Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies
UNDA Course Code 4000

The significance and importance of Aboriginal Studies

The Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies covers a range of significant and contemporary areas of Aboriginal study. The program covers Aboriginal history, spirituality, culture, politics, and issues surrounding the principles and practices of reconciliation.

This program may lead to or enrich careers in community and youth work, education programs, local, state and federal government departments, health care and health promotion and non-government organisations (NGOs)

2016 commencement and course overview

The Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies will be offered from early 2016 through Notre Dame’s Sydney campus. The program will be offered in flexible blended mode meaning that students can pace their studies and balance their study load with their work, family and other responsibilities.

One of the highlights of the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies is the immersion program held at Notre Dame’s Broome campus in Western Australia. One of the key objectives of the Broome campus is to provide strong support for the process of reconciliation for the large Aboriginal population of the region. The Broome campus provides the opportunity for students to immerse themselves in their Aboriginal studies and learn about Aboriginal world views, culture, connection to country, family and social life, health, and the history of colonisation.

Students will spend two weeks in July 2016 and 2017 at Broome in on-campus accommodation or in accommodation of their choice.

Students will be mentored by well-known and highly-respected Indigenous facilitators including Professor Pat Dodson, one of Australia’s most prominent Indigenous leaders and Mr Peter Yu, a Yawuru man from Broome with over 35 years’ experience in Indigenous development and advocacy.

Through on-campus sessions, field trips ‘on country’ and visits to local organisations, participants will gain a sound understanding of issues relating to Aboriginal people as well as comparing current policies and practices within Australia and globally.

Throughout the program students are encouraged to reflect on the challenges of reconciliation and how they can become more culturally aware as both citizens and professionals.

Course Structure

The Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies consists of four units studied over two years. Students are required to undertake one compulsory core Aboriginal Studies unit, AB500 The Silent History, and three additional elective units.

In addition to AB500, the following unit will be offered on Notre Dame’s Broome campus:

TH512 Spirituality and the Challenges of Reconciliation – taught by Professor Patrick Dodson

Other elective units may include:
AB503 Aboriginal People in Contemporary Australian Society – online unit
AB504 Aboriginal People and the Media
AB531 Aboriginal People and the Legal System – online unit
AB501 Cultural and Spiritual Life of Aboriginal People
AB533 Aboriginal People and Social Justice

Mode of study and assessment

Units for the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies are offered using the Regional and Remote Development Model (RRDM) which combines independent study with intensive week-long units on the Broome Campus during the July Winter Term. Electives will also be offered over the course of Semester 1 and 2 using virtual lectures and online learning.

Admission requirements

Notre Dame encourages applications from people of all backgrounds and takes into consideration the applicant’s academic performance as well as their personal qualities and accomplishments. For entry into the Graduate Certificate of Aboriginal Studies, students must have attained a Bachelor degree from a recognised Australian or overseas university, showing the attainment of satisfactory grades.

Early application is encouraged as sufficient enrolment numbers are required for the course to run. Applications should be received at least one month prior to commencement.
Accommodation

The Broome Campus offers quality on-site accommodation in the Student Village. The Student Hostel provides short-term low-cost accommodation for students who attend intensive units.

Travel to and from Broome, accommodation and living expenses are additional to the course fees.

Further information

The Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Studies provides a very unique insight into and appreciation of Indigenous Australians and their history, spirituality, culture, politics and much more.

On completion, students may wish to use this course as a pathway to studying other postgraduate degrees such as a Master of Philosophy.

Enquire now to find out more or to gain the program outline please contact the Prospective Students Office on 02 8204 4404 or at sydney@nd.edu.au or visit the website at www.nd.edu.au