



## PSYCHOLOGY

# POSTGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE 2013



**It's all about U**

[scu.edu.au/healthscience](http://scu.edu.au/healthscience)

CRICOS Provider: NSW 01241G, QLD 03135E, WA 02621K



# ABOUT SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

Southern Cross University is a vibrant, contemporary Australian university offering a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees on-campus and by distance education. Postgraduate degrees by coursework are available in disciplines including health and human sciences, environmental, marine and forest science, tourism, education and social sciences. The Southern Cross Business School delivers the Master and Doctor of Business Administration, and other postgraduate degrees in accounting, sport management, human resources and information technology.

Research degrees are available in arts, business, law, science and education. Students undertake an independent research project which is sent out for external and independent examination. The students are supported through the Research Training Unit and can enrol at any time. The University's research is undertaken in areas that are regionally relevant and globally

significant, in disciplines as diverse as environmental science, plant science, geoscience, forestry, gambling research, marine science, business, education and tourism.

Located on the east coast of Australia, in a region renowned for its natural beauty, the University has campuses at the Gold Coast, Lismore and Coffs Harbour, where it also operates the National Marine Science Centre. The Centre operates a survey and research vessel and includes a flow-through seawater system that supplies laboratories, a tank farm, aquarium and hatchery.

Many postgraduate courses are available by distance education, providing flexible study options for those who are juggling work, study and other commitments. Explore our full range of postgraduate course offerings at [scu.edu.au/courses](https://scu.edu.au/courses)

## PSYCHOLOGY

To become a registered psychologist in Australia, students must first complete a four-year sequence of university study in programs accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC). This could consist of a three-year Bachelor's degree followed by a one-year Honours or Honours equivalent degree such as the Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology. Or, it could consist of a single integrated four-year program. Following completion of these four years of university study, graduates must also then complete either two years of supervised experience as a provisionally registered psychologist, or complete an accredited postgraduate degree at Master or Doctoral levels to become fully registered. More information is available from the APAC website [www.apac.psychology.org.au](http://www.apac.psychology.org.au) or the Psychology Board of Australia website [www.psychologyboard.gov.au](http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au)

Southern Cross University's Graduate Diploma of Psychology provides the content that is required to be delivered during the first three years of a psychology degree. The Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology fulfils the requirements for an Honours-equivalent fourth year. Completion of both of these degrees is required to meet the educational requirements for provisional registration as a psychologist in Australia and for Associate Membership of the Australian Psychological Society. Registration in other countries will vary and students are encouraged to check with their relevant registration authorities.

# GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Location and intake:** Lismore: Session 1; Coffs Harbour: Session 1, 2 and 3

**Duration:** 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

## About this course

The Graduate Diploma of Psychology is intended for graduates who have completed a Bachelor degree in a discipline other than psychology, and who have completed the equivalent of two introductory units in psychology. It provides the content that is required to be delivered during the first three years of a psychology degree.

## Major areas of study

The course includes core topics required to meet the minimum standards for accreditation by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC), including research methods, statistics, developmental psychology, social psychology, abnormal psychology, physiological psychology, learning and memory and psychological assessment. There is a strong emphasis on the role of the Scientist Practitioner model and the application of psychological principles in applied settings.

## Professional recognition

The Graduate Diploma of Psychology is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

## Teaching methods

In the Graduate Diploma of Psychology the method of teaching varies from unit to unit. Most units include lectures and tutorials totalling three hours per week. Some units include interactive workshops while some of the research-oriented units involve time away from class to collect and analyse data. Some teaching delivery is via SCU's online learning environment Blackboard Collaborate and the online MySCU student portal is used to support in-class teaching in most units.

## Career opportunities

Completion of the Graduate Diploma of Psychology provides entry into the fourth year of study in psychology, through either the Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology or the Bachelor of Psychological Science with Honours (also offered by Southern Cross University).

# POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA OF PSYCHOLOGY

**Location and intake:** Coffs Harbour: Session 1

**Duration:** 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

## About this course

The Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology is the fourth year of study intended for graduates who have completed the equivalent of a Bachelor degree in psychology that has been accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

## Major areas of study

Students are encouraged to develop a deeper understanding of the complex nature of human behaviour and build upon existing knowledge from previous psychology studies through coursework and a research thesis.

## Professional recognition

The Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology is accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC).

## Teaching methods

The Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology consists of a mixture of coursework and research units. The research units support the completion of an independent research project in an area of the discipline negotiated with relevant members of academic staff. The coursework units complement this research activity by

providing students with advanced knowledge of methodology, ethical processes and core conceptual and theoretical issues. A workshop format is employed in most of the coursework units.

## Career opportunities

Graduates may find employment in government departments associated with health, social and disability services, youth services, corrective services, the armed services and education. Private industry is also a large employer of psychologists in management, personnel selection and specialised consultancy services.

Completion of the Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology satisfies the current basic academic requirements for provisional registration as a psychologist in Australia. To become a fully registered psychologist, graduates must also complete either two years of supervised experience as a provisionally registered psychologist, or complete an accredited postgraduate degree at Master or Doctoral levels.

## Assessment methods

Students complete a variety of assessment tasks depending on the course and units undertaken. These may include written assignments, oral presentations, laboratory and field research projects, reports and case-based scenarios, clinical skills testing and self-performance evaluations, video or audio presentations. Some courses and units also include written, clinical and practical examinations.

## Learning resources

MySCU is a student's point of entry to a range of online services and resources that support study and student life. The portal includes unit learning sites and information sites where students can access resources, communication tools and useful links that are integral to their studies.

The web-based program Blackboard Collaborate delivers advanced online learning environments for students and lecturers to communicate and collaborate through virtual meeting spaces and classrooms. They can share files, presentations and applications. If the session is recorded, students can view it afterwards.

Learning materials include online unit information guides, study guides and readings. Students may need to purchase or access prescribed text books.

The SCU library provides a wide range of services, print and electronic resources including librarian assistance, a document delivery service, catalogues, databases, ebooks, ereadings, full-text journal literature and podcasts.

## Equipment and facilities

SCU provides students with modern well-equipped teaching spaces such as lecture theatres, classrooms and laboratories tailored to meet the needs of specific study disciplines. Contemporary audiovisual equipment is standard in most teaching venues, and students have access to computer laboratories for individual study purposes.

Psychology students have access to a test library or kit. Students in the Postgraduate Diploma have access to a research laboratory to support their research projects.

# HOW TO APPLY

## Apply online direct to the University

**Visit:** [scu.edu.au/howtoapply](http://scu.edu.au/howtoapply)

**T:** 1800 626 481

**E:** [enquiry@scu.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@scu.edu.au)

### Your previous work or study

At Southern Cross University, your previous study or work experience may help you cut time off your degree.

### Recognition of previous study

Advanced standing may be granted to a student for tertiary studies successfully completed within the last 10 years at this University or at another approved post secondary institution including TAFE, private providers or other universities.

### Recognition of professional experience

Advanced standing may be granted on the basis of current professional-level experience, skills or expertise that are deemed to be equivalent to Southern Cross University units available in the course undertaken.

The University recommends that you apply for advanced standing at the same time as you apply for admission, because the amount and type of credit awarded will determine your study plan.

**For more information visit:**

[scu.edu.au/advancedstanding](http://scu.edu.au/advancedstanding)

## International applicants

Southern Cross University welcomes applications from international students. However this brochure is intended for use by Australian citizens and permanent residents only and should not be relied upon by international students. Brochures and information specifically for international students can be obtained from the University's International Office and website:

[scu.edu.au/international](http://scu.edu.au/international)

### Further information

**Freecall:** 1800 626 481

**E:** [enquiry@scu.edu.au](mailto:enquiry@scu.edu.au)

For further course information visit:

[scu.edu.au/courses](http://scu.edu.au/courses)

*This brochure is a guide to Southern Cross University and the postgraduate studies offered by the University. The information set out in this brochure is an expression of intent only and should not be taken as a firm offer or undertaking.*

*The information contained in this brochure is correct at time of printing and the University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice. Copyright Southern Cross University June 2012. SCU4092 CRICOS Provider: NSW 01241G, QLD 03135E, WA 02621K*