

# Diploma of Counselling & Communication Skills (DIPCOUN16)

## 1. About the Diploma of Counselling & Communication Skills

The Undergraduate Diploma of Counselling and Communication Skills is one of the first Higher Education Diploma of Counselling courses in the country. It is an eight subject course that is intellectually challenging, learning and learner centred and real world focused.

In this diploma, you as a student, will acquire the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required to secure employment opportunities in the community sector. The diploma could be completed in three trimesters as a full-time student or six trimesters on a part-time load.

The course has an online as well as on campus delivery to provide students with some flexibility and the ability to juggle between their studies, career and personal life. You have the option either for an online, or on-campus, or a mixed mode of study.

This undergraduate diploma seeks to harmonize theory and practice as it develops your skills and improves your chances after graduation.

### Key Study Outcomes

- Understand human behaviour at different stages
- Recognize behavioural problems and examine strategies for positive behaviour management
- Analyse the impact of society and culture upon the counsellor/client relationship and the community to which the client belongs
- Critically review a range of theories in counselling
- Relate counselling theory to issues in counselling
- Develop an ethical approach to counselling
- Exhibit practical skills in the application of a range of counselling paradigms
- Have the skills to assess, manage and refer clients accordingly

### Credit transfer for previous study

Students who have successfully completed competencies in the VET CHC51015 Diploma of Counselling may be eligible for credit in this course by way of a credit transfer agreement.

Contact a Course and Career Advisor for more information on credit transfers from prior study.

### Pathways to further study

Currently, there is no formal articulation or credit transfer available however, the Diploma of Counselling & Communication Skills is a pathway into the following Bachelor courses:

- Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Counselling)
- Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Community Services)
- Bachelor of Human Services (Ageing)

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- Bachelor of Human Services (Disability)

Contact a Course and Career Advisor for more information on credit transfers from prior study.

## Graduate employment opportunities

This qualification reflects the role of counsellors who work with clients on personal and psychological issues using established counselling modalities. They use communication, micro-counselling and interviewing skills and draw on varied counselling therapies to assist clients. On completion of your diploma, you will have the skills and knowledge required to begin a fulfilling career in a range of counselling avenues such as:

- Alcohol & Other Drugs
- Child & Family
- Disability
- Aged Care
- Gambling Addiction
- Domestic Violence
- Help lines
- Youth Work
- Mental Health

Your career could start in positions involved in working within organizations and being involved with individuals, families, groups, communities, social planning, advocacy or social action.

## Course Overview

Course Title	Diploma of Counselling & Communication Skills		
<b>Study Options – Domestic Australian students</b>	Full-time Part-time Online	<b>Study Options – International students</b>	This course is currently not available to onshore international students requiring a visa to study in Australia
<b>Start Dates</b>	February, June, September  For specific dates visit: <a href="https://www.torrens.edu.au/apply-online/key-dates">https://www.torrens.edu.au/apply-online/key-dates</a>	<b>Course Length</b>	Full Time: 1 Year Part Time: Options available
<b>Payment Options - Domestic Australian students</b>	<b>Upfront payment</b> This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date.  <b>FEE-HELP</b>	<b>Payment Options – International students</b>	Not applicable

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	FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold. Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.		
<b>Course study requirements</b>	It is expected that each 10 credit point subject will involve approximately 36 hours of directed study and approximately 84 hours of self-directed study.	<b>Assessment</b>	Assessments vary and may include: Essays, reports, case studies, in-class debates, online tests and quizzes, participation in online discussion forums, research projects, and practical placement.
<b>Locations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sydney (Pyrmont) Campus</li> <li>• or online</li> </ul>	<b>Delivered by</b>	Torrens University Australia
<b>Provider</b>	Torrens University Australia Ltd is registered as a self-accrediting Australian university by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).	<b>CRICOS Course Code</b>	094183K
<b>Provider obligations</b>	Torrens University is responsible for all aspects of the student experience, including the quality of course delivery, in compliance with the <a href="#">Higher Education Standards 2015</a>	<b>Accrediting body</b>	Torrens University Australia Limited ABN 99 154 937 005, CRICOS Provider Code: 03389E. RTO No. 41343
<b>Course Fees</b>	For details, refer to the <a href="#">website</a> .	<b>Any other fees</b>	For details, refer to the <a href="#">website</a> .

## 2. Essential requirements for admission

The general admission criteria that apply to Torrens University Australia courses can be located by visiting the Torrens University Australia website - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/general-admission-information-for-torrens-university-australia-ltd>.

## 3. Student Profile

The table below gives an indication of the likely peer cohort for new students at the institution. It provides data on students that commenced undergraduate study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds and international students studying in Australia.

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Applicant background	Trimester one [2020]	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
<b>(A) Higher education study</b> (includes a bridging or enabling course)	33	35%
<b>(B) Vocational education and training (VET) study</b>	30	27%
<b>(C) Work and life experience</b> (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement not in the other three categories)	39	35%
<b>(D) Recent secondary education:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (regardless of whether this includes the consideration of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points)</li> </ul>	0	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR)</li> </ul>	0	0%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was <b>not</b> a factor (e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement)</li> </ul>	6	5%
<b>International students</b>	0	-
<b>All students</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100%</b>

Notes: “<5” – the number of students is less than 5.  
N/A – Students not accepted in this category.  
N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students.

## 4. Admission Criteria

Admission Criteria	
<b>Applicants with higher education study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A completed higher education qualification at AQF level 5 (diploma) or above, or equivalent, from an Australian University or another accredited higher education provider OR</li> <li>Successful completion of at least 1 EFTSL (equivalent full time student load, or one full year) of an AQF level 6 (Associate Degree) or above, or equivalent, from an Australian University or another accredited higher education provider</li> </ul>

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<b>Applicants with vocational education and training (VET) study</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A completed vocational education qualification at AQF level 4 (Certificate IV) or above, or equivalent, from a registered training organisation (RTO)</li> <li>OR</li> <li>• Successful completion of at least 1 EFTSL (equivalent full time student load, or one full year) of an AQF level 5 (Diploma) or above, or equivalent, at a registered training organisation (RTO)</li> </ul>
<b>Applicants with work and life experience</b>	<p>Demonstrated ability to undertake study at the required level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broadly relevant work experience (documented e.g. CV), demonstrating a reasonable prospect of success; OR</li> <li>• formal, informal or non-formal study, completed or partially completed, demonstrating a reasonable prospect of success; OR</li> <li>• written submission to demonstrate reasonable prospect of success.</li> </ul>
<b>English Language Proficiency</b> (applicable to international students, and in addition to academic or special entry requirements noted above)	<p><b>International Students</b></p> <p>Equivalent IELTS 5.5 (Academic) with no skills band less than 5.5</p>
<b>Applicants with recent secondary education</b>	<p>Year 12 or equivalent</p>

## Other admission options

<b>Special Entry</b>	<p>Applicants in any category whose study, work or life experiences have been impacted by disability, illness or family disruption will be given special consideration for admission. Each application will be considered on its merit, based on the evidence supplied by the applicant attesting to the circumstances of the applicant. Applicants for special entry may need to complete written or numerical tasks to assist with assessing eligibility for admission.</p>
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## 5. How to apply

Via direct application to the institution

- <https://apply.torrens.edu.au/>

## 6. Advanced standing/academic credit/recognition of prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

Applicants admitted based on prior higher education study may be eligible for Advanced Standing in the form of credit and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) under the Torrens University Australia [Credit Policy - \(https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms\)](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms).

- Students with completed subjects may be eligible for specified credit and/or elective exemptions
- Students who have completed a qualification at AQF level 5 (diploma) or above may be eligible for block credit (where a block credit agreement exists)
- Students with a mix of formal study and informal and/or non-formal learning may be eligible for recognition of prior learning in addition to any credit approved.

Credit will not be applied automatically. Applicants must apply for credit and/or RPL as early as possible prior to each study period, with applications not accepted after week 2.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see <http://www.torrens.edu.au/apply-online/course-credits>.

## 7. Where to get further information

- Torrens University Australia (TUA) Website
  - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/>
- Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) Website
  - <https://www.uac.edu.au/>
- Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) Website
  - <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

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With QILT, you can do side by side comparisons of the quality of the higher education institutions and the study areas that you're interested in.

- <https://www.qilt.edu.au/>

## 8. Additional Information

### Course Structure

The Diploma of Counselling and Communication Skills comprises 8 subjects (10 credit points each). The course of study is made up of 8 Core subjects.

The course can be completed with full-time study in 3 trimesters (1 year, standard duration) or over 6 trimesters (2 years, part time duration).

### Course Rules

In order to graduate with a Diploma of Counselling and Communication Skills, a student must satisfactorily complete 8 subjects (10 credit points each).

Practical placement is one of the course requirements. You will be required to undertake a total of 120 hours in the subjects PFP107:

Assistance to find the industry placement is available for both online and on campus based students. Practical placement is a very important component of this diploma as it will give you the opportunity to practice the learned skills in a real-life setting with real clients, and will also give you the opportunity to understand the industry from all its different facets

### Subjects

Subject Descriptions
<p><b>COU103A Human Development Across the lifespan</b> (Face to Face &amp; Online)</p> <p>This subject introduces students to the field of developmental psychology and explores what drives or motivates human behaviour throughout their life from birth to death.</p>
<p><b>ISP102 Introduction to Social and Psycho-educational Theories</b> (Face to Face &amp; Online)</p> <p>In this subject, students are introduced to social and psycho-educational theories that will allow them to understand human practices, identities and social, psycho-educational structures.</p>
<p><b>CTI103 Counselling Theories and Interpersonal Communication</b> (Face to Face &amp; Online)</p> <p>In this subject student are introduced to influential counselling theories. Furthermore, this subject explores aspects of counselling as a form of interpersonal communication and considers the role of self and culture, as well as important relational skills such as perception, listening and reflection. It will mostly focus on empathy and the counsellor's need to be congruent. Attendance at a two-day on-campus weekend workshop is required for all online students.</p>

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**COU104A Applied Techniques of Counselling (Face to Face & Online)**

The subject provides students with an opportunity to develop their counselling skills in an interactive and supportive learning environment with feedback from others. The interrelationships between counselling theories and models and skills are explored. The focus is on counselling and communication skills from empathy to listening skills and reflection. Attendance at a two-day on-campus weekend workshop is required for all online students.

**CMP105 Case Management: Principles & Practice (Face to Face & Online)**

This subject examines the practice and skills required for case management and program development community services. The subject includes an overview of the theory and practice of program planning, development and evaluation using case studies that address the complex and varied needs of clients.

**SCC106 Sociological Considerations in Counselling (Face to Face & Online)**

In this subject, the student will develop cross-cultural counselling skills by developing awareness of personal cultural position as well as that of other individuals. It will provide the students with a better understanding of others' ways of learning and communicating and will improve their ability to listen to the 'other' and be aware of the socio-political and economic context of people from diverse cultural backgrounds and address specific issues in counselling that derive from the above. The focus of this subject will be on Indigenous Australians among other cultures.

**PFP107 Professional Practice (Face to Face & Online)**

This subject includes 120 hrs of industry placement,

**MHC108 Mental Health in the Community (Face to Face & Online)**

This subject provides students with basic understanding of mental health. It includes definitions of mental health, mental health theories, risk factors and disorders. The impact of mental illness in the community, and particularly on individual.



## Locations

The Diploma of Counselling & Communication Skills can be studied fully online or at the below Torrens University Campuses:

- Queensland (Brisbane)
- New South Wales (Sydney)
- Victoria (Melbourne)
- South Australia (Adelaide)

## Campus Facilities and Services

All campuses are designed to provide students with professional spaces in which to learn and work. They have been planned with student study needs in mind with well-equipped accessible learning spaces as well as student breakout areas for group work and spending time with friends.

## A positive student experience

Torrens University Australia values the importance of a positive student experience, and therefore has robust processes to resolve student complaints. The Student Complaints Policy, and associated procedures, can be accessed from the [website](https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms) (<https://www.torrens.edu.au/policies-and-forms>).

## Paying for your qualification

We offer two payment options for this course:

- **Upfront payment**  
If you want to complete your qualification debt-free you can choose to pay as you go. This means tuition fees will be invoiced each semester and payment is required on or before the due date using EFTPOS, credit card or direct transfer.
- **FEE-HELP**  
FEE-HELP is Australian Government's loan scheme for higher education degree courses. It can assist you in paying for all, or part of, your course fees. Repayments commence via the tax system once your income rises above a minimum threshold (\$45, 881 in 2019-20). Just like with any other debt, a FEE-HELP debt is a real debt that impacts your credit rating.

Further information about FEE-HELP, including eligibility, is available at:

- FEE-HELP website:  
<http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/helppayingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help->
- FEE-HELP booklets:  
<https://www.studyassist.gov.au/need-more-information/help-publications>

## Austudy and Abstudy

Students enrolled in this course may be eligible for government assistance, such as [Austudy](#) or [Abstudy](#).