Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work 2027

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 2027 program!

This document answers many of the commonly asked questions we receive about the Master's from potential participants.

If your question hasn't been answered, please reach out to us.

Warmly,
Shani on behalf of Dulwich Centre

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The Master of Narrative Therapy and Community Work is offered by Dulwich Centre in partnership with the University of Melbourne. More information is available about this program here.

Prerequisites and eligibility

Entry requirements:

- Completed an undergraduate degree* in a cognate discipline, or equivalent; and at least two years of full-time, documented relevant work experience;
  OR
- A minimum of eight years of full-time documented, relevant work experience;
  PLUS
- Evidence of completion of prior narrative therapy studies at Dulwich Centre (Level One Intensive) or equivalent;
- Completion of the personal statement document (maximum 500 words);
- A professional referee report

*There is an entry pathway for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants without an undergraduate degree. If this is the case for you, please write to us. 42 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.

Work experience:

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

Yes! The Master's is not just for counsellors or people working in traditional one-on-one counselling roles. As long as you meet the entry requirements and have a context to put narrative ideas into practice for a minimum of five hours per week throughout the year, you are welcome to join the Master's.

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 thirty-hour Level One Intensive in narrative therapy, or the equivalent hours of introductory narrative therapy training. If your training was completed more than five years ago, please email us.

As the Master's 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 alternative narrative therapy training I've completed is adequate for the Master's?***

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, teacher(s), what topics were covered, and a course handbook or syllabus (in English). If you haven't done the equivalent of a five-day Intensive, we will explore possible ways for you to do so (wherever you may be located).

- ***I've completed a long-term narrative therapy study program. How do I find out if I'm eligible for recognition of prior learning?***

Please send an email to us 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
- Teaching faculty
- The contact details of the main teacher or facilitator in case we need to reach out

Education:

- ***Will 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 Master's for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners who may not have an undergraduate degree. If this is the case for you, please write to us. 42 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 (non-English speaking background):

- ***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:

UoM English level	Previous UoM band	IELTS (academic English only)	TOEFL Internet-based test	Pearson Test of English Academic	Cambridge C1 Advanced	LanguageCert Academic	Michigan English (MET)
1	6.5	6.5: writing 6.0; speaking 6.0; reading 6.0; listening 6.0	81: writing 19; speaking 19; reading 16; listening 16	64: writing 60; speaking 60; reading 60; listening 60	169: writing 170; speaking 179; reading 163; listening 163	67: writing 64; speaking 70; reading 60; listening 57	58: writing 57; speaking 48; reading 55; listening 56

Applying

- ***How do I apply?***

Applications for 2027 Start Year Intake (February) will open in August: https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/courses/graduate/master-of-narrative-therapy-and-community-work/how-to-apply/. The deadline for applications will be on January 25 2027*, 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. 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.

*Anyone applying for the Anita Morawetz scholarship must submit their full application by November 30 2026.

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

You will need to have the following documents to apply:

  - Transcripts and diplomas/certificates of previously completed study. 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 (for people from a non-English speaking background, 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 Master's, 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? 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 reference from separate referees.

Key dates

The subject and online teaching block dates are below. Full-time students will attend all teaching blocks. First year part-time students will attend the blocks for Subject 1 & 2. Second year part-time students will attend the blocks for subject 3. You can read more about attending the online teaching blocks in the following section.

Subject	Subject delivery dates	Online teaching block dates
Subject 1: Advanced Narrative Skills Development (ANSD)	February 15 – July 16 2027	Monday March 8 – Wednesday March 17 *AND* Monday July 5
Subject 2: The Art of Narrative Practice (ANP)	July 26 – November 19 2027	Monday July 26 *AND* Monday August 23 *AND* Monday October 18 – Friday October 22
Subject 3: Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis (NPRS)	February 15 – December 3 2027	Monday March 22 – Tuesday March 23 *AND* Tuesday July 6 *AND* Thursday September 2 – Friday September 3 *AND* Monday October 25 – Friday October 29

Online learning and teaching blocks

- ***Will the program be online only in 2027? Will there be any face-to-face opportunities?***

The 2027 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 2027 there will be a face-to-face event for Master's alumni from all years, held in Tarntanya Adelaide in the first half of the year. This event will also be open to participants of the 2027 Master's! This is optional and not a formal part of studies.

- ***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 Master's 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. You may need to arrange study leave from work for the duration of 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 Master's can be completed part-time over two 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 Master's, there is some flexibility with how much time you spend studying each week. Events such as the online teaching blocks 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 2026) 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 five 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 two days of study per week over the year (plus five hours of putting the ideas into practice). If you study part-time, this works out to one day of study per week over the two years (plus five hours of putting the ideas into practice).

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

The Master's is a practice-based program, and it's important that you are putting narrative ideas into practice ***at least*** five hours per week (on average), or 180 hours per year, 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, you need to have adequate practice opportunities arranged **prior** to starting the Master's.

- ***I noticed that there are no clinical hours or supervision mentioned. Does the program include this?***

Whilst participants are required to log five hours of practice per week, there is no official placement or supervision of clinical hours as part of the program.

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. Subject prices may increase from one calendar year to the next.

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

The cost of each subject is below … the prices for 2027* are:

  - Advanced Narrative Skills Development: AUD$7,280
  - The Art of Narrative Practice: AUD$7,280
  - Narrative Practice and Research Synthesis: AUD$14,560
    *Indicative fees, subject to change for 2028

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, the Robyn Moylan Scholarship for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants and the Adelaide – Hong Kong Friendship Scholarship for residents of Hong Kong. Information about financial support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is here: https://murrupbarak.unimelb.edu.au/home/financial-support-1

- ***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.
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 Master's 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 university1 and #22 in the world2 (1. Average of latest ARWU, QS and Times Higher Education (THE) global university rankings / 2. QS World University Rankings 2027).

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 Master's entitle me to membership in the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) or the Australian Psychological Society (APS)?***

The Master's is accredited by the Australian Counselling Association (ACA) up to 2027. For more information about this, we recommend you contact the ACA directly. The Master's is not accredited by the AASW or the APS, and won't entitle you to membership with either association.