



## School of **SOCIAL WORK**

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



**EXCELSIA  
COLLEGE**  
— Sydney —

# About EXCELSIA COLLEGE

Established in 1983, 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 College is a leader in the industry with a respected reputation for successfully delivering postgraduate courses since 1983. The College 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 College prioritises pastoral care which is fully integrated throughout the program. It is important to the College 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	GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES
<p>Our values reflect our vision and our mission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Christ-likeness:</b> striving to exemplify the life of Christ in our commitments, our actions and our relationships.</li> <li><b>2. Innovation and creativity:</b> working with passion and imagination in a range of influential professions, to further God's transformative work in the world.</li> <li><b>3. Scholarship:</b> creating a culture that values the search for truth, supports academic freedom and rewards rigorous thinking.</li> <li><b>4. Service to the community:</b> using our skills and abilities in and beyond the Institution in the service of others.</li> <li><b>5. Lifelong learning:</b> continually seeking knowledge, wisdom and capability to flourish and contribute in a changing world.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Deep Knowledge</b> A deep, coherent and extensive knowledge of studied disciplines characterised by intellectual openness, creativity and curiosity.</li> <li><b>2. Critical Analysis</b> 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.</li> <li><b>3. Lifelong Learning</b> 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.</li> <li><b>4. Effective Communication</b> Aptitude to communicate information, arguments and ideas effectively and ethically through writing, speech and/or artistic expression as appropriate within each discipline.</li> <li><b>5. Christian Ethical Action</b> 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.</li> <li><b>6. Self Direction</b> A capacity for self-directed learning and activity while working effectively with others in scholarly, vocational, civic and/or artistic pursuits and endeavours.</li> <li><b>7. Technical Competence</b> Competence and facility with materials, processes and technologies relevant to learned disciplines, generic information literacy and professional practice.</li> <li><b>8. Responsible Innovation</b> Oriented towards exhibiting intellectual and artistic enterprise, innovation and independence in constructive, creative and responsible ways.</li> </ol>

# CAMPUS FEATURES


## CAMPUS FEATURES

-  Library


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-  Auditorium/Theatre


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-  Recording studio


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-  Mac lab


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-  Drama and music specialist rooms

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-  Counselling centre

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-  Student facilities
 

Free wifi	Table tennis
Study desks	Pool table
Snacks bar	Air hockey table
Free coffee	Outdoor balcony
Microwaves	Basketball ring
Frank Green Smart Cups	


## TRANSPORT

-  5-min walk from Macquarie Park Metro Station

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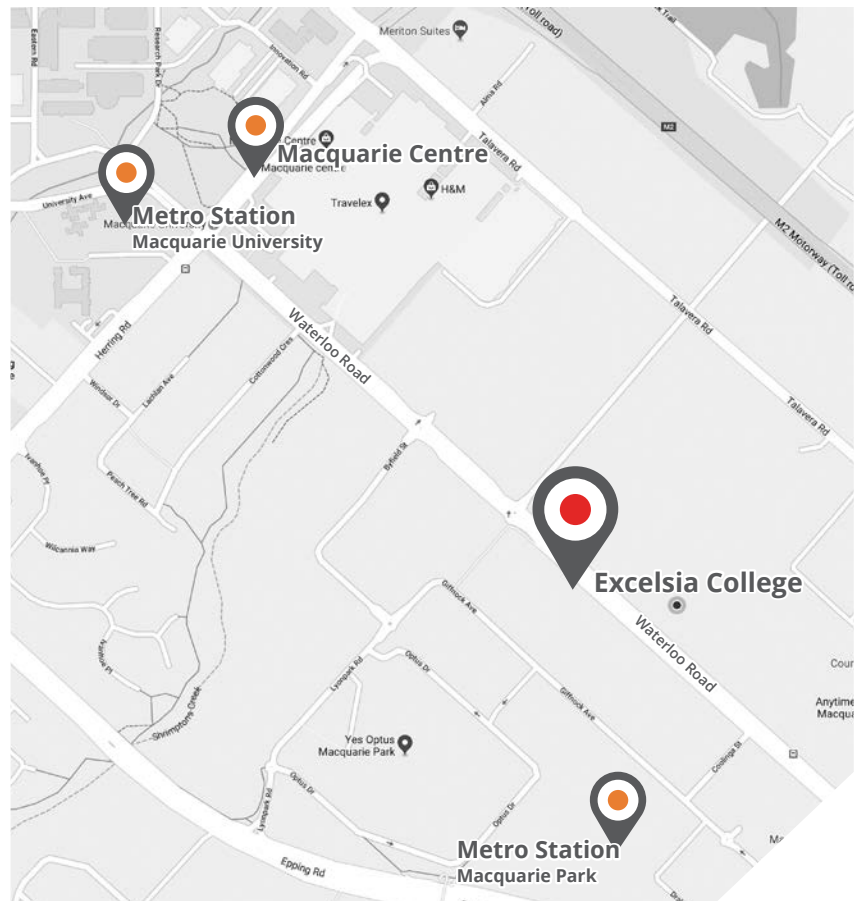
-  1-min walk to bus stop

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-  Free parking



## CONVENIENT LOCATION





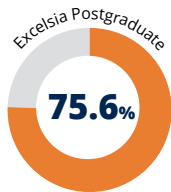
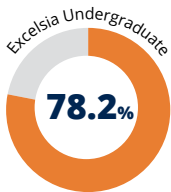
# Why study at EXCELSIA COLLEGE?

## EXCELSIA COLLEGE RECEIVED EXCELLENT RESULTS

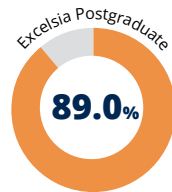
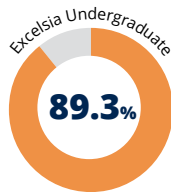
across the board in the 2020 QILT national survey, registering scores higher than the national average in all but one metric of student experience for undergraduate and postgraduate courses.



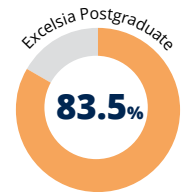
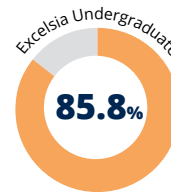
### Overall Quality of Educational Experience



### Teaching Quality



### Student Support



**280,301 UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS  
135 HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACROSS AUSTRALIA**



# Why study Social Work at EXCELSIA COLLEGE?

## HONEST CORE VALUES

- Integrating a Christian world view with contemporary social work theory and research.
- 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.
- Smaller class sizes where students are treated as more than just a number.
- 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 increasing ageing society with considerable reforms by governments in providing services and funding as well as responding to the ongoing Royal Commission; 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-provisionally 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.

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.

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.

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 (provisionally accredited)
CRICOS Code:	102798H
IELTS:	7.0 with no band less than 6.5
AQF:	Level 9
Financial information:	FEE-HELP available for domestic students
Course tuition fee:	International students: \$10,260 per semester/ \$41,040 total tuition fee
For more information, refer to our <a href="#">course fees</a> page.	



### Work Placement

1,000 hours of work placement organised by Excelsia College

### Course Outcome

Social worker provisionally accredited by AASW

### Accommodation Options

Accommodation is provided through our partnership with Robert Menzies College. See more at [rmc.org.au](http://rmc.org.au)



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## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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### 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](http://nationalcrimecheck.com.au)

**Working with Children Check:** Provide a Working with Children authorisation at time of application obtainable from: [www.ccheck.ccyp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Application](http://www.ccheck.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 TOEFL, or through satisfactory completion of an approved course at one of the College's partner language colleges.

Examination	Minimum Score
IELTS	7.0 with no band less than 6.5
TOEFL iBT (internet-based)	94* with no score less than 20
PTE Academic	65 with no score less than 58

For students undertaking English language proficiency tests other than IELTS please note AASW requirements below are required when applying for skills assessment:

- a minimum score of 7.0 is achieved in either one or two settings and
- a minimum score of 7.0 is achieved in each of the four components (listening, reading, writing and speaking) in a maximum of two sittings in a six-month period, and no component score is below 6.5. Where a component score falls below 6.5, the test would not be acceptable.

OR meet the exemption requirement below

- Demonstration that you have been taught, assessed and completed all your secondary education in English in the nominated countries\* AND successfully completed (with a pass grade or higher) the equivalent of three years or more full-time tertiary study (at bachelor degree level or higher) which was taught and assessed in English in nominated countries\*

Nominated countries include:

- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America

The AASW reserves the right to ask an applicant to take the Academic IELTS examination if there is uncertainty about their level of English proficiency.

For other ways of demonstrating English Language Proficiency visit [excelsia.edu.au/study/international-students/](http://excelsia.edu.au/study/international-students/).

Overseas students applying for admission to Excelsia College courses must have reached the age of 18 years by the commencement of their studies. Excelsia College 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/](http://excelsia.edu.au/study/international-students/application-guide-for-international-students/).

### RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Please refer to the [Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) reference.

**PLEASE NOTE: IF UNABLE TO MEET THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE REFER TO THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF SOCIAL SCIENCE ON PAGES 10 AND 11.**



# 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 unit focus is on exploring diversity and intersectionality in social work practice including the relationships between culture and language, gender and sexuality, and abilities. The unit's underpinnings of social work practice are the principles of social justice and human rights and these are explored to enable students to investigate contemporary social issues and debates related to culture, language, disability, ethnicity, sexuality, gender and other categories of individual identity and collective belonging.

### 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.

## YEAR 1 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.

### Psychosocial Health and Wellbeing in Social Work Practice

The unit focus is on exploring a person's psychosocial health and wellbeing across their life course and the interconnectedness of spiritual, mental, physical and environmental health and wellbeing. Attachment relationships and major life transitions are important topics for social work practice. The organisation of health

care (physical and mental health and wellbeing) is dominated by medical discourses and the impact this has on personal and community health care needs is critically discussed. The importance of social determinants of health is essential to understanding the health and wellbeing of people and their communities. The relationship of physical environment and the impact on people and communities through climate change is critically examined.

### Field Education Practicum 1

The unit provides professional social work experiences in a range of settings that may 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 first of two practicums designed to ensure that students meet the requirements of the AASW accreditation standards. The practicum consists of 500 hours.

## 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.

## **Research and Evaluation in Social Work Practice**

The unit builds upon research skills developed at the undergraduate level to focus on collaborative and community research processes and evaluation design. In particular it draws upon multi-method research design to develop research projects addressing social issues and problems at local, national and international level. Students will address the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) ethical guidelines in developing projects with human participants.

## **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.

### **YEAR 2 SEMESTER 2**

## **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.

## **Integrated Research Project**

The unit focuses on completing a research project integrated with their final fieldwork placement. It builds upon the unit Research and Evaluation in Social Work Practice. Students will have worked through the phases of research, including topic selection, research design, ethics approval, and literature review in that unit. In this integrated project students will undertake data collection and analysis, writing up findings and a research paper ready for publication. The project will outline research methods and theoretical frameworks.

## **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

## ✔ SUITABILITY

Applicants who have been assessed for the MSW(Q) and require to complete the Graduate Certificate for entry.

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: \$9,000 International students: \$10,260

For more information, refer to our [course fees](#) page.

## 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

This unit is designed to introduce students to concepts of critical thinking and self-reflection in the context of social work. This unit will provide them with the skills, tools and sets of knowledge to understand, identify, and work through the cultural, gendered, and political framework which underpins the context of learning. Studying social work requires that students are able to utilise self-reflection and demonstrate awareness of this practice and how it impacts both their direct and indirect practice, how these practices enhance their learning and development, and how these practices steer them towards strategies for exploring complex ideas. The unit will specifically focus on the cultural and gender issues that exist in learning and will provide a forum for students to work through these in preparing for their social work course. Students will develop insight and specific skills to develop the ability to undertake both self-reflection and critical analysis.

# Graduate Diploma of SOCIAL SCIENCE

## ✔ SUITABILITY

Applicants who have been assessed for the MSW(Q) and require to complete the Graduate Diploma for entry.

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: \$18,000 International students: \$20,520
For more information, refer to our <a href="#">course fees</a> page.	

## 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](https://excelsia.edu.au/application-guide)

Step **1**

Select the course  
at: [excelsia.edu.au/courses](https://excelsia.edu.au/courses)

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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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.