Ageing in Society program
Respond to the complex and evolving needs of ageing populations worldwide
100% Online
ONLINE AGEING IN SOCIETY COURSES

Overview

By 2050, one quarter of the population will be aged over 60 in all major areas of the world except Africa*. Demographics and social dynamics are changing rapidly, and these changes have implications for policy and planning, workforces and markets.

On the ground, organisations are attempting to accommodate the ever-increasing demand for diverse services, systems and skilled professionals that fulfil the fundamental human needs of our shifting society.

The Ageing in Society suite of graduate courses has been designed to produce leaders and change agents in the field of ageing. These courses will provide you with the knowledge and analytical skills to address the multiple and interconnected challenges and opportunities presented by this societal change.

You’ll learn from leading academics and industry experts in public health, medicine, social work, architecture and design, engineering, business and economics, government, and the arts, and use this knowledge to create new frameworks and approaches to address issues and opportunities. The online delivery will allow you to work with students from around the world on projects that address the implications of ageing populations.

The University of Melbourne offers four courses in this program:

- Master of Ageing
- Graduate Diploma in Ageing
- Graduate Certificate in Ageing
- Specialist Certificate in Ageing

You can also study single subjects to contribute to your professional development.

“As populations age across the world, in developed and developing countries, there is an urgent need to understand the economic, social and political implications of ageing. Ageing in Society is an innovative program that brings together leading experts from multiple disciplines for a creative and proactive approach to prepare for a worldwide ageing trend.”

Professor Terry Nolan, Head, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Who is this course for?

These courses have been designed for those looking to build a career specialising in this fast-growing sector and will be particularly relevant if you are a policy and planning professional, entrepreneur, manager, healthcare professional, or someone already working with ageing populations and workforces.

If you are keen to develop a greater understanding of the complex implications and opportunities of ageing populations and workforces then you should apply.

What will I learn?

At the completion of this course you will be able to:

- Describe and appraise systems, structures and policies in Australia and other countries that address ageing
- Describe and critically assess strategies aimed to promote healthy and productive ageing across the lifespan (i.e. legislation, policy and community development)
- Articulate the ways in which age, gender, ethnicity and indigenous status, society, culture, geography, the environment, disability and socio-economic status influence the ageing experience
- Identify and discuss current and key challenges in ageing from a global perspective
- Apply comprehensive knowledge of the ageing experience from conceptual and practical dimensions of the course to develop solutions to complex ageing issues
- Design and manage a detailed investigation of an ageing issue in a substantial project, with a high level of personal autonomy and accountability
- Critically review and reflect on individual performance processes undertaken in the management of a substantial project in ageing.

What are the benefits?

The greater integration of technology into everyday life continues to revolutionise areas such as healthcare provision, product design, productivity and transportation, and attention to the needs of older people in each of these areas is increasing. Product development within the field of gerontechnology is beginning to have an effect on many other industries.

Urban design, immigration policy, consumer policy, consumer protection and financial education are all being affected by the global ageing phenomenon.

Notions of retirement are evolving and plans for longer working lives are influencing approaches that large organisations and financial advisers are taking with ageing populations.
# Subject summaries

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Core subjects</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ageing in Society</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn about ageing from a range of perspectives, including life course, bio-medical, gender, crosscultural, consumer, historical and self-reflection. This subject will critically analyse all forms of ageism and how older people are portrayed in literature, media and government policy using case studies from Australia and other countries around the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics of Ageing</td>
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<td>Examine the influence of private and public/government decision-making on the economic wellbeing of older people. Decisions include private decisions to prepare for old age and to live through old age by saving and managing assets. The subject also covers how an ageing population exerts upward pressure on taxation levels required to finance government activities and services for the aged.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Body of Ageing</td>
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<td>Focus on how the body and its systems are affected by ageing and explore the differences between the natural ageing process and physical changes that develop as a result of illness in older people. Understanding the common impairments and physiological changes behind them that occur as part of the ageing process provides students with a fundamental base to critically analyse and develop strategies for healthy ageing and disease prevention.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethics of Ageing</td>
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<td>Get an overview of some of the key ethical issues associated with ageing across the lifespan, with an emphasis on the societal dimensions and implications for policy and professional practice. Students will be introduced to bioethical theory and its application to frame the exploration of a number of key issues organised within thematic units of ‘justice’, ‘autonomy’ and ‘dignity’. A final unit will explore ethical issues pertaining to the human quest for ‘immortality’.</td>
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<th>Elective subjects</th>
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<td>Design for Ageing</td>
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<td>Demographic ageing is creating a shift in how we think and define homes, cities and public spaces. This subject explores sustainable approaches to keeping the older segment of the population physically and socially active. Innovative changes in design can lead to significant advancements in service delivery, transportation access, and homes to minimise stress on people as they age, and to support ageing in place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ageing, Health and Human Services</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<td>Explore the interface of policy and practice in the delivery of aged care services. The responses to policy shifts in aged care over time will be explored. The course will then focus on the present day impact of health care, mental health, income security, housing, and employment, educational and recreational policies on the delivery of services to older citizens collectively and as individuals. Case studies will be used to illustrate both the theoretical and practical aspects of designing and delivering services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Population Ageing</td>
<td>12.5</td>
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<td>Explore the impact of a rapidly ageing population in terms of both planning and providing for this worldwide trend. The primary focus of this subject is on the relationship between ageing and a range of social and economic determinants, including gender, poverty, race/ethnicity and housing. This subject uses examples from around the world to explore how policies aimed to support healthy ageing influence population health.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shifting Paradigms in Ageing</td>
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<td>This subject is designed to produce leaders in the field of ageing who are able to develop new approaches and policies to help address the profound societal changes that are in progress. Recognise the underlying assumptions on which many existing systems are based and learn new skills and techniques to think laterally. As Einstein said “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.” Ageing is also very much about opportunity and this subject will enhance your ability to identify and leverage that potential.</td>
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Effective leadership involves an advanced understanding of the global players, of decision-making, of organisational effectiveness and of one's own strengths and weaknesses. Through a series of current case studies in the ageing field, which range from examples of leadership from Indigenous elders, board oversight in aged care facilities and ageing workforce issues. Students will explore the major theories and models of group dynamics, motivation, communication, negotiation and conflict as well as further develop their emotional intelligence for personal and professional development.

Examine end of life issues in a variety of contexts, such as private homes, hospitals, hospices and residential care facilities, and consider their implications for individuals; families and friends; clinicians and health professionals; carers; and policy makers. Examples of policy, practice and legislation from a range of countries will be used to highlight common features and diverse approaches to end of life issues.

Look at the ways in which recent technological advancements can revolutionise the experience, management and future of ageing. Innovations in how we age will be explored from multiple perspectives, including how technology can support autonomy and independent living as well as social connectedness to minimise the isolation common in later life. Lastly, this subject considers life extension ideas in the areas of longevity technologies and regenerative medicine.

Explore the implications of mental health and ageing from a range of bio-medical and social perspectives. Lecture topics include understanding the distinction between mental health and mental illness, placing mental health and ageing within a lifespan framework with an emphasis on cognitive changes in later life and managing common mental health disorders in older age. Screening, assessment and psychological interventions for these common conditions are covered, including late life delusional disorders, substance use and abuse, anxiety and personality disorders, delirium and dementia, depression and pain.

Consolidate training in the course via an advanced professional work placement. Students will solve problems that arise in practical settings and professional contexts to develop an integrated understanding of knowledge and practice. Students will apply their academic knowledge to real-world challenges that will contribute to their development of specialist and professional skill set in the ageing field.

Integrate knowledge and research skills to develop, frame and address a research question in the area of ageing. The research question can be answered by a critical review of the literature, by an analysis of an existing data set or by the development of a research protocol. This capstone subject option provides a pathway to further study at the doctoral level.

* The Master of Ageing includes a capstone subject - either a research project with a view to a PhD or an industry internship.
Entry requirements

To apply for the Ageing in Society course, applicants are required to have:

- An undergraduate degree in any discipline, or equivalent; and
- Documented evidence of at least two years of professional work experience.

The Selection Committee may conduct interviews or call for employer references to clarify any of the criteria above. If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please contact us.

Applicants are required to satisfy the University's English language requirements for postgraduate courses. For those applicants seeking to meet these requirements by one of the standard tests approved by the Academic Board, performance band 6.5 is required.

Course structure and fees

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Structure</th>
<th>Point program</th>
<th>2018 Indicative Fee</th>
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| Master of Ageing                      | • 4 core subjects  
(1.5 years full time or 3 years part time)  
• 6 elective subjects  
• 1 capstone subject                  | 150 points    | A$ 38,357           |
| Graduate Diploma in Ageing            | • 4 core subjects  
(1 year full time or 2 years part time)  
• 4 elective subjects                  | 100 points    | A$ 25,152           |
| Graduate Certificate in Ageing        | • Any 4 subjects from the program               | 50 points     | A$ 12,576           |
| (6 months full time or 1 year part time) |                                              |               |                     |
| Specialist Certificate in Ageing      | • Any 2 subjects from the program               | 25 points     | A$ 6,288            |
| (3 months full time or 6 months part time) |                                              |               |                     |

Course fees are the same for both domestic and international students.

The indicative fee rate for the course is based on one year of full-time study. In cases of part-time study, the fee is based on the study load that the student is taking. Fees are paid on a per subject basis each term, and total course fees are not required to be paid up-front.

The fees listed are the indicative costs for 2018. The University reviews fees annually. The indicative total course fee is based on typical subject enrolments, and includes an indexation of 5 per cent per annum.

For more information about fees and if you are eligible for fee assistance please visit: futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/fees or contact our Student Support team on study-online@unimelb.edu.au or +61 3 8344 0149 (9am – 5pm AEST Monday – Friday).
A world class university

The University of Melbourne is consistently ranked among the leading universities in the world. The Times Higher Education World University Rankings placed us number one in Australia and number 33 in the world in its most recent release (2016 - 2017).

Studying online

Our courses are designed by a team of graphic designers, education technologists, video producers, video editors and technicians. Our expert e-learning designers work closely with teaching staff to make certain the content we create is ideal for the online medium. And, thanks to recent advances in technology, studying online is more interesting, enjoyable and interactive than ever before.

Online students come from different backgrounds and have many different stories to tell, but one thing that most have in common is that they’re very busy. For that reason we make sure their education is as targeted and flexible as possible and available at the times that suit them. We make it possible to connect easily with experts and fellow students and to quickly access grades and academic feedback.

Although it’s an entirely different learning experience to face-to-face, it is academically equivalent – and you receive exactly the same qualification as you would on campus.

As an online student at the University of Melbourne you can expect:

- Enriching and engaging learning
- Flexibility and choice
- Connection with leading experts
- Interaction and feedback
- Dedicated Student Support team
- Virtual student community
- Specialisation and career advancement

Dedicated student support

As an online student with the University of Melbourne you can expect a high level of administrative and technical and academic support from your initial expression of interest in the course, through to your graduation.

Don’t be surprised if you get to know our Student Support team members by name; they are dedicated, personal and friendly and they understand that every student experience is unique. And if a challenge arises, they’ll do everything in their power to assist you so that you can continue to have excellent learning experiences.

Key dates

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<th>Term</th>
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<td>Term 1</td>
<td>January</td>
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<td>Term 2</td>
<td>April</td>
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<td>Term 3</td>
<td>July</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
<td>October</td>
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Classes operate on a term-based schedule, with two intakes per year. For more information about application closing dates, please visit [https://online.unimelb.edu.au/key-dates](https://online.unimelb.edu.au/key-dates)

Learn more

To learn more about this program, contact our Student Support team on [study-online@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:study-online@unimelb.edu.au) or +61 3 8344 0149 (9am - 5pm AEST Monday - Friday).

Ready to apply?

Apply online at [online.unimelb.edu.au/ageing-in-society](http://online.unimelb.edu.au/ageing-in-society)