

Masters Qualifying Program

Burwood

**DEAKIN
COLLEGE**
in association with



Course Outline (T3, 2026)

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Masters Qualifying Program

Course Outline, T3 2026

The Masters Qualifying Program (MQP) is a one-trimester academic bridging program designed to prepare international students for successful entry into selected postgraduate coursework degrees at Deakin University. The program provides students with the academic knowledge, research capabilities, communication skills, and study strategies required to meet the expectations of master's-level study in Australia.

Through a combination of discipline-based and academic skills units, students develop their critical thinking, academic writing, research, intercultural communication, and independent learning capabilities. Successful completion of the program provides a pathway into a range of Deakin University master's degrees, subject to meeting the required academic progression requirements.

Campus	Melbourne Burwood Campus
Intake	March, June, October
CRICOS	TBD
Course Duration	One trimester (12 weeks of study + examination week)
Modes of Delivery	On Campus: International Students ~ Four hours (2 x 2 hour sessions) of class contact per week are allocated to each unit.
Assessment	Assessment for all units is ongoing and continuous - consisting of written assignments, essays, oral presentations, literature reviews, and an exam. Students are expected to complete assessments as per the scheduled dates provided in Unit Outlines.
Course Structure	Four required units must be completed and passed to be complete the Masters Qualifying Program.
Core units	Skill Based Units XDP701 Academic and Intercultural Communication for Postgraduate Study XDP702 Academic Writing and Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study Discipline Based Units MQP701 Managing Organisations MQP702 Evidence-Based Decision Making
Transfer to Deakin University	The following transfer criteria apply: • You must complete and pass all four core Masters Qualifying Program units. • You must achieve the required Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 60 or above (including a minimum of 60% in the skill based units) taking into account all units attempted at Deakin College.
Study Mode	Full time, face-to-face on-campus
Student Workload	Number of timetabled hours per unit per week: 4 hours (2 x 2 hour sessions) Number of personal study hours per week: 6 hours Total workload hours per week: 10 hours per unit of study
Assessments	Assessment items are subject to change, please check Unit Outlines for specific assessment detail for individual units each trimester.

Units offered each Trimester

Unit	Trimester 3 2026	Trimester 1 2027	Trimester 2 2027
MQP701 Managing Organisations	✓	✓	✓
MQP702 Evidence-Based Decision-Making	✓	✓	✓
XDP701 Academic and Intercultural Communication	✓	✓	✓
XDP702 Academic Writing & Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study	✓	✓	✓

Course Learning Outcomes

The Master's Qualifying program is designed to provide the pre-requisite knowledge and skills for further study in relevant Deakin University Master's degrees. Upon completion of this course students will have acquired the following Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs):

CLO1	Discipline-specific knowledge and capabilities: appropriate to the level of study related to a discipline or profession.	Demonstrate your ability to understand and apply fundamental and technical knowledge to succeed in the faculty's postgraduate programs.
CLO2	Communication: using oral, written and interpersonal communication to inform, motivate and effect change.	Demonstrate written, oral and interpersonal communication skills essential for successful progression into the faculty's postgraduate programs.
CLO3	Digital literacy: using technologies to find, use and disseminate information.	To develop enough digital literacy to find, uses and disseminate information to meet the expectations at the postgraduate level.
CLO4	Critical thinking: evaluating information using critical and analytical thinking and judgment.	Demonstrate your ability to think critically and analyse and form judgement to meet the expectations at the postgraduate level.
CLO5	Problem solving: creating solutions to authentic (real world and ill-defined) problems.	To develop sufficient problem-solving skills to enable the student to successfully complete assessment at the postgraduate level and participate in group activities and class discussions.
CLO6	Self-management: working and learning independently, and taking responsibility for personal actions.	Demonstrate time management and study skills essential for undertaking postgraduate studies.
CLO7	Teamwork: working and learning with others from different disciplines and backgrounds.	Demonstrate teamwork skills when working in small groups
CLO8	Global citizenship: engaging ethically and productively in the professional context and with diverse communities and cultures in a global context.	Students will develop awareness of global and intercultural perspectives, demonstrate respect and collaboration in diverse group settings, and apply ethical decision-making in academic and professional tasks.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Students who successfully complete the MQP may be granted 1 credit point of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) upon entry to a masters degree at Deakin University. All masters degrees are only available at the Melbourne Burwood campus.

Faculty	Destination Courses	Trimester intake	Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	Duration
Business and Law	Master of Professional Accounting	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Finance	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Business	T1, T2	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Business (Marketing)	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Business Analytics	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Information Systems	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
	Master of Business (Sport Management)	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective	2 years
Arts & Education	Master of Communication	T1, T2, T3	One (1) elective (for cognate-discipline students)	2 years
Health	Master of Public Health	T1, T2, T3	Not applicable	2 years
	Master of Health Economics	T1, T2, T3	Not applicable	
	Master of Health Management	T1, T2, T3	Not applicable	
	Master of Nutrition and Population Health	T1, T2	Not applicable	

T1 (Trimester 1 entry); T2 (Trimester 2 entry); T3 (Trimester 3 entry)

For full postgraduate course details, please visit [Deakin University's website](https://www.deakin.edu.au).

* Credit is not awarded for the Master of Public Health, Master of Health Economics, Master of Health Management and Master of Nutrition and Population Health. Credit for the Master of Communication will only be awarded to students who have previously studied in a cognate discipline.

Masters Qualifying Program Example Course Plans for Students

The following are example course plans for students studying in the Masters Qualifying Program. Please note that core units can be taken in any order. The following course plan should be used as a guide only.

A319 Masters Qualifying Program Example Course Plan

International Students WAM: **B 60 WP 60 C 60**
Credits for Transfer: 4

Full Time (Completing in 1 trimester)				
1 st Trimester	Core MQP701 Managing Organisations	Core MQP702 Evidence-Based Decision Making	Core XDP701 Academic and Intercultural Communication	Core XDP702 Academic Writing & Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study

Masters Qualifying Program into Masters Course Rules:

Students are eligible for entry into the designated Deakin University Masters degree, provided they meet the following academic progression requirements:

- successful completion of all MQP components, including all four core credit-point units, and
- a minimum Weighted Average Mark (WAM) of 60% (including a minimum of 60% in the Skill based units – XDP701 and XDP702).

Unit Outlines

MQP702 Evidence-Based Decision-Making

Unit Description

This unit offers you a basic introduction to postgraduate research to understand how evidence is used for decision making. By exploring scholarly literature, you will become familiar with the objectives and importance of quality research, and the methods and processes involved in carrying it out. Understanding research and the processes involved in conducting, designing, reporting, interpreting and evaluating research is an essential component of postgraduate study. Research activities, including primary and secondary research, account for a significant portion of postgraduate students' time and effort at university, both within and beyond the classroom. Open engagement in this unit will provide students with a fundamental understanding of the research process and methodologies and ensure a solid grounding for future endeavours in postgraduate study. Students will also develop skills in the interpretation and evaluation of research results through the application of critical thinking and analysis skills.

Unit Aims

This unit will enable you to develop skills in understanding, undertaking and interpreting research. The first part of the course aims to expose you to the objectives and significance of research. The second part provides you with an opportunity to explore how research practices are conducted and what these practices mean for individuals. You will be exposed to quality journal publications and popular research practices. By reading and discussing these papers in class with the teacher, you will gain better insight into the world of research, the nature of research, and the purpose of research. The final aim is to develop skills in analysing research which will equip you with the skills you need to be able to identify quality research and to be able to meaningfully discuss the findings with others.

Assessments

1. Evidence of Learning Task 1: Produce a Literature Review (30%)
Task Type: In-class Presentation (5%) and Written Assignment (25%)
Due Date: Week 5 and Week 6
Weight: 30%, Marked out of: 30
Length: 1500 words
2. Evidence of Learning Task 2: Research Proposal (40%)
Task Type: Written Assignment
Due Date: Week 11
Weight: 40%, Marked out of: 100
Length: 1500-2000 words (plus the literature review from EoL Task 1)

3. Evidence of Learning Task 3: Final Examination (30%)

Task Type: Exam

Due Date: Final exam period

Weight: 30%, Marked out of: 30

Duration: 60 minutes

MQP701 Managing Organisations

Unit Description

This unit introduces students to the study of management within organisations. An integrated view of both theory and practice will be examined pointing out applications of social science and implications for management action. An analysis in which organisational performance through a better understanding of effective management of people will also be studied, investigating important issues such as an increased awareness of, and sensitivity to, personal skills and employability within a context of globalisation and the need for economic, socio-cultural and environmental sustainability

Unit Aims

Many organisations operate in global, competitive, and culturally diverse environments. To provide context for working in this environment, this course has two main aims:

1. To provide theoretical frameworks for studying the management of an organisation and to describe its organisational structures, operational characteristics, strategies, performance, development, and effectiveness. Gaining this knowledge will enable students to understand how managers operate in this ever-competitive global business environment.
2. To provide a disciplinary framework for understanding the delivery and management of organisations and to appreciate how these frameworks can be used to inform professional practice, identify employee demands and behaviours and assess the impacts and future sustainable orientation of the organisational environment. Achieving these aims will help students gain industry specific knowledge, as well as the skills and knowledge required for their future postgraduate studies.

Assessments

1. Evidence of Learning Task 1: Individual Academic Poster (20%)

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: Week 4

Weight: 20%, Marked out of: 20

Length: n/a

2. Evidence of Learning Task 2: Team Case Study Analysis (35%)

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: Week 8

Weight: 35%, Marked out of: 35

Length: 1600 - 2000 words

3. Evidence of Learning Task 3: Individual Self-Reflective Report (45%)

Task Type: Written Assignment and Reflective Presentation

Due Date: Week 11 (Written Assignment 30%) and Week 12 (Reflective Presentation 15%)

Weight: 45%, Marked out of: 45

Length: 2500 words maximum (written) – 30% and 3 to 5 minutes (oral) – 15%

XDP701 Academic and Intercultural Communication

Unit Description

The Academic Communication unit comprises a range of tasks and learning activities to engage international students in effective academic communication. The unit will provide students with cultural awareness of the study environment as well as the ability to effectively engage and participate in activities encountered in postgraduate study.

Unit Aims

The unit Academic and Intercultural Communication aims to develop students' understanding of how academic communication operates across Australian and international contexts. Through collaborative learning activities, students build teamwork and negotiation skills while actively participating in group discussions, debates, and formal presentations. The unit strengthens students' ability to analyse academic texts, formulate well-reasoned positions, and articulate arguments verbally, while also developing research skills through the identification and use of appropriate academic sources. A strong emphasis is placed on academic integrity, ensuring students can produce original work, follow assessment requirements, acknowledge the ideas of others appropriately, and take responsibility for protecting their own work.

Assessments

1. Oral Presentation in response to research findings

Task Type: Oral Presentation

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 15%, marked out of 15

Length: TBC

2. Folio of Communication tasks

Task Type: Portfolio

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 40%, marked out of 40

Length: TBC

3. Seminar discussion of a research topic (15%)

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 15%, marked out of 15

Length: TBC

4. Group Presentation of an issue related to future study (30%)

Task Type: Group Presentation

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 30%, marked out of 30

Length: TBC

XDP702 Academic Writing & Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study

Unit Description

The Academic Writing and Research unit is a skills-based unit designed to develop international students writing, research, and critical thinking skills in preparation for successful post graduate study. An active and critical approach to study forms the basis of the course and is an integral part of the tasks and activities that are undertaken to provide awareness of the expectations and conventions of academic study.

Unit Aims

The unit Academic Writing and Research Skills Development for Postgraduate Study aims to equip students with the advanced research and writing skills required for successful postgraduate study. Students develop competence in locating relevant academic literature through effective catalogue and database searching, and in critically analysing research-based articles. The unit focuses on building academic writing capability through paraphrasing, summarising, and synthesising sources, as well as understanding the purpose and process of preparing a literature review. Students also learn to analyse and describe data presented in graphical form, apply appropriate linguistic features and conventions of academic writing, and uphold the principles of academic integrity by producing original work, accurately acknowledging sources, and complying with assessment requirements.

Assessments

1. Written critical response to a text that summarises it and presents counterarguments

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 20%, marked out of 20

Length: TBC

2. Summary of a research-based journal article

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 20%, marked out of 20

Length: TBC

3. Literature review on a research topic

Task Type: Literature Review

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 30%, marked out of 30

Length: TBC

4. Written explanation of data presented in graphic form

Task Type: Written Assignment

Due Date: TBC

Weight: 30%, marked out of 30

Length: TBC