

Graduate Diploma of Business (GDBZ) - GradDipBus

CRICOS code (International applicants): 089180M

	On-campus*	Online
Semester intake:	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July)	Semester 1 (February) Semester 2 (July) Semester 3 (November)
Campus:	Springfield, Toowoomba	-
Fees:	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place	Domestic full fee paying place International full fee paying place
Standard duration:	1 year full-time, up to 4 years part-time	
Program articulation:	From: Graduate Certificate of Business To: Master of Business Administration . ; Master of Project Management ; Master of Business and Innovation	

Footnotes

* Not all specialisations are available on-campus

Contact us

Future Australian and New Zealand students	Future International students	Current students
Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 269 500 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 5315 Email: study@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Phone: +61 7 4631 5543 Email: international@usq.edu.au	Ask a question Freecall (within Australia): 1800 007 252 Phone (from outside Australia): +61 7 4631 2285 Email usq.support@usq.edu.au

Professional accreditation

USQ is registered with the [Project Management Institute \(PMI\)®](#) as a Global Registered Education Provider (R.E.P.). A study of project management at USQ earns professional development units towards certification with PMI including towards the Project Management Professional (PMP)®.

PMI and Project Management Professional (PMP) are registered marks of the Project Management Institute, Inc.

Program aims

The aim of the Graduate Diploma of Business is to enable students to acquire a body of specialised knowledge and skills across a range of business disciplines and contexts to meet their specific professional workplace needs or as a pathway for further learning.

The selection of the courses or discipline specialisation chosen will be influenced by the demands of the work environment and the interests of the student. The entry requirements of articulating programs should be considered when choosing courses.

Students who have completed the Graduate Diploma of Business are not eligible to enter the [Master of Business Administration .](#) or [Master of Project Management](#) until they satisfy the required minimum of two years' full-time relevant professional work experience in business.

Program objectives

The objectives of the Graduate Diploma of Business are to produce graduates who are able to:

- understand the concepts and essential theories and skills associated with a discipline area or areas related to business
- demonstrate cognitive skills to review, analyse, consolidate and synthesise business knowledge and identify and provide solutions to complex problems
- evaluate and communicate theoretical concepts to transfer business knowledge and ideas to a variety of audiences
- demonstrate advanced business knowledge and skills for professional work and/or further learning.

Australian Qualifications Framework

The Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) is a single national, comprehensive system of qualifications offered by higher education institutions (including universities), vocational education and training institutions and secondary schools. Each AQF qualification has a set of descriptors which define the type and complexity of knowledge, skills and application of knowledge and skills that a graduate who has been awarded that qualification has attained, and the typical volume of learning associated with that qualification type.

This program is at AQF Qualification Level 08. Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional or highly skilled work and/or further learning.

The full set of levels criteria and qualification type descriptors can be found by visiting www.aqf.edu.au.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission, applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

- Completion of an Australian university Bachelor degree in the area of business, or equivalent.
- English Language Proficiency requirements for Category 3.

For candidates who have a Bachelor degree (AQF level 7) or equivalent in a non-business related discipline from a recognised institution, USQ's [Graduate Certificate of Business](#) provides an articulation pathway into the Graduate Diploma of Business.

All students are required to satisfy the applicable [English language requirements](#).

If students do not meet the English language requirements they may apply to study a University-approved [English language program](#). On successful completion of the English language program, students may be admitted to an award program.

Program fees

Domestic full fee paying place

Domestic full fee paying places are funded entirely through the full fees paid by the student. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Domestic full fee paying students may be eligible to defer their fees through a Government loan called [FEE-HELP](#) provided they meet the residency and citizenship requirements.

Australian citizens, Permanent Humanitarian Visa holders, Permanent Resident visa holders and New Zealand citizens who will be resident outside Australia for the duration of their program pay full tuition fees and are not eligible for [FEE-Help](#).

International full fee paying place

International students pay full fees. Full fees vary depending on the courses that are taken and whether they are studied on-campus, via distance education/online. Students are able to calculate the fees for a particular course via the [Course Fee Finder](#).

Program structure

The Graduate Diploma of Business is comprised of eight units of postgraduate courses as follows:

Specialisation
<p>Named specialisation and General specialisation: The Business Administration specialisation, or a four-unit named specialisation from the Master of Business Administration ., Master of Project Management or Master of Business and Innovation plus General specialisation of any four courses from the Master of Business Administration ., Master of Project Management, Master of Business and Innovation, Master of Professional Accounting or Master of Information Systems or from other USQ postgraduate programs as approved by the Program Coordinator in the Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts. Some courses may have pre-requisites.</p>
<p>Two named specialisations: Students choose the Business Administration specialisation plus one four-unit named specialisation from the Master of Business Administration ., Master of Project Management or Master of Business and Innovation; or choose two four-unit named specialisations from the Master of Business Administration ., Master of Project Management or Master of Business and Innovation. Some courses may have pre-requisites.</p>

Students who have completed the Graduate Diploma of Business and do not have a minimum of two years' full-time relevant professional work experience in business are not eligible to apply for entry to the [Master of Business Administration .](#) or [Master of Project Management](#) until they have satisfied this work experience entry requirement.

Required time limits

Students have a maximum of 4 years to complete the Graduate Diploma of Business.

Big Data and Visualisation specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
CSC8001 Introduction to Data Science and Visualisation	2	2	2
CIS8025 Big Data Analytics	2	2	2
CIS8504 Blockchain Fundamentals	1		1
MKT8011 Digital Marketing	2	2	

Business Administration specialisation

The Business Administration specialisation is recommended for students who want to articulate into the [Master of Business Administration .](#)

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
Students choose 4 courses from the following:			

ACC5502 Accounting and Financial Management	1, 3	1	1
CIS8000 Global Information Systems Strategy	1, 2	1, 2	2
ECO5000 Economics for Managers	1, 2	2	2
MBA8000 Applied Business Research and Ethics	1, 2		1
MGT5000 Managing Organisational Behaviour	1, 3		1
MGT8022 Project-Based Management	2, 3		2
MGT8033 Leading Organisational Change	1, 2		2
MKT5000 Marketing Management	2, 3	2	2

Business Leadership specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
MGT8037 Leading Teams to Success	2		
MGT8038 Leadership Development	1, 2		
MGT8039 Strategic Leadership	3		
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		

Crisis Management specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
PRL5002 Strategic Issues and Crisis Management [†]	2		
PRL8005 Management Communication [†]	1		
PRL8007 Community Participation [†]	1		
PRL8008 Social Media for Organisations	2		

Footnotes

[†] This course is offered in odd-numbered years only.

‡ This course is offered in even-numbered years only.

Digital Marketing Analytics

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
CIS5101 Digital Enterprise	2, 3	2	2
CIS8025 Big Data Analytics	2	2	2
MKT8011 Digital Marketing	2	2	
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		

Digital Transformation specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
CIS8008 Business Intelligence	1, 2	1	1
CIS8011 Digital Innovation	2, 3	2	2
CIS8018 Cyber Security	2	2	2
Select one of the following courses: ^			
CIS5101 Digital Enterprise *	2, 3	2	2
MGT8002 Strategic Management #	1, 2, 3		

Footnotes

^ Students intending to gain entry to the [Master of Business Administration](#) or [Master of Business and Innovation](#) on completion of the Graduate Diploma of Business should choose the course from their intended program. Courses in some areas of study may have pre-requisites.

* Master of Business and Innovation Digital Transformation specialisation

Master of Business Administration Digital Transformation specialisation

Emergency and Disaster Communication specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
PRL5000 Change Communication ‡	1		
PRL8009 Disaster Communication	2		
PRL8007 Community Participation †	1		
Select one of the following courses:			
PRL5002 Strategic Issues and Crisis Management ‡	2		

PRL8008 Social Media for Organisations	2		
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Footnotes

- ‡ This course is offered in odd-numbered years only.
- † This course is offered in even-numbered years only.

Enterprise Leadership specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
MGT8038 Leadership Development	1, 2		
MGT8039 Strategic Leadership	3		
MGT8034 Strategic Management of Human Resources and Innovation	3		
MGT8031 Global Issues in Employment Relations	2		

Finance specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
FIN8201 Corporate Finance	1, 3	1	1
FIN8202 Financial Markets and Instruments	2		
FIN8203 Strategic Investments	1		
Select one of the following courses: ^			
FIN8104 *	2	2	
MGT8002 Strategic Management #	1, 2, 3		

Footnotes

- ^ Students intending to gain entry to the [Master of Business Administration](#) or [Master of Business and Innovation](#) on completion of the Graduate Diploma of Business should choose the course from their intended program. Courses in some areas of study may have pre-requisites.
- * Master of Business and Innovation Finance specialisation
- # Master of Business Administration Finance specialisation

Finance and Wealth Management specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
FIN8204 Investor Psychology and Wealth Management	2		

FIN8205 Contemporary Issues in Wealth Management	2		
LAW5230 Taxation Law	1, 2, 3	1	1
LAW8500 Australian Commercial and Corporations Law	1, 2		

General specialisation

Any four courses from the [Master of Business Administration](#) ., [Master of Project Management](#), [Master of Business and Innovation](#), [Master of Professional Accounting](#) or [Master of Information Systems](#) or from other USQ postgraduate programs as approved by the Program Coordinator in the Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts.

Global Business Management specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
ECO8060 Business in the International Economy	1		
LAW8118 International Business Law	1		1
MGT8032 International Management	2		
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		

International Business specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
ECO8060 Business in the International Economy	1		
MGT8032 International Management	2		
INR8010 International Relations: Guided Topics (Masters)	1		
MKT8002 International Marketing	1		1

NDIS Studies specialisation

The NDIS Studies specialisation is recommended for students who want to develop and lead organisations that deliver high quality services to meet the needs of individuals with disability and promote inclusive communities.

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Ipswich campus
HSW2120 Human Services Case Management	1		1
HSW4110 Leadership, Management and Entrepreneurship to Maintain Wellbeing*	2	2	
HSW8100 Governance and Quality in the NDIS	2		2
HSW8220 Promoting Community Access and Inclusion	1		

Footnotes

* This course is not offered On-campus in 2019.

Professional Communication specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
PRL5000 Change Communication[†]	1		
PRL5004 Professional Communication[†]	2		
PRL8003 Strategic Communication Planning[‡]	1		
MGT8074 Project Team Leadership	2		2

Footnotes

[†] This course is offered in odd-numbered years only.

[‡] This course is offered in even-numbered years only.

Project Management specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
MGT8073 Project Processes and Systems	1		1
MGT8075 Project Delivery	2		2
MGT8077 Project Risk Management	1		1
Plus one of the following:			
MGT8002 Strategic Management[#]	1, 2, 3		

MGT8022 Project-Based Management [^]	2, 3		2
MGT8074 Project Team Leadership	2		2
MGT8076 Project-based Change Management	1		1
MGT8078 Portfolio, Program and Benefits Management	1		1
MGT8079 Project Management Research Project [*]	1		

Footnotes

- # MGT8002 Strategic Management is recommended for students intending to continue with studies in the Master of Business Administration ..
 ^ Students should enrol in MGT8022 Project-Based Management if MGT8022 is not being studied as part of another specialisation in the program.
 * Students must have completed 4 units of study in this program prior to enrolling in MGT8079 Project Management Research Project.

Strategic Human Resource Management specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
MGT8030 Performance Management and People Development	1		
MGT8031 Global Issues in Employment Relations	2		
MGT8034 Strategic Management of Human Resources and Innovation	3		
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		

Strategic Marketing specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
MKT8001 Buyer Behaviour	1		
MKT8002 International Marketing	1		1
MKT8012 Strategic Marketing and Innovation	2		
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		

Sustainable Business specialisation

Course	Semester of offer Distance/Online	Semester of offer Toowoomba campus	Semester of offer Springfield campus
ECO8011 Global Issues in Sustainability	1		
ECO8012 Methods for Sustainable Development	2		
MGT8002 Strategic Management	1, 2, 3		
REN8101 Environment, Society and Sustainability	1		

IT requirements

For information technology requirements please refer to the [minimum computing standards](#).

Other program requirements

Students must maintain good standing in this program. Please refer to the [Academic Standing, Progression and Exclusion Procedure](#).

Articulation

Upon successful completion of the Graduate Diploma of Business a student may articulate into the [Master of Business Administration .](#), [Master of Project Management](#) or [Master of Business and Innovation](#) provided they meet other program entry requirements.

Students who have completed the Graduate Diploma of Business and do not have a minimum of two years' full-time relevant professional work experience in business are not eligible to apply for entry to the [Master of Business Administration .](#) or [Master of Project Management](#) until they have satisfied this work experience entry requirement.

Students who wish to gain maximum credit for courses completed in the Graduate Diploma of Business upon entry to the [Master of Business and Innovation](#) must choose two named specialisations from the [Master of Business and Innovation](#).

Students who wish to articulate into the [Master of Business Administration .](#), [Master of Project Management](#) or [Master of Business and Innovation](#) must meet the program admission requirements before applications for credit will be considered.

Students who wish to gain maximum credit for courses completed in the Graduate Diploma of Business upon entry to the [Master of Business Administration .](#) should choose the Business Administration specialisation plus a named specialisation from the [Master of Business Administration .](#)

Students who wish to gain maximum credit for courses completed in the Graduate Diploma of Business upon entry to the [Master of Project Management](#) should choose the [Master of Project Management](#) foundation courses plus a named specialisation from the [Master of Project Management](#).

Students who successfully complete the Graduate Diploma of Business can complete a relevant articulating Masters award ([Master of Business Administration .](#), [Master of Business and Innovation](#) or [Master of Project Management](#)) by undertaking a further four units if they return to study within three years of completing the Graduate Diploma of Business. This is subject to the eight Graduate Diploma of Business courses being fully embedded within the relevant articulating program. If students enrol in a non-articulating program, or return to study after three years, the normal USQ credit rules will apply.

Exit points

After successful completion of 4 units of study students may exit with the [Graduate Certificate of Business\(GCBU\)](#).

Credit

Credit may be granted on the basis of equivalent courses undertaken at postgraduate level. In order for credit to be granted, the claim must meet the following specific requirements:

- the course passed was taken at least at Masters or equivalent level
- the course was passed within 5 years prior to the application (courses up to 10 years old may be considered if evidence is provided that the applicant has been employed in that field)
- the course passed is equivalent in objectives, content and weightings to a course prescribed in the Graduate Diploma of Business program, or alternatively, the course is suitable as an elective
- where the student has taken out an award from a recognised tertiary institution and is claiming credit on the basis of courses completed to meet the requirements of that program, the maximum credit on the basis of such courses shall be no greater than 4 courses for the Graduate Diploma of Business
- credit approved in this program will not automatically apply to other programs offered by the USQ.

Note: Where credit is granted, maximum and minimum duration will be adjusted in the same proportion as the credit, for example, where the maximum of 50 per cent credit is granted, maximum and minimum duration will be reduced by one-half.

Recommended enrolment pattern

Students are able to enrol in any offered mode of a course (on-campus, external or online), regardless of the program mode of study they enrolled in.

Please refer to the program structure. Students requiring assistance should contact the Faculty of Business, Education, Law and Arts.