

# Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work 2024

## Commonly asked questions and answers

**G'day!**

Thanks so much for your interest in the Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work. We're really enjoying this course and are looking forward to the 2024 program!

This document attempts to answer many of the commonly asked questions we receive about the Masters from potential participants.

If your question hasn't been answered, please [reach out to us](#).

Warmly,  
Charlotte England on behalf of Dulwich Centre

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## Prerequisites and eligibility

### Work experience:

- ***I don't work as a counsellor, can I still do the Masters?***

Yes! The Masters is not just for counsellors or people working in traditional one-on-one counselling roles. As long as you meet the necessary prerequisites (found [here](#)), and have a context to put narrative ideas into practice for a minimum of 5 hours per week throughout the year, you are welcome to join the Masters.

### Narrative therapy training:

- ***How much narrative therapy training do I need to have completed to be eligible?***

Participants need to have completed a minimum of a 5-day Level One Intensive in narrative therapy, or the equivalent hours of introductory narrative therapy training.

As the Masters specifically focusses on narrative therapy and community work, training in other therapeutic approaches won't count towards this prerequisite.

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

Please send us an email with an overview of the training you have completed. The details to include are: the duration (hours) of the training, who taught it, what topics were covered, and a course handbook/syllabus (if possible). 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've completed a long-term course/degree which included a narrative therapy component. How do I find out if I'm 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 main teacher or facilitator in case we need to reach out.

### Education:

- ***How can I figure out 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 [transcript, testamur etc] and we will let you know.

- ***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). 28 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](#)).

#### **English language requirements:**

- ***How can I demonstrate my English proficiency if I did not complete an undergraduate degree in English?***

The University of Melbourne accepts several English language tests, and you can see more on their website: <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:

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

## Applying

- ***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/>. The deadline for applications is the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2024, however we really recommend sending your application well before then. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so the sooner you submit your application, the sooner you will be advised of the outcome.

We have created a comprehensive application guide to assist with the application process, which can be found on [our website](#). If you encounter any difficulties whilst completing your application, please reach out to the [Continuing Education team](#) at the University of Melbourne and they will be able to assist.

- ***What do I need to prepare for my application?***

It will be helpful to have the following documents on hand when you apply:

- Transcripts and diplomas/certificates of all previous studies completed. Transcripts should also include an explanation of the grading system used.
- An up-to-date CV outlining your current and previous roles, and the number of months/years you spent in the role.
- Evidence of completion of prior narrative therapy studies.
- Evidence of meeting the English language requirements (see [here](#) for more info).
- A 500 word personal statement completed on the template found [here](#).
- A professional referee report, completed on the template found [here](#) by your chosen referee/s.

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

You will need to complete the personal statement template, which you can download [here](#). This template outlines what you should write about, including: why you want to complete the Masters, what context you'll put the ideas into practice, and any ideas you have about the research innovation project completed in 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. Your referee should be somebody who you currently work with and who can vouch for you on a professional level. You can submit more than one referee report from separate referees.

## Key dates

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

The dates for the online teaching blocks are below. Depending on whether you are enrolled as a part-time or full-time student, you may attend some or all the blocks. You can read more about attending the online teaching blocks in the following questions.

- Advanced Narrative Skills Development (Subject 1)
  - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- Mid-year online catch up (for ANSD & NPRS):
  - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024
- The Art of Narrative Practice (Subject 2)
  - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024
- Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis (Subject 3)
  - Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024  
AND
  - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

- ***What are the subject dates?***

- Subject 1 (Advanced Narrative Skills Development): 12<sup>th</sup> February – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Subject 2 (The Art of Narrative Practice): 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024
- Subject 3 (Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis): 12<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

## Online learning and teaching blocks

- ***Will the program be online only in 2024? Will there be any face-to-face opportunities?***

The 2024 program will be entirely online. This makes the course accessible to everybody, including those who are interested but can't come to Adelaide for the teaching blocks.

In 2024 there will be a face-to-face event for Masters alumni from all years, held in Adelaide from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April. This event will also be open to participants of the 2024 Masters, for those who are able to come to Adelaide and wanting to attend this event.

- ***Do we have to attend the entire teaching blocks live, even if our time zone is quite different than Adelaide's?***

We understand many participants' time zones are quite different from Australia's, and we do our best to accommodate this. For the Masters teaching blocks, we offer sessions at a variety of time zones. Participants are expected to attend as many of the sessions as is accessible for their time zone and review the recordings if they miss sessions.

The teaching blocks include interactive live sessions held on Zoom, as well as offline activities and exercises to do in your own context with a practice partner. It's important to attend as much of the training as possible live, as it is designed to be interactive and collaborative. We encourage participants to arrange leave from work for the teaching blocks. We can supply a letter for your employer/manager, outlining the importance of you attending this training live.

## Study modes and time commitment

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

The Masters can be completed part-time over 2 years. As a part-time participant, you complete Subject 1 and 2 in the first year, and Subject 3 in the second year.

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

As this is an online Masters, there is some flexibility with how much time you spend studying each week. Events such as the online teaching blocks (dates on page 5) and Meet the Author sessions require live attendance. Outside of these events, you can decide what amount of time works best for you to study each week. As this is a practice-based course, a lot of work is put into ensuring participants can rigorously engage with the ideas. The course handbook (available in late 2023) will outline the assignment dates and give you a better sense of what's possible for you.

The time spent on the course will vary significantly based on participants' individual learning styles. As a rough estimate, the total course will require approximately 1020 hours of student work, including the 5 hours per week of putting ideas into practice. This total doesn't include the hours spent in the online teaching blocks. If you study full-time, this works out at approximately 2 days of study per week over the year (plus 5 hours of putting the ideas into practice). If you study part-time, completing subject 1 and 2 in the first year, and subject 3 in the second year, this works out to 1 day of study per week over the two years (plus 5 hours of putting the ideas into practice).

- ***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, or with families, groups or communities. It can happen face-to-face or online (via Zoom).

It's important that in these hours you are using narrative practices in direct work with people. Teaching *about* narrative practice does not count. If you have any questions or concerns about your context, please get in touch. Due to the emphasis on practice within the course, we really recommend you have adequate practice opportunities arranged **prior** to starting the Masters.

## **Fees and scholarships**

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

Yes, the course is covered by FEE-HELP. If you are eligible for FEE-HELP, you can opt into it during the application stage. For more information on FEE-HELP, see the [Study Assist website](#).

- ***Are there Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP) available for this program?***

No, there are not Commonwealth Supported Places available for this program.

- ***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.

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

There is no difference in fees, regardless of whether you study part-time or full-time.

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

The cost of each subject is below ... the indicative prices for 2024 are:

- Advanced Narrative Skills Development: AUD\$6016
- The Art of Narrative Practice: AUD\$6016
- Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis: AUD\$12032

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 scholarships are available for this degree?***

There a number of scholarships available specifically for this degree, including the [Anita Morawetz scholarship](#), a [scholarship for transgender participants](#), and the Adelaide-Hong Kong Friendship Scholarship (more information [here](#)). Information about general scholarships offered by the University of Melbourne is available here: <https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/master-of-narrative-therapy-and-community-work/fees/#scholarships>

- ***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.

- ***I have a question not listed above regarding fees or payment.***

All questions related to fees, payment or loan deferrals should be directed to the University of Melbourne's Continuing Education Team. You can find their contact details here: <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/professional-development/professional-development-for-individuals#students>.

We recommend calling or using the online chat box (in the bottom right-hand corner of the page) for the fastest response.



## Accreditation and professional recognition

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

The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work is a postgraduate degree offered by the University of Melbourne in collaboration with Dulwich Centre. The program adheres to internationally accepted AQF standards. The University of Melbourne is ranked the #1 Australian University and #14 in the world (QS World University Rankings, 2023).

In terms of the program being recognised for registration with professional organisations in your country, please check directly with the organisation you are seeking recognition from. Requirements for this vary significantly across countries and organisations.

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

The Masters is accredited by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA). For more information about this, we recommend you contact the [ACA directly](#). The Masters is not accredited by the AASW or the APS, and won't entitle you to membership with either association.