School of

SOCIAL WORK

- Master of Social Work (Qualifying)
- Graduate Certificate in Social Science
- Graduate Diploma of Social Science

EXCELSIA

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

About
EXCELSIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Established in 1983, Excelsia University College (Excelsia) is one of Australia's leading Christian higher education providers, and is an innovative and creative community of people who are passionate about excelling and growing academically, professionally, personally and spiritually. Our students and alumni embark on a journey of lifelong learning and leadership.

WORLD-CLASS MENTORSHIP

Be mentored by and learn from engaged and committed staff who are approachable and passionate about social work.

INDUSTRY RESPECTED

Excelsia is a leader in the industry with a respected reputation for successfully delivering postgraduate courses since 1983. Excelsia is committed to changing the lives of people through individual learning and industry experience.

READY FOR PRACTICE

Practical student learning to ensure graduates are trained to meet the professional standards of the industry. The Master of Social Work (Qualifying) provides hands-on experience and practicum in a variety of scenarios where you can put a range of theories and interventions into practice.

PASTORAL CARE

Excelsia prioritises pastoral care which is fully integrated throughout the program. It is important to Excelsia that we meet the personal, social wellbeing and academic needs of students.

OUR VISION: Excelsia contributes to making a better world through active participation in a life-transforming global Christian learning community.

OUR MISSION: Excelsia is an academic community benefiting the world by producing research characterised by exemplary scholarship consistent with a Christian world view, and graduates prepared to lead in a range of professions.

OUR VALUES

Our values reflect our vision and our mission:

1. **Christ-likeness:** striving to exemplify the life of Christ in our commitments, our actions and our relationships.
2. **Innovation and creativity:** working with passion and imagination in a range of influential professions, to further God's transformative work in the world.
3. **Scholarship:** creating a culture that values the search for truth, supports academic freedom and rewards rigorous thinking.
4. **Service to the community:** using our skills and abilities in and beyond the Institution in the service of others.
5. **Lifelong learning:** continually seeking knowledge, wisdom and capability to flourish and contribute in a changing world.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

1. **Deep Knowledge**
   A deep, coherent and extensive knowledge of studied disciplines characterised by intellectual openness, creativity and curiosity.
2. **Critical Analysis**
   Willingness and ability to analyse issues logically, consider different options and viewpoints fairly, and make informed decisions in relevant artistic, academic and/or professional contexts and settings.
3. **Lifelong Learning**
   A commitment to lifelong learning characterised by a willingness and ability to acquire, develop and apply knowledge and skills that facilitate positive adaptations to a changing world.
4. **Effective Communication**
   Aptitude to communicate information, arguments and ideas effectively and ethically through writing, speech and/or artistic expression as appropriate within each discipline.
5. **Christian Ethical Action**
   A sound knowledge and understanding of Christian values and beliefs, and of the relevance of Christian faith to personal life, professional ethics, and social concerns.
6. **Self Direction**
   A capacity for self-directed learning and activity while working effectively with others in scholarly, vocational, civic and/or artistic pursuits and endeavours.
7. **Technical Competence**
   Competence and facility with materials, processes and technologies relevant to learned disciplines, generic information literacy and professional practice.
8. **Responsible Innovation**
   Oriented towards exhibiting intellectual and artistic enterprise, innovation and independence in constructive, creative and responsible ways.

CAMPUS FEATURES

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- Library
- Black box creative space
- Production studio
- Innovation centre – Mac and PC lab
- Drama and music specialist rooms
- Wellness centre
- Fidèl Café
- Koorong Bookstore
- Student facilities

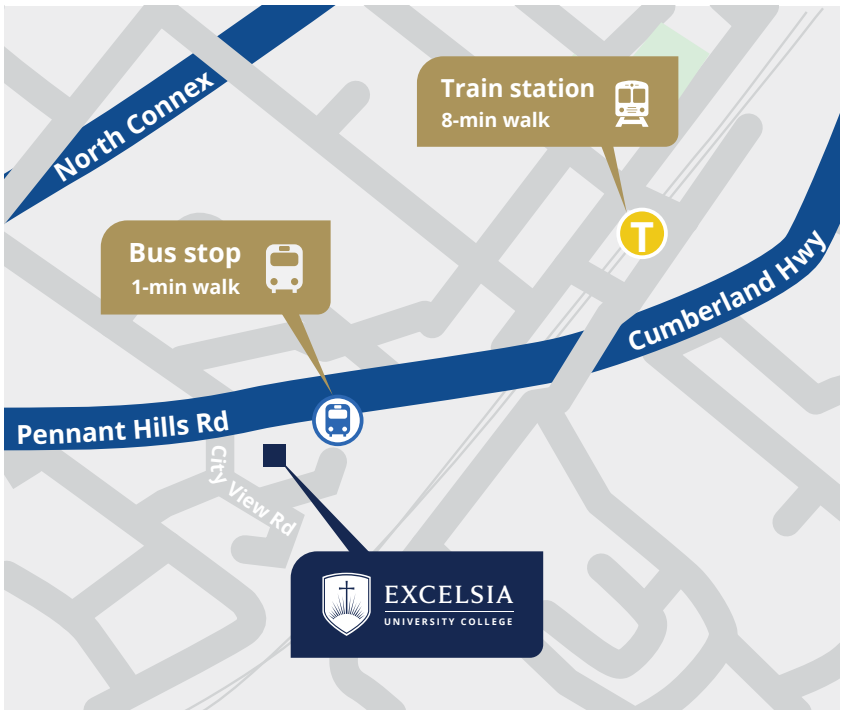
Free wifi
Study desks
Snacks bar

Free coffee
Microwaves
Games console

TRANSPORT

- 8-min walk to Pennant Hills Station
- 1-min walk to bus stop
- Free parking

CONVENIENT LOCATION



Why study at **EXCELSIA?**

EXCELSIA RANKED HIGHLY

TEACHING QUALITY*
86.2%
National average 80.5%

POSITIVE STUDENT INTERACTIONS*
84.6%
National average 59.5%

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT*
90.7%
National average 81.1%

OVERALL GRADUATE SATISFACTION^
85.4%
National average 75.6%

^ 2023–24 Course Experience Questionnaire (undergraduate)
* 2023–24 Student Experience Survey (undergraduate)

Why study Social Work at **EXCELSIA?**

HONEST CORE VALUES

- Commitment to educating students to promote human rights and social justice.
- Students will be active participants in engaging in the world to improve the wellbeing of people and communities.
- A learning environment that appreciates and supports spiritual and religious values.
- Excellence in teaching that is culturally respectful and responsive, critical and evidence-based and engaged in research that promotes a more just society.
- Students will learn to advocate on behalf of those who cannot voice their concerns.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE AND EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

- A powerful, hands-on introduction to the world of social work.
- Highly-qualified, friendly and experienced academic staff who are ready to help students on their journey.
- Study with a community of like-minded students.
- Work placements give students hands-on experience (500 hours per year) and professional skills in a range of settings (health, aged care, community services, child and family welfare, mental health, community work, research, policy and planning).
- Course includes assisting students with locating professional work experience in agencies such as Anglicare, Catholic Care, Centrelink, Department of Community Services, hospitals, community health centres, local government, etc.
- Prepare social work graduates to work locally, regionally and internationally.

BOOMING INDUSTRY

- Ongoing and recent changes in Australia have ensured increasing demands in the community services sector.
- These changes have included an ageing society with considerable reforms by governments in providing services and funding as well as responding to the ongoing Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety; the disability sector with the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the recommendations of the Royal Commission; child wellbeing and protection services; and family and domestic violence services.
- The degree has been developed to make sure it is current and relevant to ongoing challenges in the sector.
- Social work is an essential element in many parts of the economy.

Master of SOCIAL WORK (Qualifying)

The Master of Social Work (Qualifying) (MSW [Q]) is an AASW accredited qualification. It is an entry qualification into the social work profession and meets the Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards. Social work is an academic practice-based profession that promotes social justice, inclusion and wellbeing. The MSW (Q) aims to produce graduates who are professionally competent, aware of socio-political realities in the human services and committed to social change through supporting and promoting the strengths of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations.

Course duration:	2 years full-time/4 years part-time (domestic students only)
Intake:	February and July
Credit points:	96
Delivery:	On campus
Available to:	Domestic and international
Course accreditation:	AASW (fully accredited)*
CRICOS Code:	102798H
IELTS:	7.0 with no band less than 7.0 or equivalent
AQF:	Level 9
Financial information:	FEE-HELP available for domestic students
Course tuition fee:	International students: $10,800 per semester/$43,200 total tuition fee

For more information, refer to our course fees page.

* This is an 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.

The course focuses on face-to-face small classes, and intensive interaction with fellow students and experienced social work academics. As social work engages with a changing world where social media, online material and interactivity are prevalent, student learning will also include blended learning technologies.

AASW Accredited Qualification

The learning will be delivered through: workshops; case studies; in-class exercises; experiential learning strategies; flipped classrooms; social work laboratory; written reports; oral presentations; blogs; essays; and research reports. Finally, students will explore social work practice through field education practicums.

International graduates of the course are also required to meet AASW English language requirements for migration and/or employment purposes. Please consult the AASW website here for details.

Work Placement

1,000 hours of work placement organised by Excelsia

Course Outcome

Social worker accredited by AASW

Accommodation Options

Accommodation is provided through our partnership with Robert Menzies College. See more at rmc.org.au

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

EDUCATIONAL PREREQUISITES (DIRECT ENTRY)

Applicants may be admitted to the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) if they have previously successfully completed a relevant bachelor (AQF Level 7) degree course that contains at least one year, or the equivalent (8 units) of full-time studies in the social and behavioural sciences, as required by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). Units from the following broad fields may be considered:

- Psychology
- Sociology
- History
- Media and Arts
- Community and Welfare Studies
- Human Development
- Gender Studies
- Nursing, Allied Health
- Anthropology
- Law
- Counselling
- Philosophy
- Politics

EDUCATIONAL PREREQUISITES (PATHWAY ENTRY)

Applicants may be admitted to the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) if they have successfully completed a relevant bachelor (AQF Level 7) degree course with 4 units from the above list and the Graduate Certificate in Social Science.

SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

Criminal History Record: Provide a National Criminal History Record check at time of application obtainable from: nationalcrimecheck.com.au

Working with Children Check: Provide a Working with Children authorisation at time of application obtainable from: wwccheck.ccyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Master of Social Work (Qualifying) is available to international students, subject to satisfying the aforementioned admission criteria.

In addition to meeting the educational prerequisites above, international applicants who have not completed an educational qualification in English must provide proof of proficiency in English through internationally recognised tests such as IELTS or through satisfactory completion of an approved course at one of the Excelsia's partner language colleges.

Examination	**Minimum Score**
IELTS	7.0 with no band less than 7.0 or equivalent
PTE Academic	65 with no score less than 65

Overseas students applying for admission to Excelsia courses must have reached the age of 18 years by the commencement of their studies. Excelsia will not admit overseas students who have not yet reached 18 years of age.

For more information visit the excelsia.edu.au/study/international-students/application-guide-for-international-students/.

RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Please refer to the credit and RPL policies and procedures in the Admissions Framework.

Units

YEAR 1 SEMESTER 1

Context for Social Work Practice

The unit explores the history of the social work profession in Australia and internationally and the purpose, practices and fields of practices of social work. The human service system and how it responds to social issues will also be examined as well as the different human services contexts to help students gain an understanding of the diverse and dynamic nature of social work. The unit provides an understanding of how different social policy responses are developed in relation to changing conceptions of social 'problems'. The unit also focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' social issues, policy and service responses.

Diversity, Power and Identity in Social Work Practice

The professional practice of social work is fundamentally rooted in the principles of social justice and human rights. In this unit, students will explore the principles and ideologies embedded in these core concepts and critically analyse their application in professional practice. Students will be introduced to and apply theoretical frameworks of feminist theory, political economy theory, critical race theory, discourse formation, and symbolic violence. Throughout the unit, students will use their understanding of these theories and concepts to examine the disadvantage affecting individuals, families, and groups and analyse the discourses that perpetuate that disadvantage. They will learn strategies to identify and dismantle oppressive power structures at both macro and micro levels, including advocacy and other social action, with the goal of fostering a more equitable and inclusive society.

Social Work Practice in Groups and Communities

The unit explores social work practice in groups and communities. The theories and skills in group work are examined and developed with attention to therapeutic group work, self-help groups, teamwork and community organising. Students will explore the theoretical frameworks and practical skills for group and community work. The unit focuses on assessing the need for a group, understanding group formation, development and processes and closure.

Skills and Models of Intervention in Social Work Practice 1

The unit focus is on developing skills in working with service users and carers. This unit provides an initial overview of the perspectives of service users and carers and gives students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the needs and perspectives of service users and development of beginning skills of engagement with and empathy for key people in the sector. The students will develop skills in complex assessment, planning, and intervention with service users with high needs. Exploration of social work theories and practice frameworks will also be undertaken.

INTENSIVE BEFORE SEMESTER 2

Law, Accountability and Professional Judgement

The unit focuses on exploring the Australian legal system and the relationship between the law and social work. Areas of relevance to social work practice such as child wellbeing and safety, mental health, guardianship law, probation and parole, ageing and income security will be reviewed. The legal responsibilities of social work, particularly duty of care, will be explored, as will the issues of professional negligence, mishaps and misdeeds and the impact on accountability. Social workers are like other human service professionals required at times to appear before, and provide reports and other documents to bodies such as courts, complaints commissions, and human rights bodies.

YEAR 1 SEMESTER 2

Research and Evaluation in Social Work Practice

This unit focuses on advanced critical problem solving skills, particularly on the production and analysis of evidence through collaborative research and evaluation. Using a scaffolded approach, students will design research evaluation projects addressing specific social research questions within their field education practice. As part of this process, students will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ethical guidelines, particularly in research projects involving human participants.

Field Education Practicum 1

The unit provides students with an opportunity to practice social work, under supervision in a range of settings that may include, but is not limited to, health, aged care, community services, child and family welfare, mental health, community work, research, policy, and planning. During the field education placement students will integrate theory, acquired during course work, with practice, and develop their ability in a range of social work approaches and fields of practice. This is the first of two field education placements designed to ensure that students meet the requirements of the Australian Association of Social Work (AASW) Practice Standards (2023) The field education placement consists of 500 hours and by the end of this placement students must demonstrate basic capability against the AASW Practice standards..

YEAR 2 SEMESTER 1

Child, Youth and Family Social Work Practice

The unit focus is on developing skills in working with children, youth and families. It considers challenges that children, young people and families may experience, including physical abuse, neglect, child sexual assault, emotional abuse, family violence, trauma, and poverty. Students will develop skills in complex assessment, planning and intervention with high need or complex service users. Protective factors and strengths of diverse families, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, are also explored. Services and organisations along a spectrum from prevention to treatment are identified and discussed.

Social Work Practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities

The unit has a focus on building skills and knowledge of working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. Working with these communities is an important field of practice for social workers in community contexts as well as statutory ones. The unit critically analyses the history of the relationship between social work, human services, and Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander peoples. Partnership models of helping are to be developed through collaboration and building skills in working with and engaging communities. This involves developing practice principles, strategies, and skills. The emphasis of the unit is on the significance of culturally responsive practices requiring students to be self-reflective and aware of their positioning.

Psychosocial Health and Wellbeing in Social Work Practice

This unit examines social work practice in the broad area of health and wellbeing. Students will enhance their knowledge of the Australian health care system and critically analyse the dominance of medical discourse in the provision of health services in Australia. Students will explore a range of therapeutic interventions relevant for work with people who confront issues and concerns around mental health, addiction, life stage transition complexities and disability. Concepts of resilience and recovery as well as holistic perspectives of health and wellbeing will inform the development of knowledge and skills in this area.

Skills and Models of Intervention in Social Work Practice 2

The unit provides students with advanced practice approaches and skills in working with individuals, families and groups. Trauma-informed practice and narrative approaches are significant for social workers working across a variety of settings. Students will focus on clinical practice with individuals and/or families with trauma and abuse. Narrative therapy as a specifically developed social work intervention will be critically examined and the skills for this practice approach to working with individuals, and communities developed.

INTENSIVE BEFORE SEMESTER 4

Leadership, Organisational Practice and Policy Development in Social Work

The unit examines the nature and role of leadership in social work practice including leadership development and how students might develop leadership qualities in others, and themselves in all aspects of their practice. The unit also examines leadership in the context of the challenges that have confronted human service organisations. This unit will also develop students' understanding of the organisational contexts in which their professional practice will take place. The role of social workers in a range of organisations will be explored, with students developing skills in areas such as organisational analysis and change.

YEAR 2 SEMESTER 2

Integrated Research Project

This unit is designed to integrate student's knowledge, values, and skills as a beginning social work practitioner. The capstone project is the culmination and demonstration of learning across the MSWQ course. It includes advanced demonstration of applying theoretical knowledge, evidence, critical analysis and reflection, and social work professional values. Students will demonstrate integrated theory and practice knowledge in social work through the development of a work-based project related to a practice field or area of specialisation.

Field Education Practicum 2

The unit provides professional social work experiences in a range of settings that include health, aged care, community services, child and family welfare, mental health, community work, research, policy and planning. Through the field education practicum, students will integrate theory and practice and develop competencies in a variety of methods and fields of practice. The practice will be determined by the setting in which the student is placed. This is the final practicum and students must ensure that they meet the requirements of the AASW Practice Standards (2013) for entry-level proficiency. The practicum consists of 500 hours of which 100 hours will be involved in the Integrated Research Project.

Graduate Certificate in SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course duration:	1 semester
Intake:	February and July
Credit points:	24
Delivery:	On campus
Available to:	Domestic and international
CRICOS Code:	108832G
IELTS:	6.5 with no band less than 6.0
AQF:	Level 8
Financial information:	FEE-HELP available for domestic students
Course tuition fee:	Domestic students: $9,480 International students: $10,800

For more information, refer to our course fees page.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Three-year Bachelor (AQF Level 7) degree
- Applicants whose qualifying undergraduate degree studies were taken in a language other than English will be required to demonstrate English Language proficiency. Applicants must have an IELTS of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 or equivalent English Language proficiency test results.

Units

Sociology for Social Work

This unit focuses on introducing students to central concepts and theories in sociology and their relevance for social work. It provides for the use of critical thinking to explore social issues and how these impact service users. It introduces students to the founding theorists in sociology and the impact of these on our understanding of society. The unit explores our understanding of social stratification including key concepts of class, gender, ethnicity, family, youth, work etc. The key issues of poverty, diversity, crime, and deviance are explored in the unit. The importance of developing a 'sociological imagination' and how that transforms our understanding of our social world and what that means for social work is explored.

Psychology for Social Work

The unit provides students with an introduction to psychology and the key theories central to social work practice. The importance of developmental psychology for social work is outlined. The unit also focuses on theory of life course, temperament, and attachment; learning theories (classical and operant conditioning) memory; personality; social psychology; motivation; and abnormal psychology.

Social and Political Institutions in Australia

This unit is to provide students with an introduction to the key social and political institutions in Australia. While Australia was in essence 'born' a modern democracy, becoming a nation on January 1, 1901, it had both a long history of Aboriginal sovereignty and colonial invasion. Australia developed its social and political institutions within the framework of British traditions, laws, and perspectives. Australia also borrowed heavily from other democracies, particularly the USA. The unit will examine the formal political institutions that characterise Australia, focusing on the Australian Constitution, Parliament, the High Court, role of the Governor-General, Federal–State relations, etc. It will also focus on the social institutions that provide the basic framework for our wellbeing – education, health, housing, social security, employment, personal and community security.

Critical Thinking and Reflection in Social Work

The unit aims to cultivate critical reflection skills that enhance deeper learning, fostering greater self-awareness, adaptability, and resilience. In addition, it aims to instil the students the importance of advanced critical reflection skills as a disciplined approach to actively analyse, synthesise, and evaluate information from observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, and action, preparing them to make informed and ethical decisions in personal and professional contexts.

Graduate Diploma of SOCIAL SCIENCE

Course duration:	1 year (2 semesters)
Intake:	February and July
Credit points:	48
Delivery:	On campus
Available to:	Domestic and international
CRICOS Code:	108831H
IELTS:	6.5 with no band less than 6.0
AQF:	Level 8
Financial information:	FEE-HELP available for domestic students
Course tuition fee:	Domestic students: $18,860 International students: $21,600

For more information, refer to our course fees page.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Three-year Bachelor (AQF Level 7) degree
- Applicants whose qualifying undergraduate degree studies were taken in a language other than English will be required to demonstrate English Language proficiency. Applicants must have an IELTS of 6.5 with no band less than 6.0 or equivalent English Language proficiency test results.

Units

The Graduate Diploma of Social Science contains the four units in the Graduate Certificate in Social Science plus the following four units:

Relational Dynamics

Relational dynamics are at the heart of human engagement and communication and, from the earliest years, social workers and clients alike are influenced and affected by significant relationships in their lives. For this reason, processing adverse effects of relational experiences within the psychotherapeutic space is often central to client psychological health, wellbeing and recovery. Responding appropriately within the therapeutic space relies on social workers having developed a repertoire of interpersonal skills, and the ability to understand and conceptualise interactive processes, so as to effectively co-create and sustain safe therapeutic relationships. It is the ability to navigate their own and their clients' relational histories which significantly contributes to client psychological health, wellbeing and recovery.

Development and Diversity

Across the lifespan humans grow and change, and an individual's personal growth trajectory is affected by a range of developmental and sociocultural factors which, ideally and in combination, contribute to normative outcomes. Non-normative outcomes, where they occur, may be the result of genetic mutation or genetic variation, illness, disability, psychopathology, and/or the influence of a range of family, community and societal factors. Employing bio-psychosocial and sociocultural lenses, this unit introduces students to the major theories of human development, with an emphasis on the characteristic developmental changes in individual behaviour that arise from the interdependent and interactive effects of maturation and experience. Particular emphasis is given to the influence of environmental, societal and cultural factors on individual development and growth, enabling students to identify and understand the factors that may lead to perceived dysfunction, and a need to seek counselling to facilitate coping.

Ethical Issues and Practice

In this unit students learn how to ethically and responsibly manage this position, becoming conversant with all relevant regulatory codes and Australian legislative requirements that govern the health sector. They explore ethical principles in professional decision-making processes, reflect on the benefits of professional association membership, and are encouraged to be aware of, and thoughtful about, how their personal moral stance and ethical framework informs and influences their professional practice.

Special Topics

This special topic elective unit is a shell unit that gives the School flexibility to pick any topic of relevance. Introduction to Australian Society is the special topic for this stream.

Information about applications is available at: excelsia.edu.au/application-guide

Step 1 Select the course
at: excelsia.edu.au/study/

Step 2 Check entry requirements

Step 3 Gather the required documents

Step 4 Complete application form

Step 5 Apply
Once you submit your application, Excelsia staff will contact you shortly to confirm receipt and talk through the next steps in the process.

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excelsia.edu.au
info@excelsia.edu.au
+61 2 9819 8888

1 City View Road
Pennant Hills NSW 2120

ABN 50 360 319 774
TEQSA PRV12064
CRICOS CODE 02664K

The information contained in this course guide was accurate at the time of publication. Excelsia reserves the right to amend the material contained in this guide without notice in response to changing circumstances or for any other reason.
For most up-to-date course information please visit our website.

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