Entry into the Master of Dietetics

The Master of Dietetics is accredited by the Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA), this means that the entry requirements to our course and equivalent courses at other universities must adhere to the DAA's guidelines.

To be eligible for consideration for entry into our Master of Dietetics, you must have completed a three-year undergraduate degree in a relevant (cognate) area within the last 10 years.

These areas include:
- nutrition
- food science
- health sciences
- exercise science
- biomedical science
- allied health
- science
- nursing

The Deakin undergraduate courses which can act as a pathway to the Master of Dietetics are:
- Bachelor of Nutrition Science
- Bachelor of Nutrition Science (Dietetics Pathway)
- Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science/Bachelor of Nutrition Science
- Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science
- Bachelor of Health Sciences

Choose Dietetics at Deakin

Deakin has a rich history in dietetics with over 40 years of excellence in teaching and research. 60% of Deakin’s Master of Dietetics positions are held for Deakin graduates.

New dietetics pathway

We have recently launched a new course which offers guaranteed entry into the Master of Dietetics, if you achieve the required weighted average mark of 75.

The Master of Dietetics prerequisites are built into the core units of this course, so you don’t need to worry about unit choice or eligibility.

For more information on our new course, visit deakin.edu.au/course/H318.
Prerequisite Units

As per the Deakin University and DAA guidelines, you must demonstrate that your learning from your bachelor's degree (or a combination of a bachelor's degree and postgraduate study) covers Human Biosciences and Food and Nutrition Science, as described below. The relevant Deakin units are also listed.

**Biochemistry content**

- 2 Deakin credit points* (or equivalent) of chemistry (typically in first year)
  - Chemistry in Our World SLE133
  - Chemistry for the Professional Sciences SLE155
- 2 Deakin credit points* (or equivalent) of biochemistry (typically in second year)
  - Biochemistry SLE212
  - Biochemical Metabolism SLE222

**Human physiology content**

- 2 Deakin credit points* (or equivalent) of human biology (typically in first year) which can include:
  - Human Structure and Function HBS109
  - Physiology of Human Growth and Development HSN107
  - Functional Human Anatomy HSE102
  - Cells and Genes SLE111
- 2 Deakin credit points* (or equivalent) of human physiology (typically in second year)
  - Nutritional Physiology HSN211
  - Integrated Human Physiology HSE208
  If an exercise physiology unit has been completed at level 2 (a second year unit e.g. HSE201 Exercise Physiology), it must be combined with one of the units above, or one of the below options:
    - Principles of Physiology SLE211 or Systems Physiology SLE221

**Human nutrition / food science content**

You are also required to have completed at least 4 credit points* (or equivalent) of human nutrition / food science study covering content relating to:

- nutrition principles
- food science
- lifespan nutrition
- diet and disease

Our undergraduate units at Deakin which cover nutrition / food science content are:

- Foundations of Food, Nutrition and Health HSN101
- The Science of Food HSN104
- Lifespan Nutrition HSN202
- Diet and Disease HSN301

The required prerequisite units can also be completed as single subjects from any university offering similar units. However, you should make sure that units not undertaken at Deakin are equivalent to the content of the Deakin units*.
FAQs

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

If you’ve completed a postgraduate course from a relevant area, for example Deakin’s Master of Human Nutrition or Graduate Certificate of Human Nutrition, and have not also completed a relevant undergraduate degree, you need to do so in order to be eligible for the Master of Dietetics.

Our postgraduate courses in human nutrition don’t automatically qualify you for entry into the Master of Dietetics as stand-alone courses. However, if you have completed an undergraduate degree in certain study areas (e.g. science, sport and exercise science, or health sciences), the units from your undergraduate degree (covering biochemistry and human physiology) combined with those in your postgraduate human nutrition degree (nutrition / food science), may satisfy all prerequisite units.

Our postgraduate units at Deakin which cover nutrition / food science content are:

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

The required prerequisite units can also be completed as single subjects from any university offering similar units. However, you should make sure that units not undertaken at Deakin are equivalent to the content of the Deakin units*. You should also note that non-award studies/single unit of study enrolment types have a different fee structure, please refer to the website for more information: deakin.edu.au/students/enrolment-fees-and-money/fees.

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

If you have graduated from an undergraduate degree in a non-cognate study area such as arts, business or engineering, you must also complete a three year bachelor’s degree (or double degree) from a relevant cognate area, such as the Bachelor of Nutrition Science.

Can I apply for the Master of Dietetics course if I haven’t met all of 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. You will need to ensure that you have completed all of the prerequisites for the Master of Dietetics (exact prerequisite units will vary depending on your study pathway).

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

In the first semester, campus contact hours will be around 20 hours per week; including the need to attend 11 full teaching days at metropolitan hospitals. For the final two semesters, students should assume that their time commitment will be a full-time workload from Monday to Friday throughout. The large time commitment is due to the 21 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?

The typical part-time study mode is not possible with the Master of Dietetics as each of the professional practice units have full-time placement components of varying lengths together with intensive teaching blocks on campus.

It is possible to reduce your enrolment load in each semester (e.g. by taking only one unit in the second semester of the course), but the units you do take need to be completed 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 Food Service Management 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. Due to the prerequisite requirements of each unit within the course, careful consideration is needed when deciding to undertake the course part-time.

What is the application assessment criteria?

Applicants are assessed based on three different areas. Note that selection for the course is conducted after the 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.

1. Academic performance across all prior university study at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. Academic grades count towards 65% of the final assessment score.
2. Relevant work or voluntary experience in a nutrition or health-related field. Relevant experience counts towards 20% of the final assessment score. Work or volunteer experience gained as part of units within a degree is not counted.
3. Research degrees, i.e. completion of honours, master’s by research or PhD degrees. Research degrees count towards 15% of the final assessment score.

What supporting documents are required for the application process?

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

1. Academic transcripts
2. The Prerequisite Units Checklist
3. Details of relevant professional work and voluntary experience in a health or nutrition-related area – this is usually best done with a brief CV
4. Video personal statement

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.

"Deakin students are not required to submit transcripts as we can access your results via our database. 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 of your results from your degree that you have on hand at the time.

What are my career opportunities as a dietitian?

You can find out more information on careers in nutrition and dietetics (and the difference between a nutritionist and dietitian) at deakin.edu.au/nutrition-careers
'I chose to study at Deakin due to their excellence in the field of nutrition and dietetics combined with their long running and well-regarded dietetics program. During my placement in a hospital, I completed nutrition assessments, prescribing nutrition interventions and educating patients in acute, sub-acute and outpatient settings. This has cemented my knowledge and skills learned in the classroom through real life situations.'

Patrick Hinton  
Master of Dietetics  
Deakin Scholarship for Excellence recipient