



Master of Psychiatry

Learn from highly regarded, leading researchers and academics.

100% online



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

ONLINE MASTER OF PSYCHIATRY

Overview

The renowned Master of Psychiatry program from the University of Melbourne is now being delivered online using the latest technology and interactive learning platform. This means you can now accomplish your formal psychiatry training from Australia's number one university* no matter where you are located in Australia or around the world.

You will study the same content and be taught by the same highly regarded psychiatric clinical leaders as the on-campus course.

With the need to improve psychiatric care to a broader cross section of the community, this course is ideal for any medical practitioner with an interest in treating patients with mental illness. It will encourage you to explore theoretical concepts in psychiatry and their relationship to clinical practice. The course will provide students with a broad understanding of the cultural and socio-cultural differences that exist in our community and geographical region and their relationship to individuals and mental illness.

You'll complete a number of core subjects in the first year plus selective subjects in the second and third year in order to reflect the ever-increasing current state of knowledge in psychiatry.

The Master of Psychiatry program satisfies the formal education course requirements of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, applicable to all psychiatric trainees for their Fellowship examinations.

"We have great confidence in this course as the leading option for online psychiatric training. Our students are provided with the comprehensive theoretical knowledge they require in order to provide outstanding clinical care for patients throughout their careers."

Professor Ian Everall, Cato Professor and Head, Department of Psychiatry, The University of Melbourne.

Who is this course for?

This course is for dedicated medical practitioners with an interest in treating patients with mental illness who are looking to satisfy the Formal Education course requirements of RANZCP.

*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016-2017

What are the benefits?

- Connection with globally recognised experts: access to teaching staff who are leading experts in psychiatric research and training
- Virtual scholarly community: students can network through community discussion boards and via live webinars and learn from tutors in a real time online environment
- Interaction and feedback: students have access to active discussion forums giving them an avenue to interact and receive feedback
- High level of personal support: students are allocated a tutor who provides individual attention and support
- Deep engagement and learning: the online learning platform provides a stimulating, relevant and interactive learning environment
- Teaching topics provide students with engaging material developed by expert psychiatrists
- Online activities are designed to apply theoretical concepts to the everyday clinical contexts which emulate the authentic clinical experience
- Students will work on authentic case scenarios which are highly relevant and applicable in the workplace
- Student support: students have access to a dedicated student support team who are available via phone, live chat or email.

What will I learn?

On successful completion of this professional certificate you will be able to:

- An understanding of evidence based aetiology, diagnosis, formulation, assessment, management, and prognosis for the major categories of psychiatric disorder
- The evolution of human behavior through the life cycle from a developmental perspective. The relationship between physical and psychological health and illness.

Subject summaries

Core Subjects		Points
Core Psychiatry I	<p>This subject focuses on developing an understanding of the basics of clinical practice of psychiatry including evidence based aetiology, diagnosis, formulation, assessment, management, and prognosis for the major categories of psychiatric disorder.</p> <p>You will begin to develop an integrated concept of psychological and scientific theories, so when formulating patients' care, consideration is given to their genetic risks or vulnerabilities, as well as the psycho-social context within which the presentation occurs.</p> <p>Teaching in this first semester subject is weighted more substantially towards aetiology and diagnosis, with the subsequent subject having a greater emphasis on management strategies.</p>	25
Core Psychiatry II	<p>This subject focuses on developing an understanding of evidence based aetiology, diagnosis, formulation, assessment, management, and prognosis for the major categories of psychiatric disorder.</p> <p>You will begin to develop an integrated concept of psychological and scientific theories, so when formulating patients' care, consideration is given to their genetic risks or vulnerabilities, as well as the psycho-social context within which the presentation occurs. Teaching in this second semester subject is weighted more substantially to the teaching of management.</p>	25
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	<p>This subject will provide students with the opportunity to view the evolution of human behaviour through the life cycle from a developmental perspective.</p>	18.75
Consultation and Liaison Psychiatry	<p>This unit aims to explore the relationship between physical and psychological health and illness. The key components of this relationship will be explored from both a theoretical and clinical perspective.</p> <p>These concepts include how psychological factors affect physical health, how physical illness can lead to psychological disturbance and the nature of somatisation. Common medical conditions with psychological associations will also be reviewed.</p>	18.75
Psychiatry of Old Age*	<p>This subject is a core subject in Year 3 of the Masters of Psychiatry program. Comprising of ten weeks, it focuses directly on the clinical and research aspects of Old Age Psychiatry – psychiatric disorders as they present in the older age group (>65 years). The teaching will promote development of a clinical style that delivers care to this population in a positive, compassionate and patient centred way and with an awareness of their needs.</p> <p>The old age component of the unit will address the interaction of ageing and mental health, epidemiological and demographical aspects of ageing in Australia and worldwide, the social construction of ageing, individual experiences of ageing, ageing and mental health of indigenous Australians, physical and psychological consequences of ageing, families and ageing, sexuality and ageing, death and dying, common cognitive and functional disorders in the elderly, physical health, pharmacology and ageing and service provision to the elderly with a mental illness.</p> <p>An additional 2 weeks within this subject will be more practical sessions; in which themes of the Capstone Special Topics in Psychiatry Subject will be introduced. In these sessions, students will build upon their concepts of the vocational aspects of psychiatry as they move towards advanced training.</p>	18.75
Psychiatric Research Project	<p>This is one of two capstone subject options, taught in the final semester of the Master of Psychiatry course. This subject is intended to develop critical research skills required to conduct professional research within the field of Psychiatry.</p> <p>Students will formulate a research question with relevance to one of the areas of specialisation covered during their studies in the Master of Psychiatry – preferably an area they have undertaken a elective subject within and can arrange appropriate supervision for. An ethics application may be required from the student.</p>	18.75

Core Subjects		Points
Special topics in Psychiatry	This is one of two capstone subject options, taught in the final semester of the Master of Psychiatry course. As such, it aims to help students integrate the diverse knowledge and skills acquired in the previous five semesters to prepare them for their transition to professional practice. This subject aims to address these needs by building on and revisiting the material of the previous five semesters (and on the students' developing clinical experience); and by using diverse teaching methods to promote integration of this knowledge, a more sophisticated understanding and greater competence.	18.75

* Students are required to complete Psychiatry of Old Age as one of the core subjects and will then need to choose either Special Topics in Psychiatry OR Psychiatric Research Project as the other core subject to complete the core subject requirements.

Subject summaries

Selective Subjects	Points	
Cognitive Behaviour Therapy	This unit is intended to give a brief introduction into the theoretical underpinnings of the main forms of CBT and provide a solid background in the practical applications of CBT in relation to common psychiatric disorders for which CBT is an appropriate treatment.	6.25
Substance Use Disorders	<p>The unit will provide an introduction into the area of substance abuse - definitions, classification systems, and epidemiology including incidence, prevalence and risk factors. It will cover the major substances of abuse including alcohol and other central nervous system depressants, stimulants and hallucinogens.</p> <p>The unit will have a practical approach, covering issues of features of the substance abuse disorder, assessment, long term effects and complications, family issues and medical and psychosocial management.</p>	6.25
Forensic Psychiatry	<p>The interaction between a mental disorder and offending behaviour is important not just for forensic mental health specialists but for all of those who work with the mentally disordered. Clinicians need to develop the skills to balance the needs of patients with those of the legal system and the safety of the community.</p> <p>This elective will attempt to acquaint students with the nature of the relationships between mental disorder and deviant (including criminal) behaviours. It will provide an introduction to current evidence-based approaches to assessing and managing risk of future violence. The course will also look at specific forms of deviant behaviour, in particular sexual offending and stalking behaviours, in order to illustrate the interactions between deviant and potentially damaging behaviours and disorders of the mind.</p> <p>The overall objective of the course will be to introduce students to those aspects of forensic mental health which will be of general applicability in psychiatric practice.</p>	6.25
Psychodynamic Therapy In Psychiatry	Psychodynamic principles and treatment underpin a broad range of psychological treatments in psychiatry. This unit is intended to provide an overview of broad principles of psychodynamic psychotherapy and their application to psychiatric assessment, intervention and management of a range of psychiatric conditions.	6.25
Ethics Of Psychiatry (Offered In 2018)	This Unit will provide an introduction to the theory and practice of ethical decision-making in clinical psychiatry. Themes will extend over a wide terrain but cover ethical aspects of the psychiatrist – patient relationship, diagnosis, suicide, confidentiality, treatment in psychiatry, resource allocation and justice, child and adolescent psychiatry, psychogeriatrics and code of ethics.	6.25
Research Methods In Psychiatry (Offered In 2018)	This subject is recommended to anyone who may be required to undertake a research project in the area of Mental Health during their studies or career. This subject is also a pre-requisite for any student interested to undertake the Psychiatric Research Project as their capstone in the Master of Psychiatry.	6.25
History & Philosophy In Psychiatry (Offered In 2018)	The unit aims to provide an overview of this field, oriented particularly to the needs of psychiatrists-in-training, undertaking the training program of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP), but the content will be relevant and of interest to non-trainee and non-medical participants involved in the mental health sector. The subject title includes the word 'history' as, wherever possible, the content will be taught with an historical emphasis, using case studies from the history of psychiatry (as well as from the present) to complement the more philosophical teaching.	6.25
Psychopharmacology (Offered In 2018)	This elective will provide a brief revision of basic pharmacological principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics including the relevance of age, gender, ethnicity, common drug interactions, environmental influences, route of administration. The primary focus of the different seminars will be the major drug types commonly used in psychiatric practice including the underlying neurochemical basis for their use in specific disorders and specified primary target syndromes and symptoms.	6.25

Entry requirements

In order to be considered for entry, you must have completed either:

- A postgraduate coursework Doctor of Medicine, or
- An undergraduate degree in medicine, or equivalent;

and

- At least one year of documented experience as a practising doctor; and
- Hold current medical registration in the country where the applicant is working.

Meeting these requirements in itself does not guarantee selection.

In ranking applications, the Selection Committee will consider:

- Prior academic performance; and
- Professional experience

The Selection Committee may seek further information to clarify any aspect of an application in accordance with the Academic Board rules on the use of selection instruments.

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 7+** is required see website for more information.

The English language requirement will be deemed met by evidence of registration with the Medical Board of Australia, since this registration has stringent English language requirements.

Notes:

- All applicants must either:
 - At the time of admission and during their candidature be engaged in clinical training in psychiatry, or;
 - Be practicing medical officers in a psychiatric service or private medical practitioners with a significant proportion of their practice (equivalent to 12 months clinical practice) involved in working with patients with mental illness, or;
 - If undertaking the one year intensive program, have at least 12 months clinical experience within the last two years.
- Entry to the elective PSYT90093 Psychiatric Research Project is subject to the capacity of a participating department to provide adequate supervision in a research project. Joint supervision arrangements may need to be put in place for overseas students and a formal agreement to support this may be required from the partner head of the institution prior to enrolment.
- Selection into the course is not automatic and in particular, is subject to competition and availability of places.
- Completion of this course does not lead to qualifications to work in psychiatry in Australia. Qualification as a psychiatrist in Australia is obtained through application and completion of a training program with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists - **www.ranzcp.org**

Course structure and fees

To gain a Master of Psychiatry you must complete six core subjects and four selective subjects totaling 150 points.

Year 1

Two core subjects

Year 2

Two core subjects and two selectives

Year 3

Two core subjects and two selectives.

Course	Structure	Point program	Fee
Master of Psychiatry (3 years part time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 core subjects• 4 selective subjects	150 points	A\$27, 238*

Fees are paid on a per subject basis each term. Total course fees are not required to be paid up-front.

Part-time duration is calculated on the basis of studying one subject per semester.

The fees listed are the indicative costs for 2017. Course fees are the same for both domestic and international students. 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 (2015-2016).

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, you will receive exactly the same qualification and graduation certificate as an on-campus student because you will achieve identical learning outcomes from the same academics that teach our on-campus courses.

When you complete a master degree you will also be invited to attend a graduation ceremony in Melbourne.

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 school community
-  Specialisation and career advancement

Dedicated student support

As an online student with the University of Melbourne you can expect exceptionally high levels of support. You will have a dedicated support team, accessible by phone or email, to help you through the application process, answer any questions you have about the course or online study more generally.

When you begin your studies with us, our student support team will be on hand to help you choose which subjects will help you achieve your career aspirations, provide you with technology support and give you a comprehensive induction so that you have a successful transition to online study.

Key dates

Semester	Applications close	Teaching period
Semester 1, 2017	11 Dec 2016	2 February 2017
Semester 2, 2017	28 May 2017	6 July 2017
Semester 1, 2018	11 Dec 2017	29 January 2018

Learn more

To learn more about this course, contact our Student Support team on **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/psychiatry

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