**Master of Social Work**

**Masters by Coursework**

**Introduction**

The Master of Social Work by coursework, (the MSW), at Monash University is designed to provide ongoing stimulation, inspiration and learning for qualified social workers. The program is offered fully off campus through flexible online study to both Australian students and International students studying from their own country. The off campus mode is specifically designed to meet the needs of the increasing numbers of professionals seeking higher degrees who find it difficult to work, study and maintain family and non-work priorities with on-campus studies. There are no workshops or compulsory class attendances for the off campus learning mode. Regular contact between students and unit coordinators is maintained through the assessment tasks, interaction through email correspondence and, depending on the unit, through online group discussions with student colleagues.

**Entry Requirements**

Applicants are required to have a Bachelor of Social Work degree or other equivalent, relevant degree, with a credit average which enables them to be eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers or the equivalent professional organisation in the country where they completed this qualification.

**Description**

This course provides an opportunity for social work practitioners to enhance and develop their professional skills and knowledge and to make links between practice in the field and new and emerging academic knowledge and theory. It aims to provide for the needs of social workers whose roles involve management, policy, research development and direct practice with clients. Students may choose from a wide range of areas within the social work program.

**Outcomes**

These course outcomes are aligned with the Australian Qualifications Framework level 9, the Bologna Cycle 2 and Monash Graduate Attributes. For more information refer to [http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/curriculum-by-design/aligning-course-outcomes-with-aqf-bologna.html](http://opvclt.monash.edu.au/curriculum-by-design/aligning-course-outcomes-with-aqf-bologna.html).

Upon successful completion of this course it is expected that graduates will be able to:

- understand and develop knowledge in professional areas that are not covered in the social work undergraduate curriculum
- examine, evaluate and integrate new knowledge with past and present work experience
• deepen and extend specialised practice knowledge and skills through a greater focus on selected areas, including the acquisition, application and evaluation of new research-based clinical and program interventions

• acquire advanced specialised research knowledge and skills that will allow students to develop and assess research-based practice at the clinical, program and policy levels for newly emerging problem and service areas

• communicate, explain and present new knowledge to students, staff, the social work field and wider communities

Professional recognition

This course does not provide eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers. PLEASE NOTE: This course is not the Master of Social Work Qualifying degree.

The usual route to admission to the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) is via the Bachelor of Social Work degree or through the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) degree.

Structure

This course consists of four 12-point units

Students must complete four of:

• SWM5110 Advanced casework practice**
• SWM5120 Criminology and social work
• SWM5160 The child in society: Promoting children's wellbeing and responding to child maltreatment
• SWM5170 Applied research study*
• SWM5180 Management of human resources in the social services***
• SWM5190 Social work research
• SWM5200 Health and social work
• SWM5220 Longevity and social work
• SWM5241 Mental health practice
• SWM5250 Clinical supervision - becoming a professional developer
• SWM5260 Gender, climate change and social sustainability

* The prerequisite for this unit is SWM5190 Social Work Research.

** Offered in alternate years. Next offering is 2014.

*** Offered in alternate years. Next offering is 2015.

Award

Master of Social Work (MSW).
**Change of subjects**

Students may change or discontinue subjects prior to the start of each semester. The University publishes principal dates each semester after which students cannot obtain a refund of tuition and amenity fees, and after which students cannot discontinue subjects. These dates are available from the Monash website at [http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/unisec/prd/index.html](http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/unisec/prd/index.html)

**Intermission from the course**

Students who have already started the course and passed a subject may intermit for up to one year. Students wishing to intermit should contact the Social Work office in order to obtain the appropriate forms.

**Transfer from other universities**

Students may be granted credit for up to half of the degree for equivalent work successfully undertaken in other universities at Masters Degree level.

**Eligibility for the PhD Program**

The Coursework MSW may facilitate entry to the PhD programme at Monash University. Whilst the usual route to a PhD is through an Honours Programme or Masters by Research, students who have completed an MSW by Coursework which includes the units SWM5190 Social Work Research and SWM5170 Applied Research Study, or who have other research experience, may be eligible to apply for the Ph.D. programme.

Intending applicants interested in this possibility should consult with the coordinator prior to enrolment.

**Masters by Coursework Coordinator**

Dr Deborah Western  
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