Master of Social Work

Program Code Campus
MC150 City campus

Duration
2 years full-time or 4 years part-time.

2016 Tuition Fee
Commonwealth supported places may be available.
Full-Fee Places
$19,200 per year full-time. Please refer to Fees Explained.

Further Information
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URL
www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc150

Social workers promote human wellbeing and combat social exclusion. They mobilise the forces of individuals, the community and state organisations to transform lives and create lasting and meaningful social change.

RMIT University has been teaching social work for over 40 years and this program was the first qualifying Master of Social Work in Australia. RMIT’s programs continue to reflect up-to-date ideas about social work and its place in a changing world.

You will critically reflect on and analyse social policy and organisational practices and develop the skills necessary for advocating change. You will graduate with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations to bring about individual and collective wellbeing from a social justice perspective.

Learning and Teaching

Flexible Study Options
This program is designed to accommodate students with busy lives, with flexible study options including evening classes, intensive full-day workshops and access to online resources.

Time Commitment
Full-time students will attend approximately eight to 12 hours of classes per week, combined with self-directed extra study and research.

Program Structure
Through a combination of core and elective courses you will develop skills in human services. You will complete the following core courses:

- Critical Social Work
- Casework, Counselling and Advocacy
- Contemporary Themes in Professional Practice
- Group and Community Work Strategies
- Ethical, Legal and Organisational Contexts of Social Work Practice
- Discourses of Care, Control and Protection
- Field Education 1
- Field Education 2
- Professional Project
- Research Strategies – Social Sciences
- Rights, Recognition and Social Justice
- Social Policy

If you are interested in going on to further studies at PhD level, you can elect to do the research electives: Minor Thesis 1 and 2. Elective courses are available in a variety of social sciences and explore the dimensions of:

- advocacy and social action
- conflict resolution
- indigenous policy
- loss, trauma and grief
- program management and evaluation
- violence and abuse

Industry Connections
You will undertake two 70-day placements, usually within human and community service organisations to help you practise your skills and have the confidence to apply your academic abilities to professional situations.

Placements may be arranged locally, with some opportunity for interstate or overseas placements in the final round.

RMIT is a world leader in social justice and homelessness research and supports a number of research projects and networks that maintain wider links with local and global communities. Strong partnerships with the sector lead RMIT’s research and education in social support and care, and our research centres include the Centre for Applied Social Research and the Centre for Urban Research.

Career
Graduates are highly employable in human services organisations, community-based agencies, various levels of government and increasingly in corporate and private enterprise.

Some graduates help to develop social policy, some engage in research, some assist communities to develop their own services and some provide services to individuals and families.

In a social work career, there are ample opportunities to pursue different specialisations and interests.

With your working knowledge of social science, research and social work, you will be eligible for a wide range of jobs in areas such as:

- child protection
- dispute mediation and industrial relations
- health services and hospitals
- human resource management
- policy and advocacy work
- community development projects
- program and organisational development
- immigration advice and referral centres

Professional Recognition
This program is an Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) accredited qualification. It is an entry qualification into the social work profession and has been determined to meet the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS). Graduates are eligible for membership of this professional association.

URL
www.aasw.asn.au

Entry Requirements
You must have successfully completed an Australian bachelor degree (or equivalent overseas qualification) in a relevant discipline which includes at least one year of full-time studies in social sciences (or equivalent).

Graduates are resilient, autonomous, ethical, outspoken members of society who are prepared to advocate a fairer world for all.
Tuition Fees and Financial Assistance

Fees Explained

Tuition Fees and Financial Assistance
What you pay will depend on whether you are offered a Commonwealth supported place (CSP) or a full-fee place. Financial assistance is available to eligible students regardless of the type of place you enrol in.

Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP)
A Commonwealth supported place is a place at university where the tuition fee is jointly paid by you and the Australian Government. Your share of the fee (student contribution) is set by the government and is determined by the discipline areas (bands) of your individual enrolled courses, not the overall program. For more information about what fees you will pay in 2016 visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees.

The Australian Government has announced changes to the funding of CSPs. These may affect the proportion of the fee paid by student contribution from 2016. For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees and www.studyassist.gov.au.

Full-Fee Places
Students in full-fee places are required to pay a tuition fee that covers the full tuition costs of their program. The tuition fees vary according to each program and are adjusted on an annual basis. Financial assistance may be available through the FEE-HELP scheme (see right for details).

Only students who are Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens or hold an Australian Permanent Resident Visa are eligible for a domestic full-fee place. Students who do not meet these citizenship and residency requirements may be offered a place as an onshore international student.

Other Fees and Expenses

In addition to tuition fees, you will be charged a student services and amenities fee (SSAF), which is indexed annually. Eligible students can defer payment of the fee through SA-HELP. For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/ssaf.

You may also be required to purchase items related to your program, including field trips, specified textbooks and equipment. These expenses vary from program to program. For more information visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees.

Financial Assistance

Scholarships
Before you let financial constraints or living arrangements get in the way of your decision to study, find out about the range of RMIT scholarships available.

Coursework Scholarships Office
Tel. +61 3 9925 2811
Email: scholarships@rmit.edu.au
www.rmit.edu.au/scholarships

HECS-HELP
HECS-HELP assists eligible students in a Commonwealth supported place to pay their student contribution. To learn more about HECS-HELP visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/helploans/hecs-help.

FEE-HELP
FEE-HELP is an optional loan scheme that assists eligible students to pay all or part of their tuition fees. To learn more about FEE-HELP visit www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/helploans/fee-help.

Income Support
The Australian Government has approved this postgraduate program for student income support payments. The list of approved programs is available at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/highered/masters.

To check your eligibility for student income support or rent assistance, please contact Centrelink or visit www.humanservices.gov.au.

Income Tax Deductions
Students may be eligible to apply for income tax deductions relating to the education expenses that are linked to their employment. The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website at www.ato.gov.au provides guidance on the taxation treatment of your fees.

International Students

For information on fees, selection requirements and how to apply, please go to the program information on the RMIT website at www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc150 (CRICOS code 058284C).

Student Profile

“My experience working with children, youth and women alongside my bachelor degree in psychology inspired me to choose social work for my masters degree. The Master of Social Work has given me an understanding of social and political theory and social work practices, all of which have been eye-opening.

“I chose RMIT because of the curriculum structure. The detailed subjects and intensive field placement program are perfect for a social work career, as they offer a balance of theory and practice.

“Staff are not only passionate about their chosen topics, they are also supportive, constantly informing students of extra opportunities to gain further knowledge and experience.”

Noosha D’Cruze (cover)
Master of Social Work
Why Postgrad?

A Competitive Edge
Employment opportunities increase by 85% after completing a postgraduate qualification.*

Increase Your Earnings
On average, a postgraduate qualification will up your long-term earnings by more than 15%.

Turn Career Dreams into Reality
Almost 50% of people feel like they are in the wrong career.* A postgraduate qualification will empower you to follow your passion.

Why RMIT?

1. Take your career to the next level
RMIT was ranked 79th in the world by global employers for graduate employability in the 2014 QS World University Rankings.

2. Flexibility that works for you
40% of RMIT’s 11,700 postgraduate students study part-time with many flexible learning options.

3. Broaden your horizons
RMIT offers exchange opportunities at over 200 institutions across 41 countries.

4. Open doors to worldwide opportunities
RMIT has over 200 research collaborations with overseas partners and industry. RMIT graduates are employed in more than 100 countries around the world.

5. Transform the future through research
RMIT is ranked as one of the top five Australian universities for excellence in key research disciplines, and was awarded more than $19 million in research funding in 2014.

6. Education that packs a punch for your prospects
RMIT is ranked as one of the world’s top 35 universities for key subject areas in the 2015 QS World University Rankings.

The information in this guide is specific to Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents of Australia.

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this guide is subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the applicant to check and confirm all general and specific program information prior to lodging an application for enrolment. For the most up-to-date program information, please refer to the RMIT University website. Visit www.rmit.edu.au. This guide is designed for Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents of Australia. Vocational education programs are delivered with Victorian and Commonwealth funding for eligible students. RMIT University CRICOS Provider Code: 00122A, RTO Code: 3046.