



Master of Social Work (Qualifying)

FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Why students put us first.

 **#3 IN AUSTRALIA FOR POSTGRADUATE FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT.**¹

cqu.edu.au/internationalreputation

 **A FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITY.**²

 **1ST ASHOKA U CHANGEMAKER CAMPUS IN AUSTRALIA.**³

Transform lives and communities with CQUniversity.

Our innovative Master of Social Work (Qualifying) course at CQU offers a unique opportunity to engage with cutting-edge teaching methods and transformative learning experiences. With over 20 years of delivering accredited social work courses, we equip students with evidence-informed practices, an innovative mindset, and the professional skills necessary to drive social change and advocate for a more equitable society.

Designed around activist scholarship principles, our course prepares you to challenge existing paradigms and promote social justice. Engage with our dynamic teaching and learning approaches that cultivate practice skills utilising living labs, industry speakers and simulation activities. Join us and gain the skills, knowledge, and critical thinking required to excel in the field of social work.

WHY CHOOSE CQU?

Join a tradition of excellence in social work education at CQU.

Proven history and expertise: Our extensive experience in social work education, led by expert academics and practitioners, ensures a high-quality learning experience grounded in practical and theoretical knowledge.

Innovative and relevant curriculum: Our course, grounded in the latest research and pedagogical advancements, fosters critical reflection, ethical decision-making, and innovative problem-solving through a flexible framework.

Accessible pathways: We offer a supportive pathway for students from diverse academic backgrounds. If you don't meet the academic entry requirements, you can begin with the Graduate Certificate in First Nations Public Health, which adds just 0.5 years to your study and provides foundational knowledge and skills you need.

This pathway introduces core social work theories, ethical frameworks, human development, and the role of social workers in contemporary Australia. Early units build confidence in academic writing, reflective practice, and understanding professional standards, helping you transition smoothly into advanced coursework and field education placements. Through on-campus learning, you'll develop critical thinking, communication, and culturally responsive practice, ensuring you're well prepared for complex practice frameworks and community-based learning as you progress.

Real-world application: Gain hands-on experience through two supervised field education placements, preparing you for diverse roles in social work.

Commitment to excellence and equity: We recognise the unique strengths, lived experiences and skills our students bring to the profession. Our curriculum is designed to foster critical thinking, reflective practice, and a deep understanding of diversity, social justice, and human rights.

Cross-cultural practice and global perspective: Develop skills for effective cross-cultural practice using an intercultural reflective approach, while studying in a vibrant multicultural city like Sydney, enriching your understanding of global social work practices.

Comprehensive support: Benefit from personalised support and mentorship from our dedicated teaching team, ensuring your academic and professional success.

¹ QILT Graduate Outcome Survey – Longitudinal (3 years after graduation) 2024.

² The Good Universities Guide 2025.

³ Ashoka U 2024.

Course Overview

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (QUALIFYING)

COURSE CODE:	CL90
DURATION:	2 years full-time
INTAKES:	Term 1, Term 2
AVAILABILITY:	Sydney
ANNUAL FEE:	A\$35 760 (A\$17 880 per term)
CRICOS CODE:	102182G

COURSE STRUCTURE

You will complete 10 core units and 2 field education units.

The core units include:

- › Social Work Field Education 1: Hands-on experience in a supervised social work setting.
- › Ethical and Legal Issues in Practice: Examination of ethical dilemmas and legal frameworks in social work.
- › Interviewing, Negotiation and Mediation Skills: Developing essential communication skills.
- › History, Culture, and Diversity: Understanding the historical and cultural context of social work through developing an understanding working with Australian First Nation's peoples and culturally diverse communities.
- › Psychosocial Perspectives on Health and Illness: Exploring the intersection of health, illness, and social work.
- › Social Work Theories and the Practice Context: Application of social work theories in practice.
- › Working with Families, Groups, and Communities: Strategies for effective social work practice in diverse settings.
- › Interpersonal, Family, and Structural Violence: Addressing violence across various areas of social work practice.
- › Social Work Field Education 2: Advanced practical experience in a professional setting.
- › Capstone Project: Integrating the skills and knowledge developed during the learning process.

FIELD EDUCATION

A cornerstone of our course, field education offers you two 500-hour supervised placements to apply your learning in real-world environments. Under expert supervision, you will engage in various methods of change, including casework, direct practice, community development, group work, and policy.

These placements allow you to seamlessly integrate theoretical knowledge with practical experience.

Additionally, opportunities for regional Queensland placements are available for the second placement.

CAREER OUTCOMES

You will be well-equipped for social work roles such as case manager, hospital social worker, family support worker, mental health social worker, child and family practitioner, community development practitioner, policy officer, and school social worker.

The health care and human services sector, a primary provider of new jobs in Australia, continues to grow, offering robust employment opportunities for our graduates.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Academic: Successful completion of an undergraduate degree in human services, social sciences, or a related discipline.

If you don't meet the academic entry requirements, you can start with the Graduate Certificate in First Nations Public Health as a pathway into the Master of Social Work (Qualifying). The fee for this pathway course is A\$17 880.

English: As per Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS) requirements.

- › IELTS (Academic) score of 7.0 overall, with no individual band score less than 7.0.
- › TOEFL (iBT) score of 94 overall, with no individual score less than 24 for reading and listening, 23 for speaking, and 27 for writing.
- › PTE Academic score of 65 overall, with no individual band score less than 65.

ACCREDITATION

The course is accredited with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). For more details on the accreditation process and standards, please visit aasw.asn.au.

Our course aligns with the ASWEAS, preparing graduates for generalist social work practice.

PHD PATHWAYS

Once you graduate, you can unlock a pathway to a CQU PhD, connecting your professional experience with advanced research opportunities.

Visit cqu.edu.au/research.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A range of scholarships is available for the duration of your studies, provided terms and conditions are met.

Visit cqu.edu.au/internationalscholarships.

2026 Key Dates

You can start studying the Master of Social Work (Qualifying) in either Term 1 or Term 2, giving you the flexibility to start at the beginning or middle of the year.

Each term runs for approximately 12 weeks, with scheduled university breaks in between.

For specific start and end dates, view our Academic Calendar at cqu.edu.au/internationalkeydates.

You can apply at any time throughout the year. Visit cqu.edu.au/international-apply for details.

	Term 1	Term 2
Orientation week	2 – 6 March	6 – 10 July
Classes	9 March – 5 June	13 July – 9 October
Exam period	8 – 16 June	12 – 20 October
University vacation	17 June – 10 July	21 October – 6 November

Local and national holidays do not form part of this calendar. These dates are subject to change, please check the [Academic Calendar](#) for the most up-to-date information.

Contact us

cqu.edu.au/international-enquire

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The information in this publication was correct at the time of printing, however is subject to change. Check the CQUniversity website for the latest information.

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