

Postgraduate studies in Disability and Inclusion



Postgraduate study in disability and inclusion allows you to build your expertise in inclusion policy and practice, and become a specialist in the disability, health and community sectors. Be a part of social change that facilitates inclusion with our Graduate Certificate of Disability and Inclusion or Master of Disability and Inclusion. Study a course that's informed by national and international research, policy and practice, and follow your passion for human rights and equality into research and leadership roles within a growing industry.

Deakin's postgraduate courses in disability and inclusion equip you with the academic knowledge you need to pursue professional work in the disability, health and community sectors. Our courses are deeply connected to the disability industry, the organisations that work within it and the communities they serve. Many of our students have lived experience with disability – either their own or that of someone close to them. Our academics are embedded within the field and contribute to research of global significance, and the curriculum is responsive to developments in disability; adopting the values and policies of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and national and international approaches including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) in Australia. The Graduate Certificate and Master of Disability and Inclusion give you the opportunity to begin or further your career as agents of change within the sector.

The topics you'll cover are informed by leading disability theory and practice. In fact, the curriculum has been carefully designed to focus on core concepts in disability and inclusion through contemporary theory, government policy and practice; and to critically engage with theory, policy and practice in the context of the lived experiences of people with disabilities. People studying in Australia will have the opportunity to learn about and apply their knowledge in areas including planning and community capacity building within the NDIS.

You might be challenged to critically analyse recent updates to legislation, government disability planning where you live and work, and international projects that are working to progressively realise the rights embedded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. If you're currently working in disability or community inclusion, you also have the option of basing your assessment tasks on the work you are doing with people with disabilities, families and communities. This will enable you to apply your skills to your current practice and have an instant impact on the communities you're working with.

Course details

Master of Disability and Inclusion

Offered at: Cloud Campus (online)

Duration: 3 years part-time

Intake: Trimester 1 or 2

Graduate Certificate of Disability and Inclusion

Offered at: Cloud Campus (online)

Duration: 1 year part-time

Intake: Trimester 1 or 2

Which course is right for me?

Our graduate certificate offers flexible online delivery and a short study duration, making it a popular choice for busy students looking to move up in the disability sector. The four units you'll study are also part of the Master of Disability and Inclusion. When you graduate, you'll feel confident about contributing to more inclusive, accessible communities.

If, upon successful completion of the course, you want to dive deeper into disability and inclusion and build more industry experience, you have the option of articulating into our Master of Disability and Inclusion and completing 8 more credit points, including a major project, guided by leading researchers in the sector. If you begin your masters and need to move on after completing 4 additional units on top of your graduate certificate, you can graduate with a Graduate Diploma of Disability and Inclusion.

The masters introduces you to important academic skills to enable you to develop and conduct research. Undertaking the major research project, you will use critical research skills that will set you up for further research studies, research roles and other roles working in decision-making, project planning, development and evaluation. The major project will link you to researchers in the disability field, including senior researchers at Deakin and our research partners in industry and the community, ensuring your experience contributes to contemporary national and international research of significance.

Beginning or expanding a career in disability and inclusion

The disability sector in Australia isn't just growing, it's evolving. According to an NDS report, the disability support workforce growth rate was 11.1% per year (between 2015-2017). This compares with growth of 1.6% for the entire Australian workforce during the same time.* This means there are a range of positions being developed to support the continued implementation of the NDIS.

As a graduate, you'll be perfectly suited for jobs including roles in policy, practice leadership and research that have recently emerged as part of the full rollout of the NDIS in Australia. In particular, the course was designed to align with areas of knowledge and skills identified in current disability position descriptions. These include:

- knowledge of disability systems including disability research, legislation and policy
- high-level communication skills for working with people with disability and their families
- self-directed approaches to service planning
- community-capacity building knowledge and skills.

In addition to these roles, there are a huge range of areas within the sector you can explore, such as:

- policy and legislation
- education
- health and human services
- community development
- roles within state and federal government, government agencies, community organisations and disability service providers.

Master of Disability and Inclusion graduates will be able to apply this knowledge to an extensive research project, gaining valuable research skills while learning from contemporary disability researchers and innovative thinkers. You'll also be well-equipped for research opportunities once you graduate, including employment in the higher education sector as a research assistant. Or, you might like to continue your studies into a PhD program such as the Doctor of Philosophy (Public Health and Health Services).

“I envisage a world where everyone is valued and where everyone belongs. Our learning community is a place where our students develop the tools, passion and skills to create truly inclusive communities”.

Dr Joanne Watson
Course Director, Disability and Inclusion



Careers to foster change

May 2018 marked 10 years since The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force.

Since that time, a number of important changes have been developed within the sector that have brought substantial changes to the funding and support systems for people with disability, bringing both opportunity and challenge.

With 1 in 5 people experiencing disability in their lifetime, and an increased demand for professionals in the disability sector, it has never been more important to develop graduates with a clear knowledge of disability, and the knowledge to identify and eliminate barriers to inclusion.

Our courses are not only for those who have already studied or worked in disability, but for leaders of any sector looking to develop policy and practice that foster inclusion. They are also suitable for people looking for a career change and would like to pursue work in the disability and community sectors.

How to apply

Apply directly at deakin.edu.au/apply.

For information on the application process and closing dates, visit deakin.edu.au/courses/how-to-apply/postgraduate-by-coursework. Please note that closing dates may vary for individual courses.

Course structure

The **Graduate Certificate of Disability and Inclusion** is comprised of 4 compulsory units. Each unit is worth 1 credit point. The **Master of Disability and Inclusion** is a 12 credit point course. It consists of 6 core units, 2 elective units and one large research project totaling 4 credit points. The table below is an example of a part time structure. Full-time students can complete their studies in 2 years.

Year 1 (equivalent of Graduate Certificate)	Trimester 1	Disability and Inclusion: Contemporary Theory and Lived Experience	Planning for Inclusion Across the Life Course
	Trimester 2	Determinants of Health and Wellbeing in the Lives of People with Disability	Community Capacity Building – Theory and Practice for Inclusion
Year 2	Trimester 1	Disability Research – Inclusive Approaches	Contemporary Health Issues and Policies OR Introduction to International and Community Development
	Trimester 2	Inclusive Design and Technology	Social Justice and Difference OR Research Literacy for Health Practice
Year 3		Major Project A (2 credit points)	
		Major Project B (2 credit points)	

This course structure is correct as at July 2020 and should be used as a guide only. There may be additional 0-credit-point units required. Check the relevant course page on Deakin's website for unit details, including trimester and campus availability. Course advice should always be sought from the relevant enrolment officer.

1800 MYFUTURE (1800 693 888)
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deakin.edu.au/course/H709

While the information provided here was correct at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of the course and unit offerings. Published July 2020.
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Entry requirements

Master of Disability and Inclusion:

- Bachelor degree or higher in a related discipline, or,
 - Bachelor degree or higher in any discipline AND two years relevant work experience*, or,
 - evidence of academic capability judged to be equivalent.
- All applicants must also meet the minimum English language requirements.

*Work experience must be relevant to the field and level of study (as approved by the Faculty Board) and may be part-time equivalent.

Graduate Certificate of Disability and Inclusion:

- a bachelor degree or higher, or,
- two years' relevant work experience, or,
- evidence of academic capability judged to be equivalent, or,
- Certificate IV in Disability and Inclusion with at least three years' work experience in the disability sector.

All applicants must also meet the minimum English language requirements.