

## Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work Commonly Asked Questions and Answers

Thanks so much for your interest in the Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work. We're really enjoying this course! Because we have been receiving so many questions about the program, we thought it might be helpful to put together this list of responses to commonly asked questions. If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Warmly,  
Charlotte England  
On behalf of Dulwich Centre

### COMMON QUESTIONS

- *That's fantastic that the Masters will be available online next year! Does this mean a face-to-face version won't be happening in 2023?*

There will only be one online version of the Masters in 2023. Because of COVID-19 we are continuing with an online version so that the course will be available to people wherever they are living without needing to come to Adelaide for the teaching blocks. In terms of face-to-face learning opportunities, however, by retaining the structure of having intensive two week teaching blocks, we are going to be creative and keep options open! Depending on who enrolls next year, and what countries they come from we will try to arrange local (voluntary) hubs for the intensive teaching blocks. This will make it possible for *some* participants to gather face-to-face in their own contexts during the two week blocks (this will be completely voluntary).

- *During the intensive teaching blocks, will all the online sessions be live? I ask in order to get an idea about the feasibility of managing the time difference.*

No, not all the online sessions will be live! We don't believe in having long periods of time in group zoom meetings so we will be creative 😊. There will be a combination of things to watch off-line, exercises to do in your own context with a local practice-partner, and then live zoom sessions in which participants come together with faculty in interactive sessions. What's more, we are lucky to have faculty in multiple countries, so depending on who enrolls for next year, we will arrange live sessions in accord with different timezones. Everyone won't attend all the live sessions ... you can just pick the ones that fit for you.

In between the intensive blocks, we will also hold a live session each week. These will be voluntary and they will alternate times so they will fit for people in different timezones.

- *What are the dates for the online teaching blocks?*

The dates for the online teaching blocks are as follows:

- Advanced Narrative Skills Development: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March
- Mid-year online catch up (for ANSD & NPRS): Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July
- The Art of Narrative Practice: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October
- Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March AND Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

- *Are there likely to be term times and 'off-times'? If so, could you share these general approximate dates please?*

The first subject will run from 13<sup>th</sup> February to 14<sup>th</sup> July (Subject: Advanced Narrative Skills Development). Then there will be short break. The second subject starts on 24<sup>th</sup> July and runs til 17<sup>th</sup> November (Subject: Art of Narrative Practice). The 3<sup>rd</sup> subject (only for full time students) runs from 13<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> of December (Subject: Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis).

- *How do I find out if previous narrative therapy training I've completed is adequate for the Masters?*

Please send through the information about the previous training you have completed, and we will let you know. If you haven't done the equivalent of a 5 day intensive we will explore possible ways for you to do so (wherever you may be located).

- *I have completed a long-term post graduate degree that included narrative therapy within it, but not one of the Dulwich Centre Graduate Certificate programs. How can I find out if I will be eligible for recognition of prior learning?*

Please send an email to us ([dcp@dulwichcentre.com.au](mailto:dcp@dulwichcentre.com.au)) and include:

- An outline of the course that you have studied, with a particular emphasis on the number of hours and the content that was dedicated to narrative practice skills
- The assessment tasks
- Who taught you
- The contact details of the key lecturer/teacher/professor whom we could contact if we have any questions.

- *Is the course is covered by FEE-HELP?*

Yes, the course is covered by FEE-HELP which is a loan scheme that assists eligible students pay all or part of their tuition fees. You need to be an Australian Citizen, Permanent Resident, holding a permanent humanitarian visa or a New Zealand Special Category Visa holder to be eligible. If you're unsure if you qualify, please see the Study Assist website: <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans-and-csps/fee-help>

- *Can I have a breakdown of the cost per subject?*

The cost of each subject is below ... the indicative prices for 2023 are:

- Advanced Narrative Skills Development: AUD\$5,728
- The Art of Narrative Practice: AUD\$5,728
- Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis: AUD\$11,456

Payment for the course is made directly to the University of Melbourne, and more information about fees is available on their website: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/master-of-narrative-therapy-and-community-work/fees/>

- *What counts as 5 hours of practice per week?*

The Masters is a practice-based program, and it's important that you are putting narrative ideas into practice *at least* five hours per week for the duration of the program. This can occur in many different contexts – paid or unpaid. It can be in one-on-one counselling work, and/or with families, and/or with groups, and/or with communities. It can happen face-to-face or online (via Skype/Zoom). There is considerable flexibility. But what is important is that you are directly applying narrative practices. Teaching *about* narrative practice does not count. What counts are using narrative practices in direct work with people. If you have any questions about your particular context, please write to us. Due to the emphasis on practice within the course, we really recommend you have adequate practice opportunities arranged **prior** to starting the Masters.

- *Will you be offering the Masters online into the future?*

We don't know! We can guarantee that there will be an online option for those who enrol in 2023. If people enrol part-time in 2023 (so will study in 2023 and 2024) we can guarantee that they will be able to study completely online. Other than this we don't know. During the pandemic it seems a time for flexibility and creativity and so that's what we are trying to offer!

## PART-TIME STUDY

- *What are the options for part-time study?*

There is an option to complete the program over 2 years. In this option you complete the subjects Advanced Narrative Skills Development in Semester 1 and Art of Narrative Practice in Semester 2 over the first 12 months. And you complete the final subject Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis in the second year.

- *Is there a fee difference between full-time and part-time students for the Master program?*

No. The price is the same for full-time and part-time students as both complete exactly the same program, just over a different timeline.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- *If I complete the Masters will it be recognised in my country?*

Yes. The program adheres to internationally accepted AQF standards. The University of Melbourne is ranked the #1 Australian University and #33 in the world. In terms of the program being recognised by governing bodies or for registration with professional organisations in your country, as requirements for this vary significantly over countries and organisations, it's worth checking directly with the organisation/association you are seeking recognition from. Within Australia, the Masters is recognised by the Australian Counselling Association.

- *Is the fee the same for international students?*

Yes, the fee is the same for international students. Please note that this course is not available to international students who require a student visa to study in Australia, as it does not meet the onshore study requirements.

- *Can international students apply for the Anita Morawetz Scholarship?*

Yes, this scholarship is open to international applicants. The scholarship is open for award to students whose project within the Master's program will 'contribute to the clinical practice of family therapy in Australia'. The work does not have to take place within Australia. More information is available at: <https://mdhs.unimelb.edu.au/study/scholarships/n/anita-morawetz-scholarship>

- *I see that if my previous tertiary study was not taught in English that I need to fulfil the University of Melbourne's English language requirements (6.5 on IELTS). Is the only way to do this by completing an IELTS test?*

Because of COVID-19, there is increased flexibility about ways of demonstrating the required English language competencies. For more information see: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply/english-language-requirements/graduate-english-language-requirements>

The following tests can be used with required marks indicated:

UoM band	IELTS (academic English Only)	TOEFL (paper-based test)	TOEFL (internet-based test)	Pearson Test of English (Academic)	Cambridge English: Advanced/ Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)
6.5	6.5 (with no band less than 6.0)	577 + TWE 4.5	79 + Writing 21; Speaking 18; Reading 13; Listening 13	58 + no communicative skill below 50	176 + no skill below 169.

## THE APPLICATION

- *How do I apply?*

You can apply now at: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/master-of-narrative-therapy-and-community-work/how-to-apply/> Applications will be open until mid-January 2023

- *How can I determine if my undergraduate degree will be accepted as a cognate discipline or equivalent?*

If you are unsure about this, please [email us](#) with details of your undergraduate degree and we will let you know.

- *What should I include in my 500 word statement?*

You will need to complete the personal statement template, which you can download [here](#). This statement will cover why you want to complete the Masters, in what context you will be putting the ideas into practice for a minimum of 5 hours a week for the duration of the program, and any ideas you have about what you will cover in your project for Subject 3, Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis.

- *Is there a standard format for the professional referee report? Should this, for example, be a written letter by my chosen references? Is there a limit to how many I should include?*

The professional referee report will need to be completed on the template available [here](#) by your chosen referee. There is no limit to the amount of references you may include. A work reference can confirm the work that you have done, your ability to carry out the work and your interactions with your colleagues. A personal reference would concentrate more on your character and what you are like as a person. In this instance, a professional reference would relate more to someone whom you work with currently who can vouch for you on a professional level.

## OTHER QUESTIONS

- *Will completing the Masters entitle me to membership in the Australian Association of Social Workers or the Australian Psychological Society?*

No it won't. The Masters is, however, accredited by the Australian Counselling Association. For more information about this, we recommend you contact the [ACA directly](#).

- *How much time should I expect to put aside each week for the course?*

Apart from the teaching blocks, the course takes place online and there is considerable flexibility for participants. The following estimates will therefore vary considerably for individuals! In addition to the teaching blocks, the total course will require approximately 1020 hours of student work (this includes 5 hours per week of putting the ideas into practice which will usually happen in your regular work context). If you choose to study full-time (13<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1<sup>st</sup> December) this works out at approximately 2 days of study per week (plus 5 hours of putting the ideas into practice). If you choose to study part-time (over two years) this works out to 1 day of study per week (plus 5 hours of putting the ideas into practice). Of course, everyone works at their own pace so these estimates are just approximate!

- *I am an Indigenous Australian and I don't have an undergraduate degree. Is it still possible for me to apply?*

Yes. There is a pathway into this Masters for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners who may not have an undergraduate degree. If this is the case for you, write to us at [dcp@dulwichcentre.com.au](mailto:dcp@dulwichcentre.com.au). Twenty-five Indigenous Australians have already graduated from this Master's program. Some have not had undergraduate degrees ... and some of these participants have graduated with First Class Honours (click here to watch [their valedictory speech](#)).

I think that's all for now. Thanks again for your interest in this practice-based Master's Program in Narrative Therapy and Community Work! We are really looking forward to it and hope you will be part of it.

Warmly, Charlotte  
on behalf of Dulwich Centre