Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) concerns the application of scientific principles to understand the nature of risks to the safety and health of people in workplaces.

Occupational health and safety is a multidisciplinary profession with applications in most industries and commerce.

You will learn to understand the OHS and occupational hygiene principles and be able to apply these in a range of organisational contexts.

The program focuses on the science and technology of risk management through assessment and evaluation of hazards and development of specific control mechanisms.

Learn how to apply a risk management model to hazards in the workplace, allowing you to recognise the context, evaluate the risk, and generate control solutions. You will use the model of OHS Professional Practice for problem solving which involves gathering information about the issue, diagnosing the issue, developing and implementing appropriate interventions, and evaluating their effectiveness, all the while communicating with relevant stakeholders.

You will develop advanced knowledge in:

- the global concepts of health, safety and work, and the implications that these have in organisations
- the socio-political and organisational context in which work occurs and how this impacts work design and its effects on the workers
- the causes of fatalities, injuries and ill health arising from work
- recognition of hazards, assessment and evaluation of their risk, and development of suitable controls

You will learn to apply these concepts in a range of contexts, allowing you to develop confidence and proficiency in your professional OHS and occupational hygiene practice. Many of your assessments will incorporate Work Integrated Learning (WIL) by focusing on OHS issues in your work situation.

Learning and teaching
The program is taught in block mode during one week per semester at the RMIT City campus, with online support and weekly online tutorials. All lectures and materials are provided online.

In some courses there is a need for practical utilisation of instrumentation to measure workplace hazards, and this is done on an agreed practical day during the semester. RMIT has a purpose-built OHS laboratory containing the latest measurement equipment.

Many of the assignments used for assessment purposes will be based on your work organisation to ensure that theory is directly applied to practical applications.

Industry connections
RMIT is committed to providing you with an education that strongly links formal learning with professional or vocational practice.

Many assignments are designed to put theory into workplace practice providing an education that is directly applicable to your role as an OHS professional.

Career outlook
Graduates find work within industry, government, service organisations, consulting or in workers’ compensation insurance companies.

Generalist practitioners are called health and safety executives (HSE), OHS managers, risk managers, OHS coordinators or safety officers.

Positions with additional environmental responsibilities are known as EHS or SHE (safety, health and environment) managers or coordinators.

Professional recognition
The Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety is accredited by the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board.

Graduates are eligible for professional membership with the Safety Institute of Australia, the body representing OHS professionals and practitioners. With three years of appropriate experience graduates can become a Chartered Professional Member (CPMSIA).

Application has been made with the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists for accreditation of the Occupational Hygiene minor within the Master of OHS program.
Graduate Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

Program structure

The Graduate Diploma in OHS consists of 96 credit points.

The program content is based on the Core Body of Knowledge of OHS professionals with additional material included. You'll learn to apply this in workplaces.

There is a common first year covering critical thinking, Risk Management, Ergonomics and OHS law.

In second year, you cover psychosocial hazards, chemical and physical hazards and the effect of organisational culture on safety.

You will also complete the year with a workplace OHS/Occupational Hygiene intervention project.

The Graduate Diploma prepares you for a Masters year which allows you to incorporate further coursework in occupational hygiene, or business management, or to pursue a large work-oriented research project.

Year 1

Complete the following core courses

- Principles and Practice of Work Health and Safety
- Critical Thinking and Decision Making
- Occupational Ergonomics
- Work Health and Safety Legal Systems

Year 2

Complete the following core courses

- Occupational Hazards and Control 1
- The Psychosocial Work Environment
- Work Health and Safety and the Organisation
- Work Health and Safety Intervention Project

Entry requirements

An Australian bachelor degree, or equivalent; or a Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety (BSB51307) with a GPA of at least 2.0 out of 4.0 and three years of relevant OHS experience.

Fees (indicative)

Full-fee: AU$14,400 per annum

This program is usually run on a part-time basis. The 2017 quoted fee is based on a total annual load of 48 credit points.

Fees shown above apply to 2017 only. Tuition fees are adjusted on an annual basis and these fees should only be used as a guide.

For more information and to learn how to calculate your exact tuition fees see: rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/postgraduate