the Master of Dietetics, must be successfully completed before undertaking further units.
2. No units are currently offered in Trimester 3 (summer period).

How many hours per week are students required to attend on campus?

Not all of the teaching in the Master of Dietetics is traditional lecture/tutorial style as the program is in essence a vocational training degree and flexibility by all students is expected. In the first trimester of the program, campus contact hours will be around 15 to 20 hours per week; including the need to attend 10 full teaching days at metropolitan hospitals. For the final two trimesters, students should assume that their time commitment will be a full-time workload (9am – 5pm) Monday to Friday throughout each trimester. The large time commitment is due to the 20 weeks of professional practice as well as additional teaching workshops which occur as intensive full-time teaching blocks on-campus in between placements.

Can I study the course part-time?

When students enquire about part-time study options, they typically have in mind the ability to attend university for a few days each week so they can maintain a part-time professional job throughout the year. Attendance of that nature is not possible with the Master of Dietetics as each of the professional practice units (HSN742, HSN745, and HSN747) have full-time placement components of varying lengths together with intensive teaching blocks on campus. It is possible for students to reduce their enrolment load in each trimester (e.g. by taking only one unit in the second trimester of the course), but the units they do take need to be done in full-time mode e.g. HSN747 Clinical Dietetic Practice requires 10 weeks of full-time clinical placement, HSN745 Community Nutrition requires 7 weeks of full-time placement and HSN742 requires 4 weeks of full-time placement. All these units have at least one week of full-time teaching in the week prior to placement commencement. Students should note, that due to the prerequisite requirements of each unit within the course, careful consideration is needed when deciding to undertake the course part-time.

How many places are there in the course?

While the number of places in the course varies slightly from year to year, approximately 50 places are available of which normally 45 are offered to domestic applicants and 5 to international applicants.

From 2016 onwards, 60% of students selected into the Master of Dietetics will be Deakin University graduates.

How competitive is entry into the course and what sort of grades do I need?

Entry into the Master of Dietetics is quota based and is extremely competitive with over 4-times as many applications for each available place. To illustrate the high level of demand for the course, for the most recent selection round for the 2015 intake, there were 214 domestic applications.

The continuing growth in application numbers also means that many applicants who miss out on a place in previous years are re-applying after undertaking activities to improve their assessment score. This results in a rise in the standard of applications. Factors taken into account in selection which contribute to the assessment score are covered in the next section.

Every year, the typical application standard needed to gain a place in the course has increased and indications are this will continue. For the latest round of selection conducted, the typical successful applicants had an academic average well into the 70s, often in addition to honours and/or several years of relevant experience in a health or nutrition related area.

In past years, having a distinction average on its own was enough to gain entry (academic grades count towards 60% of the assessment score), but such is the demand for the course now, that many applicants with a distinction average are missing out on a place unless they have significant relevant experience or an honours degree.

How are applicants selected?

All applicants who meet the entry requirements are assessed equally on merit, with academic grades accounting for the majority of the assessment weighting. Assessment of academic performance is taken across all university studies, not just the prerequisite subjects. Honours degrees and higher degrees by research are also taken into consideration. Consideration is given to any significant (months to years) work or voluntary experience in a health or nutrition field.

The assessment process of applications only covers the three areas of:

1. Academic performance across **all** prior university study at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Academic grades counts towards 65% of the final assessment score.
2. Completion of Honours, Masters by Research or PhD degrees. Research degrees count towards 15% of the final assessment score
3. Relevant work or voluntary experience in a nutrition or health-related field. Relevant experience counts towards 20% of the final assessment score.

How to Apply – Domestic and International Students

To apply for postgraduate study you will need to submit an application online at

<https://applicantportal.deakin.edu.au/connect/webconnect>

Please note that the Course Selection Team will assess course entry eligibility once applications have closed. Due to the large number of applicants each year no pre-assessment of pre-requisite units will be conducted prior to the application closing date. Please use the information in this document to assist you with self-assessing whether you meet the pre-requisite units.

Applications from **domestic students** need to be lodged by **late October** of the year prior to the applicant's intended starting date. The due date for domestic applications is published on the online application portal here

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/trimester-one> although a **confirmed closing date will not be decided upon until around September of each year**. The closing date is chosen with the intention to be shortly after the release of final academic results for most Australian universities.

Applications from **international students** need to be lodged by **the end of the first week in September** of the year prior to the applicant's intended starting date. A strict quota for international places in the course is applied each year. Application for international students is through Deakin International www.deakin.edu.au/international.

There have been instances where potential applicants have made a general enquiry to the University about the closing date for the Master of Dietetics and are given a date in February; this is the closing date for most postgraduate courses but not for Master of Dietetics. Please confirm the closing date via the course handbook.

What documents are required in the application process?

Supporting Documents

When applying online you will be required to upload all supporting documents at the last step of the application process.

- **Written professional references are not required** for the Master of Dietetics, as these are not part of the application selection process, even though the online system may ask for these.
- **Please also include details of relevant professional work and voluntary experience in a health or nutrition-related area if applicable** – this is usually best done with a brief CV.
- **The entry checklist document MUST** also be uploaded to indicate how you have met the strict pre-requisites.

• Video Personal Statement

You will also be required to submit link to a **video personal statement** [a short (3min) video of yourself]. A word document containing the link is acceptable, or you may wish to include the link in your CV. In this video personal statement you will need to address your motivation for studying dietetics, desired career outcomes, understanding of the profession and ability to communicate effectively with diverse population groups. For details on the requirements for your video personal statement please refer to 'Instructions for the video personal statement submission for Master of Dietetics applications' in the Applicant Portal.

• Academic Transcripts

Deakin students who are graduating in either Trimester 2 or 3 2016, are not required to submit transcripts as we access your results via our database.

For non-Deakin students, if you are waiting on final official results from your university at the time of the closing date for applications, you should still submit your application and provide all your results from your degree that you have on hand at the time. We are able to do preliminary assessments on applications if most results are available and a conditional offer into the course may be made based on the results provided. A firm offer into the course will only be made when an application satisfied **ALL** the entry requirements for the course.

When will I hear about the outcome of my application?

Selection into the Master of Dietetics course is conducted after application closing date and applicants can expect to receive notification of the outcome of their application approximately 4 weeks after the closing date via email. You may also check your application status via the applicant portal.

Course Fees

The Master of Dietetics is a full-fee paying course. Current details on fees can be accessed at www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/fees. Australian citizens and holders of a permanent humanitarian visa in a fee-paying place may pay their tuition fee in three different ways:

- pay the full tuition up front;
- receive a FEE-HELP loan for the full tuition fee; or
- pay some of the tuition fee up front and receive a FEE-HELP loan for the remainder of the tuition fee.

Are scholarships available?

Information on scholarships offered by Deakin University can be viewed at www.deakin.edu.au/scholarships. For students from a rural background, there are government scholarships available to help support students undertaking allied health courses via the Rural Allied Health Undergraduate Scholarship Scheme www.sarrah.org.au

The Master of Dietetics meets the Australian Government guidelines for masters-by-coursework professional entry programs that qualify for student income support payments (Youth Allowance and Austudy) subject to normal individual youth allowance and Austudy eligibility criteria. Please check the information via this link: <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/programs-services/student-payments/approved-institutions-and-courses-for-student-payments>

Prerequisites required to apply into the Master of Dietetics

To be eligible for consideration for entry into the Master of Dietetics, applicants must hold a **three-year Bachelor degree** in a relevant cognate area (for example: nutrition, food science, health sciences, exercise science, biomedical science, allied health, science or nursing) completed not more than 10 years before the year of course commencement.

DAA Accreditation requirements stipulate:

'Fifty per cent of each of the first and second years of the applicants' undergraduate degree must be composed of bioscience, chemistry, physiology and biochemistry, including a minimum 15% of a full-year load each of biochemistry and physiology. This is usually at least two biochemistry subjects at second year level where first year chemistry is a prerequisite of these subjects and two physiology subjects also at second year level.'

The following are pre-requisite units that applicants will need to complete in order to be eligible to apply into the Master of Dietetics course. Please note that completion of the Deakin units outlined below will not grant you credit for prior learning for any of the Master of Dietetics units.

Nutrition and Food Science Pre-Requisites for the Master of Dietetics

Applicants are required to have completed at least 4 units (equivalent to 4 Deakin credit points), which is equivalent to a full-time study load for a trimester of human nutrition/food science study at either undergraduate or postgraduate study level.

The nutrition/food science units need to cover content relating to food science, nutrition principles, lifespan nutrition and diet and disease.

The relevant Deakin units at undergraduate level which cover the prerequisite nutrition/food science content are:

- **HSN101 Foundations of Food, Nutrition and Health (post 2014) or HSN201 Principles of Nutrition (2014 and prior)**
- **HSN104 The Science of Food**
- **HSN202 Lifespan Nutrition**
- **HSN301 Diet and Disease**

The relevant Deakin units at postgraduate level which cover the prerequisite nutrition/food science content are:

- **HSN701 Principles of Nutrition**
- **HSN702 Lifespan Nutrition**
- **HSN703 Diet and Disease**
- **HSN735 Essentials of Food Science**

Details of the content of these units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

Alternatively, the required nutrition/food science units can be completed as single non-award subjects from any university offering similar subjects, although applicants should ensure that nutrition/food science units not undertaken at Deakin University meet equivalence with the content of the Deakin University nutrition/food science prerequisite units.

How do I determine if nutrition units I have studied elsewhere meet the equivalency standards for the required content areas?

The content of the above listed units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook. Applicants who can demonstrate that they have studied equal unit(s) as part of their university studies would meet the nutrition/food science prerequisite requirements for the Master of Dietetics. It is not necessary to find an exact match for individual units, only that all the required content of the prerequisite subjects has been covered across university studies in the relevant number of units. If you feel that the required content has been covered across multiple units then you should submit unit content descriptions for these units and indicate which area of nutrition you feel these cover.

First Year Biology/Physiology Pre-Requisites for the Master of Dietetics

At Deakin University any **TWO** of the following units would be acceptable first year biology or physiology units for entry into the Master of Dietetics:

- **HBS109 Human Structure and Function**
- **HSN107 Physiology of Human Growth and Development**
- **HSE102 Functional Human Anatomy**
- **SLE111 Cells and Genes**

Details of these units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

Second Year Physiology Pre-Requisites for the Master of Dietetics

At Deakin University any **TWO** of the following Deakin units will meet the physiology prerequisite for entry into the Master of Dietetics:

- **HSE208 Integrated Human Physiology**
- **HSN211 Nutritional Physiology**
- **SLE211 Principles of Physiology**
- **SLE221 Systems Physiology**

If an exercise physiology unit has been completed at level 2 (e.g. HSE201 Exercise Physiology), it must be combined with one of the above listed units to meet the pre-requisites for entry into the Masters of Dietetics at Deakin.

Furthermore, it is the expectation from DAA that the two physiology units completed are at **second year** level or above and have relevant prerequisite units (generally) completed at first year.

Some tips on how to assess if the units you have completed are acceptable Physiology pre-requisite units.

To assess your physiology units as to whether they meet the necessary requirements, you should answer the following questions:

1. Is the unit at level 2 (second year) or level 3 (third year)?
2. Does it have a level 1 or 2 unit as pre-requisite?
3. Does the title of the unit contains 'physiology'? Eg. Nutritional Physiology
4. Does the unit have human physiology information? (animal physiology is not acceptable)

If the answers to the above questions are yes, then the unit will most likely meet the basic requirement. If you are in doubt, you should contact your Unit Chair from your university to discuss these aspects.

Generally a foundation unit in physiology is not acceptable. 'Foundation' units are often (but not always) at level 1 and have no pre-requisites.

Details of these units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

Biochemistry Pre-Requisites for the Master of Dietetics

It is the expectation of DAA that two biochemistry units are at **second year** level or above and have relevant prerequisites (chemistry based units) at first year.

At Deakin University the following units would be acceptable first year chemistry units:

- **SLE133 Chemistry in Our World**
- **SLE155 Chemistry for the Professional Sciences**

Details of these units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

Please note that if you have completed VCE chemistry and received preclusion for SLE133 Chemistry in our World, this will not satisfy the first year chemistry pre-requisite for Master of Dietetics. As such, you must complete SLE133 at Deakin or you will not meet Deakin's Master of Dietetics entry requirements.

The subject content of two sequential units of biochemistry offered in campus mode only at Deakin University (SLE212 Biochemistry and SLE222 Biochemical Metabolism) would be expected to have been covered in other university biochemistry study. Such content would be considered 'standard' second-year biochemistry course content at almost any university.

- SLE212 Biochemistry
- SLE222 Biochemical Metabolism

Details of these units are available at www.deakin.edu.au/handbook

For potential applicants who are looking at taking biochemistry as non-award units, **it is highly likely that most universities will require prior chemistry study** (usually at a first-year university level or equivalent) in order to enrol. For the biochemistry units offered at Deakin University, first year level chemistry (studied at Deakin or elsewhere) is a **mandated requirement and exemptions from this are not granted.**

Some tips on how to assess if the units you have completed are acceptable Biochemistry pre-requisite units.

To assess your biochemistry units as to whether they meet the necessary requirements, you should answer the following questions:

1. Is the unit at level 2 (second year) or level 3 (third year)
2. Does it have a level 1 or 2 unit as pre-requisite?
3. Does the title of the unit contains 'biochemistry'?

If the answers to the above questions are yes, then the unit will most likely meet the requirement. If you are in doubt, you should contact your Unit Chair to discuss these aspects.

Why are there so many prerequisite units required?

Can I apply for the Master of Dietetics course if I don't have all the prerequisites?

In order for the Master of Dietetics to be offered over the 18 month timeframe and still be eligible for accreditation by the DAA, significant nutrition knowledge must be demonstrated before commencing the course. Applicants will need to ensure that **ALL** the pre-requisite units outlined above are completed and the pre-requisite checklist will need to be uploaded before submitting their application.

For applicants who are waiting on results from studies after the application closing date, then an application can still be submitted as conditional offers for a place in the course can be made so long as the applicant will have met all of the prerequisites prior to the course commencing.

Course Pathways into the Master of Dietetics

What courses are pathways to the Master of Dietetics?

Some examples of Deakin courses from a relevant cognate area are:

- H315 Bachelor of Food and Nutrition Sciences
- H343 Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science
- H300 Bachelor of Health Sciences

Details of the above courses are available at <http://www.deakin.edu.au/students/university-handbook>

If I have completed an undergraduate course from a non-cognate area, does that meet the entry requirement?

Students who have graduated from an undergraduate degree in a non-cognate study areas such as Arts, Business, Engineering etc. must complete a three year Bachelor degree from a relevant cognate area, such as H315, H343 or

H300. Students can apply for credit for prior learning once accepted into an undergraduate program at Deakin University, and this will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

If I have completed a postgraduate course from a cognate area, does that meet the entry requirement?

Students who have completed postgraduate courses from a relevant cognate area, for example, Deakin's H714 Master of Human Nutrition or H511 Graduate Certificate in Human Nutrition **must also complete** an undergraduate degree in a relevant cognate area.

Students who have graduated from an undergraduate degree in a relevant cognate area and need to complete the pre-requisite units can enrol in the pre-requisite units above via Single Unit of Study. Please refer to this weblink for information on the process of applying for Single Unit of Study:

<http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/apply/other-types-of-application/apply-for-a-single-unit>.

Please note that Single Unit of Study units are charged at full fee rate.

School Contact

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