

# Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21)

## 1. About the Graduate Certificate of Research Studies

The Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) is an entry and nested exit award and offers foundational level theoretical and technical knowledge and skills in research. It aims to equip students from a broad range of backgrounds to work in research-related fields and support researchers with foundation research skills. Students will gain an understanding of literature, future research requirements and research proposal writing. The course includes strong foundations in research, which will provide students with the analytical and communication skills required for future research.

The Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) provides an alternative entry path into the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), the Professional Doctorate (Research) and the Master of Philosophy. When successfully completed, the student may be eligible for admission into those programs. The Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) is also positioned as an exit award for the Master of Philosophy, Professional Doctorate (Research) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) where required.

Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional, highly skilled work or further learning. They will have advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in one or more disciplines or areas of practice plus advanced cognitive, technical and communication skills, which they will use to analyse critically, evaluate, and transform information to complete a range of activities.

### Graduate employment opportunities

Graduates of the Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) will be positioned to contribute to research projects or to work in research-related fields, supporting researchers with research skills in government, community, or commercial settings. The course content is designed to be tailored to suit current employment context or areas of interest.

## Course Overview

<b>Course Title</b>	Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21)		
<b>Study Options – Domestic Australian students</b>	Face to Face delivery Online delivery Full-time and part-time options available.	<b>Study Options – International students</b>	International students on a student visa must not take any more than a third of their course online.  Full-time only.
<b>Start Dates</b>	February, June, September For specific dates visit the <a href="#">website</a> .	<b>Course Length</b>	Full-time: 6 months Accelerated: 3 months Part-time: 1 year
<b>Payment Options - Domestic Australian students</b>	<b>Upfront payment</b> This means tuition fees will be invoiced each trimester and payment is required on or before the due date.  <b>FEE-HELP</b> 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.	<b>Payment Options – International students</b>	This course is not yet available to international students
<b>Course study requirements</b>	Each subject (normally 10 credit points) involves 10 hours of study per week, comprising 3 hours of facilitated study and 7 hours self-directed study.	<b>Assessment</b>	Research project or application proposal, research or process documentation, application outcome, essays, reports, critical reflections, journal entries, literature reviews, presentations, scenario and case studies, dissertations, and viva voce.
<b>Locations</b>	Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Online	<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>	108075F
<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 Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021</a>	<b>Accrediting body</b>	Torrens University Australia Limited ABN 99 154 937 005, CRICOS Provider Code: 03389E. RTO No. 41343

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<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> .
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## 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/how-to-apply/admissions-criteria>.

## 3. Admission Criteria

<b>Title of course of study</b>	Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21)
<b>Applicants with formal study: Direct Entry</b>	Successful completion of a Bachelor's degree or above from an Australian university or equivalent  And  Three years' work experience
<b>Applicants with work and life experience</b>	Students not meeting the direct entry requirements may be admitted to the Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS) on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A combination of formal or non-formal qualifications, and</li> <li>b) Seven years' relevant experience in industry or a research-related role</li> </ul> Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.
<b>English Language Proficiency</b> (applicable to international students, and in addition to academic or special entry requirements noted above)	Equivalent IELTS 6.5 (Academic) with skills band no less than 6.0 (or equivalent TOEFL, CAE or PTE).

## 4. How to apply

Applicants should first write directly to the *higher degrees by research (HDR)* office:

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- [hdr@torrens.edu.au](mailto:hdr@torrens.edu.au)

## 5. 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-forms>).

- Students with completed subjects may be eligible for specified credit and/or elective exemptions
- Students who have completed a qualification at AQF level 8 (Graduate 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 <https://www.torrens.edu.au/how-to-apply/course-credits>.

## 6. Where to get further information

- Torrens University Australia (TUA) Website
  - <https://www.torrens.edu.au/>

## 7. Additional Information

### Course Structure

The Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) course structure is six months (40 credit points) in duration (normally full time). Eight subjects (10 credit points each) per year is deemed a normal full-time load.

### Course Rules

To qualify for the Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21), the candidate must complete satisfactorily a course of study that comprises 4 core subjects. A combined total of 40 credit points is required.

### Subjects

<b>Core Subjects</b>
<p><b>RES611 Critical Literature Review</b></p> <p>This subject provides students with an overview of critical reading practices and develops the practical skills required to undertake a higher degree research project. Students will develop an understanding of the differences between practice and theory-based literature, and learn practical planning, searching, recording and interrogations skills needed to identify research gaps and undertake critical analysis with the view to establish future research directions. This subject will culminate in the development of a project statement for</p>

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### Core Subjects

further scholarly research.

#### **RES612 Developing the Research Proposal**

This subject develops the foundations of research, critical problem solving, and evidence-based decision-making skills required when undertaking a higher degree research project. Students will gain an understanding of the core structure of the research proposal, research integrity and the importance of positioning a chosen research project to offer significant contribution to new knowledge. Through the compilation and review of emerging constructs from literature, students will establish key concepts for analysis and build a framework for critical evaluation and investigation in the chosen field of study. On completion of this subject, students will understand the interrelationship of concepts, constructs, models, and frameworks in research, and possess the skills to communicate this in a structured project proposal capturing their emergent propositions ready for further investigation.

#### **RES613 Methodology and Design**

This subject aims to build the methodological literacy for higher degree research. It addresses methodological questions and specific issues connected with the choice of research methods and the associated forms of data. The subject includes discussion on the process of discovery and the formulation of the researcher's paradigm of reality. This subject caters equally for students pursuing various quantitative and qualitative methodologies in their research projects. It provides targeted training in key research methods as well as developing the student's overall understanding of the use and usefulness of various research methods in the field of research. This subject covers advanced topics in qualitative and quantitative research methodology relevant to the current set of projects undertaken by the cohort of students at this level.

#### **RES614 Preliminary Research Thesis**

This subject aims to provide students with the skills for planning, conducting, analysing, and reporting for a research project. This subject develops your understanding of the requirement for responsible conduct of research including ethical review for projects involving human research participation. On completion of this subject, students should be able to: further understand the significance of research and the challenges associated with undertaking independent research and design and complete a qualitative and/or quantitative research study using public data. You will report your project in a preliminary independent short thesis.

NB: some of the above subjects have pre-requisite and progression requirements.

## Locations

The Graduate Certificate of Research Studies (GCRS21) can be studied in a combination of online and at the below Torrens University Australia 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

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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>).

## **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 trimester 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 threshold.

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

- FEE-HELP website - <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/help-loans/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](#).