



Curtin University



Tertiary education for Indigenous Australians

THE CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDIES

Course Guide 2024

Make Tomorrow Better

karda.curtin.edu.au

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies vision is to contribute to positive social change for Indigenous Australians through higher education and research.

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KAYA WELCOMETO THE CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDIES

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The Warning: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be advised that this brochure may contain images of those who have died.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) Building 211 is a culturally safe and inclusive space where we value knowledge, respect and understanding.

With its long tradition of empowering and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to take initiative and ownership of their own learning, the Centre holds an enduring sense of belonging, autonomy, and strength for Aboriginal people at Curtin University.





Mar barruiny mar (hand in hand) walking alongside each other

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Curtin acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people whose land we are on and recognise the strength, resilience, and capacity of the Noongar people where Curtin University is situated. We pay our respect to their vibrant and endless culture and the leadership of the Elders past, present and future.

DEADLY STRENGTH BY DESIGN

The design of the Centre functions as a model of Aboriginal self-determination. Distinct from most other buildings on campus, the Centre is circular in design. This important feature echoes the CAS logo – a goanna, or Karda in the local language, curled in a circular shape to represent the continuity of life, as well as unity and equality. Built from wood and stone, ochre in colour, and flooded with warm natural light, the CAS building complements the friendly and informal atmosphere created by staff. These elements help to ensure that Aboriginal people feel a sense of belonging at the Centre.

THE MIDGEGOROO MEETING PLACE

The Centre's main lobby is dedicated to the memory of Nyungar elder, Midgegoroo. The fight for freedom and equality embodied in the life and death of Aboriginal resistance leaders like Midgegoroo and his son Yagan epitomises the struggles of oppressed cultures across time and inspires us to work towards a vision of a world where all people are free and equal on their own terms.

THE CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDIES MOSAIC

The circular mosaic on the floor of our building portrays the many different Aboriginal tribal groups coming together in celebration around a central meeting place.

The mosaic was developed from an award-winning painting by the late Joan Martin, an Aboriginal artist from the Murchison area who sadly passed away in 2008.





Connection, Culture and Language

Discover a range of elective units and courses that we offer students for On-Country experiences, connection to the land and environment and learn about cultural identity and embedding Indigenous perspectives.

Courses to Explore

Bachelor of Indigenous Australian Culture Major

Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

Master of Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

Elective Units: 25 Credits Each

Indigenous Australian Land and Environment

On-Country Learning, Exploring Indigenous Australian Knowledges

Nyungar Culture and Identity

Indigenous Australian Art & Design: Ancient and Contemporary

Rock Art, Archeology and Antiquity

The Centre offers a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for learning Noongar language. This is self-paced learning, fully online and free for students across the globe. This course introduces Noongar culture and language.

For more information about the MOOC please contact Brenda Larsen
Email: brenda.larsen@curtin.edu.au





INDIGENOUS STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

ITAS Tutoring

Tutoring is available for all our Indigenous students to assist with their academic learning.

Our tutors are friendly, experienced, and culturally sensitive to the needs of our Indigenous students. The program is fully funded at no cost to the student.

Contact:
cas-itasadmin@curtin.edu.au

ASPP – Aboriginal Student Placement Program

A work orientated program designed to place students in a variety of casual, part-time, and full-time roles of paid employment across Curtin.

CAS DEADLY MENTORING PROGRAM

The program is designed for students at Curtin to gain access to one-on-one support and help build a thriving mindset to succeed at university and throughout life.

Weekly workshops available. You can join as a mentor or mentee.
Contact: cas.enquiries@curtin.edu.au

COUNSELLING AND ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

We have an on-site Aboriginal Psychologist available to students. Our psychologist provides a professional, confidential, and safe space to talk. For students who have or are experiencing a disability that impacts their studies, we offer a Curtin Access Plan (CAP).

EMERGENCY SUPPORT

CAS provides emergency financial assistance to students who need it. We can provide emergency food packs, food vouchers and SmartRiders.

Contact:
Indigenous.Support@curtin.edu.au

ACCESS TO WIFI, COMPUTER LAB AND COMMON ROOM

These student resource spaces are designed for Indigenous students. We offer free printing and 24/7 access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

SCHOLARSHIPS

CAS offers a range of scholarships to Indigenous students to create better future outcomes.

These include:
Moorditj Yorga Scholarship
Moorditj Maaman
Curtin Indigenous Partnerships
Recommendation Award
2024 Chris Lewis Scholarship





COURSES WE OFFER





Empower and strengthen the wellbeing of Indigenous Australian communities through studying our Indigenous Mental Health course. ITEC is available as an enabling entry pathway into CAS.

BLOCK RELEASE STUDY MODE

We offer internal block release study mode at CAS that runs every day for 2 weeks and we facilitate this 4x a year.

We offer this through two streams: Indigenous Community Management and Development and Indigenous Australian Mental Health Principles and Practices.

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You can take part in cultural field trips and camps, receive life coaching and specialist tutoring, and benefit from scholarships or emergency financial assistance if the need arises.

Once you have completed this course, you will be eligible for entry into a range of Curtin's degree and associate degree programs. If you have completed the mathematics unit, you may qualify for some of the undergraduate science courses that lead to engineering studies at Curtin.

INDIGENOUS TERTIARY ENABLING COURSE - ITEC

Prerequisites: You must be at least 17 years old, of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, and have completed at least year 11 of secondary education or have a TAFE qualification. You must also be able to demonstrate literacy and numeracy skills.

Following your application, you will need to come to Curtin to attend an interview and take a test for literacy and numeracy skills.

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Duration: 6 months, full-time Study Mode: On campus or online

Campus: Bentley (Perth)

ITEC Description:

Learn in a culturally safe environment that values your cultural background and promotes a strong sense of identity. This one semester course will prepare you for your university study. It can broaden your career options and provide you with a solid base for future work opportunities or study.



INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN MENTAL HEALTH PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN MENTAL HEALTH PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

Degree: Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Australian Mental Health Principles and Practices)

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Prerequisites: Available only to applicants of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Your education, personal and work experience, existing skills, community, family, and employer support are evaluated. It is preferable that you are working or prepared to undertake voluntary work in an Aboriginal health or community-related position.

Study mode: Full-time, block release. You are required to attend 4x two-week study blocks.

Duration: 3 years bachelor's degree full-time or 2 years associate degree full-time.

Course Description: Skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health workers are in high demand. If you are already working in a health-related position, this course will increase your knowledge and skill set to perform more effectively. You can learn the skills required to provide an alternative, inclusive approach to health management that acknowledges Indigenous healing practices.

This course aims to empower you to become a role model for positive change in Indigenous mental health. You will gain practical skills in crisis intervention and recovery, counselling, and psychotherapy practice.

You will also learn how to achieve this through the application of Indigenous knowledge, mental health research and evaluation, leadership, policy development and mental health law and ethics.

Career opportunities: This program may lead to employment in mental health research and evaluation, promotion and advocacy, law and ethics, counselling, and psychotherapy.



INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Degree: Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Community Management and Development) OR associate degree in Indigenous Community Management and Development.

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies.

Prerequisites: Available only to applicants of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. Work experience in an area of community management and development is an advantage. Alternative pathways are available for mature age applicants.

STAT: Not applicable.

Study Mode: Full-time, block release only
You are required to attend four two-week blocks per annum on the Bentley Campus and in regional learning centres when available.

Duration: 3 years full-time (bachelor's degree) or 2 years full-time (associate degree).

Course description:

The Indigenous community management and development course aims to give you the skills you need.

to make a positive impact in your community. You will be able to explore ways to implement effective, culturally appropriate change and have the opportunity to develop knowledge that enables you to take on management roles and to add to your professional development.

You will be encouraged to take on leadership roles to foster a community that is considerate of Indigenous Australian values and works towards greater Indigenous involvement with organisations responsible for Indigenous services.

This course has a common first year, followed by the stream of your choice. In this course, you will attend four study blocks of two weeks at Curtin's main campus each year.

The bachelor's degree course covers four main areas of study: management theories and practices; community development processes; policy development; and implementation issues.

You can also explore historical, social, political, and economic factors and the ways in which they have influenced contemporary Indigenous society.

Career opportunities:

Once completed this course, potential employment area opportunities include project management, community program evaluation, policy development, research planning and reporting, commerce, and leadership.



CAS ALUMNI

Indigenous Mental Health Course: Graduate Jacqueline Holub

Completing this study over 3 years was a lot of hard work, but a dream come true for me – particularly as a mature aged student. I had always wanted to study at university but wasn't sure I could do it. Now, I am a Graduate, with a bachelor's degree in Indigenous Mental Health and I know I can do it!

This degree has given me a very in-depth knowledge on how Indigenous peoples of Australia mental health has been impacted since colonisation and the Stolen Generation. This course highlights how health professionals should treat Indigenous peoples in a culturally appropriate manner and in a holistic healing way, due to the vast amount of grief, loss and trauma Australian Indigenous people experience.

I would highly recommend this course to all Indigenous peoples interested in Indigenous Mental Health. It can improve personal and family relationships, help our Australian Indigenous communities, and equip you to gain employment in the mental health industry.



HOW TO APPLY

You apply for all courses directly to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies. The application process differs slightly for each level of study:

INDIGENOUS TERTIARY ENABLING COURSE:

1. Contact us to enquire
now.Tel: +61 8 9266 7091
Email: Indigenous.Support@curtin.edu.au
2. Attend the interview and test, held in January and June.
3. Begin the Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Course in February or July.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY HEALTH AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT:

1. Contact us to enquire
now.Tel: +61 8 9266 7091
Email: Indigenous.Support@curtin.edu.au
2. Talk to your employer or volunteer coordinator about how to balance your job, your family, and your studies.
3. Send your forms to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies to confirm your place at the workshop. You should have your application form, ABSTUDY form and letter of support from your employer or volunteer coordinator.
4. Attend the workshop and information session nearest to you. We usually hold workshops in Perth at our Bentley Campus.
The workshop is where we hold the admissions interview and test.
5. Begin your first study block in February.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Apply now to study in 2024.

Scholarships can assist in paying some of your fees or expenses while you're studying.

Pictured above artwork was commissioned for the Moorditj Yorga Scholarship Program. This represents the transference and continuity of knowledge between generations of Aboriginal women since creation.

Scholarships are available for students at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies as well as Indigenous students in other faculties.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

CURTIN SCHOLARSHIPS

Curtin scholarships are offered exclusively to Curtin students. The university awards merit-based, needs-based and industry supported scholarships that reflect Curtin's commitment to community service, excellence, and leadership.

POPULAR SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Moorditj Yorga Scholarship
Moorditj Maaman Scholarship
Curtin Indigenous Partnerships Recommendation Award
2024 Chris Lewis Scholarship

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS

These scholarships are available to assist Indigenous and Torres-Strait Islander students from low socio-economic backgrounds to undertake a full-time enabling course or bachelor's degree leading to a higher education award.

EXTERNAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Offered by industry and private agencies to assist Western Australian tertiary students. If you study at Curtin, you may be eligible for an external scholarship, depending on your area of study, academic performance and background.

For enquiries contact:
Indigenous.Support@curtin.edu.au



CAS EVENTS

Curtin University's main campus in Perth, located in Bentley, is home to a friendly and supportive community of students from all walks of life. A range of opportunities is available for you to have fun on campus, such as clubs, sporting groups and social events.

Between classes you can wander through the campus and enjoy CAS events with traditional Aboriginal Dance performances, smoking ceremonies, Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement to Country, delicious food trucks, amazing artwork, gym facilities and health and support services.

Cultural Immersion

Watch performances from Aboriginal Dance groups, attend a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, engage in Bush Tucker cultural workshops, enjoy a movie at an Outdoor Cinema or visit the John Curtin Gallery to explore global perspectives on contemporary art.

Fitness

Curtin Stadium offers a variety of fitness and sporting options catering for all levels of skills and experience. Improve your fitness in the gym facilities or choose from an array of team sports including football, cricket, tennis, basketball, and volleyball.

Student Experience

At CAS we host a range of student events such as:
BBQ's
Yarning circles
Deadly Mentoring Workshops
Yoga, Meditation and breathwork
Art classes

Social Clubs

At Curtin, the Student Guild runs many social clubs and extra-curricular activities, including the Guild Ball, Pasar Malam Night Market, Barefoot Lunches, multicultural week and market days.

Student Excursions

CAS provides class excursions at no cost to the student. Some of these experiential day trips include Walyunga National Park, the Swan Valley Margaret River Chocolate Factory and dinner held at Burswood on Swan.

Public Transport

Close to public transport, with bus stations located on both sides of campus. One bus station is located next to IGA and ST Cat's. All buses take you to Canning Bridge Train Station which can connect you to the main train line services across Perth.



Pre-Medicine and Health Sciences Enabling Course

Build confidence and develop the skills to pursue university studies in health sciences and medicine.

Pre-Medicine and Health Sciences Enabling Course

This enabling course provides an alternative entry pathway into undergraduate health courses.

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies Study Mode: Full-time, internal Duration: 1 year full-time

Campus: Bentley (Perth)

Admission Criteria: You must be 17 years old, of Indigenous Australian descent and must meet English language proficiency and academic requirements. Alternative pathways are available for mature age applicants.

Course description:

The Indigenous Pre-Medicine and Health Sciences Enabling Course equips students with key academic skills to transition into undergraduate studies.

The course provides practical learning experiences, collaborative lab work, anatomy simulations and mentoring.

Two units such as Indigenous Cultures and Health Behaviours and Foundation of Professional Health Practices may contribute to credit in undergraduate courses.

Set places at the Curtin Medical School will be prioritised for students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, with additional places going to those from rural backgrounds, or from schools where high numbers of students face educational disadvantage.

Career Opportunities:

Once completed this course, you will be equipped with the skills and confidence you need to start undergraduate studies and will be eligible for entry into a range of Curtin health science courses.

You can then transition into highly qualified areas of health and medicine and gain a solid base for further study or work opportunities.

Key units in this course:

Indigenous Tertiary Study Skills
Indigenous Australian Studies
Chemistry Essentials 1
Communication, Ethics and Research
Chemistry Essentials 2
Foundations for Professional Health Practice
Human Structure and Function



Pre-Science and Engineering Enabling Course

Develop the confidence and skills to pursue university studies in science and engineering.

Pre-Science and Engineering Enabling Course

This enabling course provides an alternative entry pathway into undergraduate courses.

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Study Mode: Full-time, internal

Duration: 1 year full-time

Campus: Bentley (Perth)

Admission Criteria: You must be 17 years old, of Indigenous Australian descent and must meet English language proficiency and academic requirements.

Course description:

The Indigenous Pre-Science and Engineering Course encourages the development of critical thinking, problem-solving and leadership skills.

Are you interested in stars, planets, and galaxies? Or perhaps engineering, computing or nanotechnology? This pathway is designed to give you the necessary knowledge and skills to pursue your goals and dreams in the fields of engineering and science. The only prerequisite is your own curiosity.

You will benefit from small class sizes and a range of academic support services at the Centre including mentoring and tutoring.

You will learn fundamental academic and communication skills as well as introductory science and mathematics topics in a culturally appropriate environment.

Career opportunities: Once completed this course, you will be equipped with the skills and confidence you need to start undergraduate studies and will be eligible for entry into a range of Curtin's science and engineering courses.

You can then transition into highly qualified areas of science and engineering and gain a solid base for further study or work opportunities in STEM.





Master of Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

Enhance your career opportunities, explore contemporary Indigenous perspectives and much more with this new course.

MASTER OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL STUDIES

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies offers a distinctive postgraduate master's program.

Faculty: Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Study Mode: internal

Duration: 1 year full-time or part-time equivalent

Campus: Bentley (Perth)

Admission Criteria: Applicants must meet University academic and English language entry standards. You will require a Bachelor (Hons) degree, a Graduate Certificate, or a Graduate Diploma (AQF 8 qualification).

Students with a bachelor's degree and relevant course experience may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Course description:

The Master of Indigenous Australian Studies is informed through environmental issues and Native Title, Indigenous research methodology, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literature and creative practice, social commentaries, unique historical and contemporary perspectives of local and global Indigenous experience, sense of place, Aboriginal organisational practice, and visits to Country.

This course will offer students and employee graduates who are ready for an HDR degree in research, or who are poised to work with high order skills and thinking regarding Indigenous knowledge systems and cultural practices.

Students are offered a culturally safe space and learning experience. Indigenous students will flourish and, in this learning, and research environment and non-Indigenous students will gain cultural learning and a view of Indigenous knowledge. Staff are Indigenous with in-depth knowledge to share.

Career opportunities: Graduates of this course will be well equipped to work in industry as diverse as the arts, mining, teaching, Indigenous and local state government organisations.

Key units include:

Introduction to Indigenous Australians
Australian Indigenous Literature Creative Perspectives
Social, Cultural and Historical Contexts of Indigenous Australians
Indigenous Research Methodologies
Graduate Listening to Country:
First Nations Perspectives
Indigenous Australian Land and Environments



CAS LEADERSHIP



Director
Fred Yasso



Dean of Teaching
& Learning
Robyn Heckenberg



Business Centre
Manager
Mel Darroch

Boordawan