

Master of Art Therapy

Duration: 2 years full-time or
4 years part-time

UAC Code: 952976

Campus: Penrith

The Master of Art Therapy is a clinical training program that equips practising visual artists with the theoretical knowledge and practical experience for working as art therapists in a wide variety of contexts.

Art therapy is a form of individual, family and group psychotherapy in which participants engage in visual art processes within a therapeutic relationship with a highly trained art therapy practitioner. Art therapy is internationally recognised as a valuable therapeutic approach to assisting people in times of emotional distress and can be effective for clients with a wide range of psychological, social and physical problems.

Nationally and internationally, a Master of Art Therapy is the recognised qualification that entitles you to work as a professional in this field.

Therapeutic Studies and Counselling at UWS

The University of Western Sydney offers the only Master of Art Therapy course in NSW, one of three such courses available in Australia.

At UWS, you will gain skills and confidence through a balance of academic and experiential learning, with extensive opportunities to practise art therapy under supervision. The UWS course emphasises the therapeutic and pedagogical value of fine arts practice and encourages learning through creative exploration, interpersonal communication and self-reflection. Students become familiar with the histories, theories and practices of art therapy before undergoing intensive

art therapy clinical training through 750 supervised hours of field placement. Our permanent and casual teaching team for the Master of Art Therapy is composed of highly trained and experienced art therapists working alongside allied clinicians, social scientists and researchers. The art therapy course at UWS is housed in a recently restored, historic cottage on our Penrith campus, equipped with fine art materials, small and friendly studio teaching spaces, and tea and coffee making facilities.

It's all about Career Opportunities

Professional art therapists are employed in a variety of settings, including health, government and community organisations and private practice. UWS art therapy students learn and practise generic counselling and therapy skills alongside the students in our postgraduate counselling program and study the theories and methodologies needed to undertake practitioner research within the field of art therapy. This makes our graduates attractive to an employment market that puts a high value on flexible and transferable practitioner skills and on the ability to research and critically reflect upon one's area of professional practice.

Upon graduating, a substantial number of our students have been offered paid work by the agencies where these students undertook their clinical placements.

Professional Accreditation

Graduates of the course are eligible to apply for registration with ANZATA, the Australian and New Zealand Art Therapy Association and are entitled to coverage under the NSW State Health Professionals Award. Our course is consistent with ANZATA training guidelines and meets nationally and internationally recognised clinical training standards for the profession of art therapy.



Recommended Study Sequence (Full-time)

Qualification of this award requires the successful completion of 160 credit points.

Year 1

Autumn

Art Therapy: Histories, Theories, Groups
Counselling 1

Spring

Art Therapy: Application to Client Groups
Counselling 2

Year 2

Autumn

Clinical Studies
Research Methods for Humanities and
Social Sciences
Theories of the Social

Spring

Further Clinical Studies
Integrating Theory, Research and Practice

Clinical Placement

Students are required to undertake 750 supervised hours of clinical field placement over two semesters in the second full-time or third part-time year of study.

Entry Requirements

Candidates will need to possess:

- » an undergraduate degree in Visual Arts, Fine Arts or Design;
or
- » an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences, Psychology, Health Sciences or Education, or Humanities with relevant major, plus substantial additional tertiary level training and experience in the Visual Arts including at least two relevant units of study at university level.

Additional Selection Criteria

Candidates will also require:

- » a minimum of one year of equivalent full-time paid or voluntary employment working in a supportive capacity with people in a community, welfare, health or education setting
- » two written references or letters of recommendation from currently available referees, at least one of which is from a relevant work context as above
- » evidence of a developed and sustained visual arts practice together with demonstrated understanding of how this practice relates to training as an art therapist, in the form of a portfolio of the applicant's artwork (originals or photo documentation) accompanied by a written artist's statement of 200–250 words.
- » submission in writing of a 200–250 word statement of intent that explains why the person is seeking entry to the course.

Applicants will also be required to participate in, and satisfy, the requirements of an interview.

Recognition of Prior Learning

Special equivalence may be granted to candidates on the basis of evidence they submit at the time of application for academic, professional and/or any other qualifications they hold.

Students will be granted advanced standing on the basis of having previously completed the Graduate Diploma in Expressive Therapies at UWS, although this Diploma will no longer be offered from 2009.

Pathways

A Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy is available as an exit point only and is not professionally recognised. Students have the option of graduating with a Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy after completing the first 80 credit points of the Master of Art Therapy.

Master of Art Therapy graduates who are interested in extending their professional skills and qualifications may be eligible for advanced standing (for the units Counselling 1 & 2) in the Graduate Diploma in Counselling.

How to Apply

Applications for the course must be made through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC) online at www.uac.edu.au

Further information on postgraduate courses and the application procedure is available on the Future Students section of the UWS website: <http://future.uws.edu.au>

Postgraduate Coursework Booklets are available free of charge from UAC and the UWS Course Information Centre (1800 897 669).

International Students

Part-time mode for this course is not available to international students due to Australian student visa regulations.

International students should apply directly to the University. Application forms and information on admissions are available at www.uws.edu.au/international/admissions

For more information about studying at UWS including course information, English language requirements, intakes, tuition fees, assessment methods, accommodation options, and living in Australia, please visit www.uws.edu.au/international or contact internationalstudy@uws.edu.au

The University of Western Sydney reserves the right at all times to withdraw or vary courses listed within this publication. Variations may include but are not limited to location of its courses on UWS campuses or other locations. In the event that a course within this publication is to be changed or withdrawn, applicants will be advised by mail to the address specified by them on their UAC application. In respect of course location change, students should be aware of the need to accommodate such changes for the whole or part of courses for which they enrol.

CRICOS provider code: 00917K

Domestic students

For further information contact the Course Information Centre on 1800 897 669
or email postgraduatestudy@uws.edu.au

International students

For further information contact the Course Information Centre on +612 9852 5499
or email internationalstudy@uws.edu.au