GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN ACADEMIC PRACTICE

The Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice, delivered by Southern Cross University’s Centre for Teaching and Learning in association with the School of Education, offers academics working in higher education contexts (or equivalent) the opportunity to gain a postgraduate qualification in academic practice.

The completion of four units for the course provides direct and practical benefits for participants in their current academic role and aims to:

• Provide staff working as academics in higher education with opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of their work, whether it is teaching, research or community engagement.

• Support participants in the pursuit of their own professional learning through structured and independent activities and scholarly reflections underpinned by the development of a professional portfolio.

• Equip participants with skills, knowledges and insights for ongoing engagement with academic practice.

• Provide a valuable credential in higher education that is built upon scholarship and participants’ academic practice.

Eligibility

Applicants are welcome from any higher education context (or equivalent) and are required to hold an undergraduate degree in any field.

Select your own study pathway

The course contains both core and elective units, each about 130 hours of work, including the assessment tasks. The units include:

• Foundations of Academic Practice in Higher Education (core)*

• Assessment and Learning in Higher Education (elective)

• Curriculum Design and Review in Higher Education (elective)

• Clinical Teaching and Supervision (elective)

• Community Engagement: Scholarship and Practice (elective)

• Higher Degree Research Supervision (elective)**

• Being a Researcher: Career Development and Planning (elective)

• The Scholarship of Academic Practice (core, capstone).

* The first core unit requires that you are concurrently teaching or employed in the facilitation of learning, preferably for the duration of study in that unit.

** This elective unit requires that you hold a higher degree by research.

Flexible mode

The course is offered part-time and delivered by a flexible mix of online learning formats. The entire course is usually taken over two years and commences in session two (June).

The distance education study option is highly interactive and strives to promote collaboration and a sense of community. Participants may receive a combination of online lectures, electronic study materials, online discussion forums and virtual classes. The method of teaching may vary from unit to unit.

Assessment

Participants will engage with the literature of academic practice and within their disciplinary field, and will use a variety of technologies to complete assessment tasks. The first three units enable participants to undertake an activity or project relevant to their own academic practice while the final unit builds on these tasks to result in a scholarly work for dissemination to an audience of peers.

Advanced Standing

Advanced standing for units in the Graduate Certificate in Academic Practice can be sought through the standard application processes. Please refer to the advanced standing website for further information.

scu.edu.au/advancedstanding

Staffing

The course is offered through the School of Education. It is convened and staffed by experienced members of the Centre for Teaching and Learning; the Division of Research; Sustainability, Partnerships and Community Engagement (SPaCE); and the School of Health and Human Sciences.
Unit descriptions

TCH03193 Foundations of Academic Practice in Higher Education
Enables participants to examine and evaluate their own teaching in a higher education context. Participants use reflective processes and collegial peer review to document their approaches to teaching and influences on student learning. Study in this unit situates teaching within the broader experience of academic practice and commences the development of a professional portfolio.

This core unit requires participants to be concurrently teaching or employed in the facilitation of learning, preferably for the duration of the unit.

TCH03194 Assessment and Learning in Higher Education
Enables current teachers in higher education to advance their understanding of contemporary assessment practice and advance their own practice by a critical engagement with contemporary assessment literature. Participants complete a self-directed project relating to their own higher education assessment context.

TCH03195 Curriculum Design and Review in Higher Education
Enables current teachers in higher education to develop the effective practice of curriculum design and review that is underpinned by a critical engagement with contemporary literature. Participants complete a self-directed project relating to curriculum design or review in their own disciplinary context.

TCH03196 The Scholarship of Academic Practice
Draws together the scholarly activity of three prerequisite units in order to advance a scholarship of academic practice. Participants identify emerging issues and priorities for their own professional practice and to pursue a focus of enquiry as relevant to their professional context. Professional enquiry is transformed into a scholarly work for wider dissemination.

TCH03409 Clinical Teaching and Supervision
Explores a range of approaches to clinical teaching and supervision, reflective practice and planning for clinical education. Participants engage with relevant professional standards, the cultures within their professions and the inter-relationship with other health disciplines. Various techniques of assessment and providing constructive feedback for clinical learning are evaluated.

TCH03410 Community Engagement: Scholarship and Practice
Explores community engagement in higher education through the lens of community engaged scholarship. Community engaged scholarship refers to a mutually beneficial partnership with community through pedagogical or research activities. Principles to guide good community engagement practice will be identified through literature and case studies. Participants will develop a plan to apply good practice principles to their work in either community based research or community engaged pedagogy in their own disciplinary context.

TCH03411 Higher Degree Research Supervision
Develops and extends participants’ repertoire of supervision skills and understandings through engagement with current literature, institutional practices and professional networks. Participants have the opportunity to engage in critical self-reflection, critical analysis and the scholarship of higher degree research supervision. This critical and practical engagement is applied to their own supervisory practices and scenarios.

This elective unit requires participants to hold a higher degree by research.

TCH03412 Being a Researcher: Career Development and Planning
Provides early and mid-career researchers with an opportunity to plan their research career within contemporary higher education. The unit explores the international debates on quality of research undertaken in higher education. Participants develop the research component of their professional portfolio and develop an action plan.

Opportunities for single unit enrolment
These three units are also available as stand-alone units of study. They provide professional learning opportunities for academics.

TCH03410 Community Engagement: Scholarship and Practice
Currently there is little opportunity for professional development in the realworld practice and scholarship of community engagement. This unit fills that gap. It aims to provide participants with opportunities to learn about the scope of community engaged scholarship, whether through community based learning, community based research or an integration of both. This unit will:

- Provide the opportunity to develop a detailed understanding of community engagement in higher education with an emphasis on engaged scholarship.
- Assist you through collaborative learning activities to orient your community engagement activities within the context of the academic practice.
- Enable you to experience structured reflection, peer exchange and dialogue as key elements of community engaged scholarship.
- Benefit your academic practice directly through the development of a community engaged scholarship approach in teaching and learning or research in your own disciplinary context.

TCH03411 Higher Degree Research Supervision
This unit is designed to help research active academics develop their ability and eligibility to supervise Higher Degree Research candidates. Prospective applicants must hold a higher degree by research (HDR).

For SCU staff, the unit represents one pathway to prepare for the role of Principal Supervisor of HDR candidates. For non-SCU staff, this unit represents a pathway to understanding and practising the roles and responsibilities of HDR supervision.

TCH03412 Being a Researcher: Career Development and Planning
This unit provides early and mid-career academics with access to numerous experienced researchers as a resource from which to plan and commence the development of their research careers. The unit links with the UK-based Research Development Framework (RDF) as a basis for reflection and action.
GENERAL INFORMATION

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 on-line 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 the provision of unit information guides, study guides and books of readings. Students may need to purchase or access prescribed text books.

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

HOW TO APPLY

Enquiries and applications
Contact student liaison
E: gradcertAP@scu.edu.au
T: +61 2 6626 9262
W: scu.edu.au/teachinglearning

Apply online direct to the University
Visit: scu.edu.au/howtoapply
T: 1800 626 481

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

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 SCU International. Visit:
scu.edu.au/international

Further information
Freecall: 1800 626 481
E: intoff@scu.edu.au

For further course information visit:
scu.edu.au/courses