

# Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21)

## 1. About the Graduate Diploma of Research Studies

The Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21) is a nested *exit* award and offers advanced theoretical and technical knowledge and skills in research. The course provides students with knowledge and skills that will enable them to contribute to knowledge through research. Students will be equipped with essential knowledge and expertise for research practice.

Graduates at this level will have advanced knowledge and skills for professional or highly skilled work or further learning. They will have advanced theoretical and technical knowledge in one or more disciplines or areas of practice. Additionally, advanced cognitive technical and communication skills which students will use to analyse critically, evaluate, and transform information to complete a range of activities, analyse, generate, and transmit solutions to complex problems. They will also have the capacity to apply knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, well-developed judgement, adaptability, and responsibility as a practitioner or learner.

### Graduate employment opportunities

The Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21) is an *exit* qualification of the Master of Philosophy (MPHIL21) and Professional Doctorate (Research) (DPROF21) courses. It equips students from a broad range of backgrounds to work in research-related fields and support researchers with research skills. Students will gain an understanding of literature and future research requirements, research proposal writing, ethics and ethical clearance applications, methodology and data collection and specific method choices to support projects in advanced professional practice.

## Course Overview

<b>Course Title</b>	Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21)		
<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: 1 years Accelerated: 9 months Part-time: 2 years
<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>	109130G
<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
<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. Admission Criteria

<b>Title of course of study</b>	Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21)
<b>Applicants</b>	<p>To be eligible for entry to this course, a student will be required to demonstrate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A completed bachelor degree in any discipline from an Australian university or college with a credit average, or equivalent;</li> <li>• A completed coursework masters with a credit average.</li> <li>• A minimum of five years relevant professional experience AND Graduate Certificate</li> <li>• Graduate certificate of research studies with a credit average.</li> </ul>
<b>Applicants with work and life experience</b>	In exceptional cases, an applicant who submits evidence of other academic and professional qualifications, may be approved for entry. These applicants may have work and life experience that will be assessed on a case-by-case basis using a competency evidence matrix, portfolio of work and interview. Based on the assessment an applicant may be offered pathways entry and awarded RPL were appropriate.
<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).

## 3. How to apply

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

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

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

#### 5. Where to get further information

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

#### 6. Additional Information

##### Course Structure

The Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21) course structure is one years (80 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 Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21), the candidate must complete satisfactorily a course of study that comprises 5 core subjects, 1 elective subject, and 1 thesis unit. A combined total of 80 credit points is required. The elective subject must be selected from the list outlined below.

##### 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 further scholarly research.</p>
<p><b>RES612 Developing the Research Proposal</b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>RES613 Methodology and Design</b></p> <p>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</p>

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### Core Subjects

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.

#### RES615 Research Communication

This subject provides students with essential skills in academic writing, authorship, the conventions of academic writing, research communication and dissemination of research outcomes. Students will develop skills in writing for research and analytical skills for research. Students will learn about planning for academic writing and critical analysis for academic writing. The subject also develops students' skills in constructing arguments, the different types of arguments and publication formats for output. This subject will draw from the field of communications studies and related discipline areas and build critical writing skills.

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

### Thesis Subjects

#### THE601 , THE602 (10 credit points) Thesis Unit

The units focus on substantial writing for thesis and analysis for the thesis project. Students will be expected to demonstrate high-level skills in independent research and/or analysis and in written expression as well as a degree of original input into the thesis project. Students are required to keep a research journal and regular submission of written work is expected to allow for the refinement of the student's development of ideas and writing style through critical feedback from the supervisor. The student is required to complete 150 credit points of thesis writing.

NB: THE601 is a 20-credit point (i.e., double) subject.

### Elective Subjects

#### STAT6200 Biostatistics

Analysing data is one of the central activities in the public health industry. Learn how to investigate basic statistics and concepts used in public health research and practice to interpret results in journals and government reports. A practice-based approach to statistical analysis—using specialised software—will enable you to apply basic analyses to public health data.

#### PUBH6013 Qualitative Research Methods for Public Health

In this subject, students develop core knowledge and skills for designing qualitative research in public health, including collecting, analysing, interpreting, and presenting qualitative data. Topics include exploration of the nature of qualitative inquiry, broad theoretical approaches in qualitative research, research methods (i.e., ethnography, observation, case studies, focus groups, interviews, participatory action research), research design issues (i.e., sampling, ethical considerations, quality, and rigour), and ethical issues in public health qualitative research. Students will also learn about the use of software to code data.

#### STAT6003 Statistics for Financial Decisions

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### Elective Subjects

This subject covers the role of statistical analysis in decision-making for accounting and finance professionals. It is divided into descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will learn about statistical techniques for the quantitative evaluation of data in decision-making for accounting, finance, and business applications. Students will develop analytical and statistical skills through Excel data analysis to manipulate data into meaningful information for the purpose of decision-making. Students will also learn to interpret statistical results and communicate their statistical analysis in business reports.

#### **DPA8109 Program Evaluation and Action Research (Capella/Cross-institutional Study Option)**

This subject will introduce the basic fundamentals of both program evaluation and action research. Program evaluation is used to objectively evaluate and improve program efficiency. Since program evaluation is also a requirement for all federally funded grants, this is an important skill for public administrators. Action research engages participants in various aspects of research design or implementation. This subject will introduce the concepts, design methods, and their application to real-world situations using both program evaluation and action research methods.

#### **DRPH8180 Advanced Action Research Methods (Capella/Cross-institutional Study Option)**

In this subject, you will examine participatory action research methods in the planning of a public health and epidemiological research project. You will design an action research project using critical theory, ethical parameters, and a range of qualitative and quantitative research methods. As part of the research project plan, you will prepare an action research proposal that delineates the research topic, data collection methods, and decision-making model on what action to pursue as a result of the research findings. You will also explore effective communication skills and collaborative approaches associated with the relationship between the researcher and participant.

#### **HMSV8110 Action Research Methods in Human Services (Capella)**

The term action research made its first appearance in the 1940s, when a German-American social psychologist named Kurt Lewin founded the action research process. During this subject, you will utilise the textbooks, library readings, and multimedia to develop and apply skills in using data and technology for planning, executing, and assessing the action research process. You will demonstrate your understanding of the dynamics of an organisation through discussions and assignments. For the project, you may choose to perform the action research cycle based on a scenario from a series of multimedia presentations that have been provided, or you may choose to perform the action research cycle on a project or program for the organisation or agency where you are employed, or where you wish to do your future doctoral research. Completing the action research cycle based on the real-world project or program you are hoping to examine for your doctoral research would give you a chance to see whether the topic you plan to use is broad enough and there is enough information available (from the literature and at the organisation) to sustain a future doctoral research project.

## Locations

The Graduate Diploma of Research Studies (GDRS21) 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)

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## 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>).

## 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](#).