



Curtin University



The Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Tertiary education for Indigenous Australians
course guide

2025

Make tomorrow better.

Kaya

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

Acknowledgement of Country

Curtin University acknowledges all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of this place we call Australia and recognises the many nations who have looked after Country for more than 60,000 years.

We acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people whose land we are on and recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of the Noongar people where Curtin is situated.

We are honoured and grateful for the privilege to maintain campuses operating in Boorloo (Perth) and Karlkurla (Kalgoorlie) in Australia. We pay our respects to Elders

past and present as Custodians and Owners of these lands. We recognise their deep knowledge and their cultural, spiritual and educational practices, and aspire to learn and teach in partnership with them.

Curtin also acknowledges First Nations people connected with our global campuses.

We are committed to working in partnership with all Custodians and Owners to strengthen and embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voices and perspectives in our decision-making, now and into the future.

CURTIN PERTH ACADEMIC CALENDAR

	SEMESTER 2, 2024	SEMESTER 1, 2025	SEMESTER 2, 2025
Orientation Week	15–19 July	17–21 February	14–18 July
Semester starts	22 July	24 February	21 July
Semester ends	8 November	13 June	7 November

Applications close two weeks before orientation!
Visit curtin.edu/calendar for all study periods for 2025.
Visit curtin.edu/deadlines for application deadlines.

¹Application closing dates and orientation dates are subject to change and may vary depending on the course. Dates are for Curtin Perth only. Contact other campuses directly for details.



Welcome to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies

Enjoy learning in a culturally appropriate environment at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) on the Curtin Perth campus. Here, you will find a supportive base that empowers you and gives you a sense of belonging during your tertiary education.

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 you feel a sense of belonging at the centre.

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.

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.

Indigenous student support

Studying can be challenging, but you'll be supported with our range of academic, living and wellbeing services based conveniently on campus

ITAS tutoring (Indigenous Tutoring Assistance Scheme)

ITAS tutoring is available to assist with your academic learning. Our tutors are friendly, experienced and culturally sensitive to your needs. The program is fully funded, so there is no cost for this service.

Email: cas-itasadmin@curtin.edu.au

Employment service

Our Aboriginal Student Placement Program is a work-orientated program that can find you casual, part-time, and full-time work experience or paid employment across Curtin.

Deadly mentoring program

This CAS-run program gives you one-on-one support and helps you build a thriving mindset to succeed at university and throughout your life. There are weekly workshops and you can join as a mentor or a mentee.

Email: C_Enquiries@curtin.edu.au

Counselling and accessibility services

We have an on-site Aboriginal psychologist available for professional and confidential guidance and a safe space to talk. If you have a disability that impacts your studies, we have additional support services and resources to help you succeed in your studies.

Emergency support

We can provide emergency financial assistance such as food packs, food vouchers and SmartRiders if you are in need.

Email: indigenous.support@curtin.edu.au

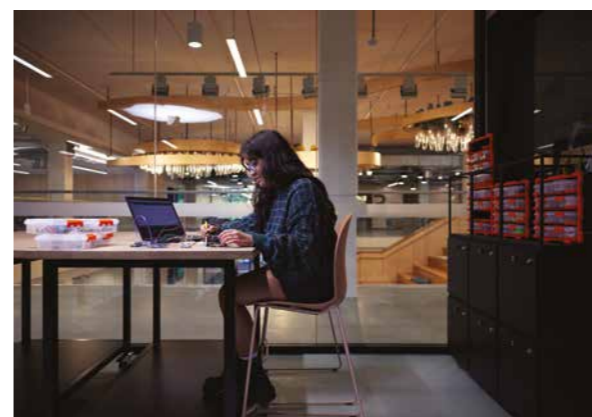
Access to wifi, computer lab and common room

These Indigenous student resource spaces can be accessed 24/7, and there are printers you can use for free.



Student life

Curtin Perth is home to a friendly and supportive community of students. You can join clubs, sporting groups and enjoy a wide range of social events.



Cultural immersion

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

Exciting events and excursions

You'll be invited to join barbecues, yarning circles, Deadly Mentoring workshops, yoga, meditation and breathwork art classes. We also provide free class excursions, including experiential day trips to Walyunga National Park, the Swan Valley Margaret River Chocolate Factory and dinners held at Burswood on Swan.

Events for high school students

Career advice or campus visits	Tel: 1300 222 888
Indigenous Australian Engineering School	curtin.edu.au/engage/outreach-offerings/stem-outreach/indigenous-australian-engineering-school/
Curtin Open Day	Sunday 6 April 2025
Future Student events	curtin.edu.au/events/
Curtin outreach activities	curtin.edu.au/engage/outreach-offerings/
Kedala Djinanginy – Day of Looking	Tour the campus, participate in hands-on activities, sport and tours

Sports and exercise

Curtin Stadium is the home of sport and fitness on campus, offering a range of activities you can participate in at a level that suits you. The stadium has:

- a fully equipped gym, group fitness studio and specialised studio
- indoor and outdoor multi-use courts
- a health and rehabilitation clinic.

To find out more, visit curtin.edu.au/sport.

You can also relax in the many beautiful gardens on campus or use some of the extensive green spaces to have some fun – such as our disc golf course.

Indigenous Nationals

This annual, week-long multi-sport competition for indigenous student-athletes event brings together competitors from universities across Australia to compete in a variety of sports and ultimately crown one university team the champion of the games. Indigenous Nationals is an amazing environment to not only celebrate the rich sporting culture of indigenous Australia but to also acknowledge the heritage and history of the participating student-athletes. Come and join the Curtin Indigenous Nationals team!

Find out more: unisport.com.au/indigenous-nationals.

Social clubs

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

Food

Whether you need a coffee or a bubble tea, a burger or a banh mi, you can get it on campus. In addition to the IGA supermarket, we have a range of food trucks and cafes, as well as the Tavern.

Healthcare

We have a range of health and wellbeing services for you on campus, including a physiotherapy clinic and a medical centre where you can visit a doctor, occupational therapist, psychologist, counsellor or social worker.

Public transport

Curtin Perth has a bus station on each side of the campus. Buses run regularly to Canning Bridge train station and to the city, as well as out to the suburbs.



Accommodation

Curtin Perth has six on-campus accommodation options for you to choose from. Managed by St Catherine's College and UniLodge, all of our accommodation is close to campus and shopping facilities.

Curtin Perth has six on-campus accommodation options for you to choose from in 2025. Managed by St Catherine's College and UniLodge, all of our accommodation is close to campus and shopping amenities – offering you an easy urban lifestyle.

Benefits of living on campus

A convenient lifestyle

All accommodation is just a short walk to your classes. You're also within reach of our on-campus supermarket, food outlets and health services, and close to a shopping centre and food hub.

Plus, there are two bus stations on campus – so when you want to explore further afield, it's easy to catch a bus to cafe strips, restaurants and attractions in nearby suburbs, as well as the entertainment venues and shopping precincts of Perth city.

Cost-efficient living

Accommodation is furnished and your utilities are included in your rent. St Catherine's College residents can also have meals included. You won't need to pay a bond or security deposit, and you'll have free wi-fi and Curtin Stadium gym membership (off-peak) – all of which make living on campus even more cost-efficient and convenient.

Independence and friendship

Living on campus during your university years will give you a sense of freedom and independence. And it's easy to make connections with other residents – you'll meet people from different towns, cities, countries and cultures. Imagine the unique experiences and the friendships you'll make that could last a lifetime!

Peace of mind for parents

If you're a parent or guardian whose child is about to start their university journey, you'll appreciate how living on campus will help them transition to independent living while remaining in a safe, structured environment. An on-campus living experience will also enhance your child's engagement with their studies and campus life.

Safety and security

All the accommodation has secure access. Plus, there's staff available to help when you need it. Curtin's Safer Community Team are also on-hand to respond to any general safety and security issues.

St Catherine's College

St Catherine's College gives you a personalised, highly supportive residential experience, with fully catered options, to help you succeed in your university studies. Your rent includes tailored academic support such as tutoring and formal academic dinners.

The college features an impressive dining hall, study spaces, common areas and music rooms. It also offers a program of social events that brings residents together and helps create a thriving student community.

Dandjoo Darbalung provides culturally relevant support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are studying at TAFE or university in Perth. The program is run by St Catherine's College at Curtin Perth. Dandjoo Darbalung means 'mixing together' in Nyungar and relates to the way fresh water and saltwater mix in the Swan River. Activities offered through Danjoo Darbalung include creating canvas artworks, weaving and cultural practices and cultural dance events.



Book a tour of St Catherine's College

UniLodge

The five UniLodge properties at Curtin Perth offer various independent-living options – such as self-contained studios with ensuites and private rooms in shared apartments – to suit different needs and budgets. You'll become part of a culturally diverse community and enjoy a Residential Life Program filled with events and activities throughout the year.



Book a tour of UniLodge properties

Here on block release?

If you are coming to Curtin on block-release, we will arrange short-term accommodation for you.

To find out more, email: indigenous.support@curtin.edu.au

Studying in Kalgoorlie?

If you're studying in Kalgoorlie as part of your course, you can live at our Agricola student accommodation. Agricola is just across from the campus and a short walk to the town centre. To find out more, visit curtin.edu/Kalgoorlie-accommodation.

To find out more about accommodation, visit curtin.edu/accommodation.



Finances

Before you start your course, find out how much it will cost and look at ways to manage your budget.

Curtin offers Commonwealth-supported undergraduate places to Australian citizens. This means the Australian Government will pay part of your fees directly to Curtin. You do not have to pay back this amount. You only pay the remainder of the fee, known as the student contribution amount.

To apply for a Commonwealth-supported place, you must submit an electronic Commonwealth Assistance Form (eCAF) with your tax file number to Curtin. You will also need to provide Curtin with your Unique Student Identifier (USI).

As a Commonwealth-supported student, you can defer your student contribution fee via the Government's HELP loan scheme. To find out more, visit studyassist.gov.au/help-loans.

ABSTUDY

Centrelink may provide financial assistance if you are studying and meet other specific criteria. In particular, ABSTUDY can help with school fees, boarding costs, living costs, travel costs and essential course costs.

If you get ABSTUDY living allowance, you may also get other payments such as ABSTUDY additional assistance, rent assistance and student start-up loans. Applications are assessed on an individual basis. For more information, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au/centrelink.



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

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

There are many scholarships available to you, whether you are studying in the Centre for Aboriginal Studies or in other Curtin faculties.

Here are just a few of the scholarships on offer, but there are many more.

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.

Indigenous scholarships

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Program provides one application to assess and inform you of any scholarships you may be eligible for. These scholarships include:

- Moorditj Yorga Scholarship
- Moorditj Maaman Scholarship Curtin Indigenous Partnerships Recommendation Award

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 and to see the breadth of scholarships available, visit scholarships.curtin.edu.au.





Courses

When you study a course at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies, you'll gain the hands-on skills and knowledge to work confidently in Indigenous communities.

Block release

Our main undergraduate courses are available via block release, which means you'll spend most of your study time within your community and attend Curtin Perth for two weeks at a time, four times a year, where you'll take classes on campus and meet other students from all around Australia.

It means that if you don't live in Perth, you can still get a quality education while remaining in your community.

Travel and accommodation support

If you're travelling from a remote rural or regional area to Perth for your classes, you may be eligible for travel and study support. We also offer assistance with accommodation for block students. To find out more, contact: indigenous.support@curtin.edu.au

Enabling courses

These six and 12-month courses lead to a range of Curtin undergraduate degrees in business, health, science and engineering. They are specifically designed for students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent.

Indigenous Pre-Medicine and Health Sciences Enabling Course

An enabling course to help First Nations students gain entry into any health sciences course, including Medicine.

QUALIFICATION

Indigenous Pre-Medicine and Health Sciences Enabling Course

MINIMUM ATAR

N/A

PREREQUISITES

You must be at least 17 years old, of Indigenous Australian descent, and meet English language proficiency and other entry requirements.

Apply at curtin.edu/en-premed or send an expression of interest to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies with any relevant academic transcripts or training documents. Proof of your Indigenous Australian descent may be required.

DESIRABLE

N/A

STAT

To demonstrate English proficiency only

PORTFOLIO

Not accepted

INTAKE

Semester 1

STUDY MODE

Full-time

DURATION

1 year

LOCATION

Perth

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/en-premed

Overview

Are you interested in a career in medicine or health? This course will prepare you for entry into most Curtin health courses (including Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery), giving you the skills and confidence to study a health course in a culturally appropriate environment.

You'll study several foundation subjects, including health sciences, chemistry, mathematics, academic literacy and study skills.

Completion of two units – Foundations for Professional Health Practice, and Human Structure and Function – will be credited to your chosen degree.

Indigenous Pre-Science and Engineering Enabling Course

Our Indigenous Pre-Science and Engineering Enabling Course will prepare you for an enjoyable career in science or engineering.

QUALIFICATION

Indigenous Pre-Science and Engineering Enabling Course

MINIMUM ATAR

N/A

PREREQUISITES

You must be at least 17 years of age, of Indigenous Australian descent and meet the English language proficiency and academic requirements.

To apply, visit the link below or send an expression of interest to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies. Provide any relevant academic transcripts or training documents with your application. Proof of your Indigenous Australian descent may also be required.

DESIRABLE

None

STAT

To demonstrate English proficiency only

PORTFOLIO ENTRY

Not accepted

INTAKE

Semester 1

STUDY MODES

Full-time

DURATION

1 year full-time

LOCATION

Perth

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/en-indpse

Overview

This enabling course is a pathway for Indigenous Australian students interested in studying an undergraduate science or engineering course at Curtin.

It will help you meet the requirements for your chosen course and will equip you with the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed at university.

Throughout the enabling course, you'll benefit from small class sizes and a range of academic support services at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies, including mentoring and tutoring.

When you complete the course, you will be eligible for entry into a range of Curtin's undergraduate science and engineering courses.

Depending on the course you choose, you may be exempt from one unit based on what you've learned in the enabling course.

You can then transition into diverse areas of science or engineering, and gain a solid base for further study or work opportunities.

Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Course

Be supported in your learning and fast-track your studies.

QUALIFICATION

Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Course

MINIMUM ATAR

N/A

PREREQUISITES

You must be at least 17 years of age, of Indigenous Australian descent and meet the English language proficiency and academic requirements.

To apply, visit curtin.edu/en-indpse or send an expression of interest to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies. Provide relevant academic transcripts or training documents with your application. Proof of your Indigenous Australian descent may also be required.

DESIRABLE

None

STAT

To demonstrate English proficiency only

PORTFOLIO ENTRY

Not accepted

INTAKE

Semester 1, semester 2

STUDY MODES

Full-time, part-time

DURATION

6 months full-time

LOCATION

Perth

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/en-tert

Overview

This short course is designed to fast-track First Nations students with a secondary education and/or a relevant TAFE qualification into undergraduate study.

When you complete the course, you will have the skills and confidence you need to study at tertiary level, and you'll be eligible for entry into a range of Curtin's degree and associate degree programs.

You can also benefit from career development opportunities such as mentoring and support in finding student work placements.





Undergraduate Certificates

Understand and strengthen the culture and wellbeing of Indigenous Australian people and communities.

Undergraduate Certificate in Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

This course is designed for people interested in pursuing a career in the Australian Indigenous space. You'll examine significant historical, cultural and contemporary issues which have shaped and continue to shape the lives of Nyungar people in Western Australia.

You'll investigate the physical and spiritual relationship between Indigenous Australians and the land and water; learn about cultural, historical and social conditions and major issues which have shaped and continue to shape the lives of Indigenous people in Australia; and discover Indigenous visual arts, performing arts, storytelling and literature, and learn the importance of maintaining traditional knowledge and practices.

Course structure

- Nyungar Culture and Identity
- Indigenous Australian Land and Environments
- Introduction to Indigenous Australians
- Indigenous Australian Arts
- There are no prerequisites for this course.

Find out more and apply at: curtin.edu/indcs

On-Country experiences

If you're studying at Curtin, why not choose an immersive On-Country experience for one of your elective units.

Our cultural study units offer non-Indigenous students an understanding of Australia from an Indigenous perspective.

Elective units

Indigenous Australian Land and Environments

Learn to identify the key components of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and explore cross-cultural and Indigenous ways of seeing and knowing. Explore the importance of land and sea in Indigenous Australian culture and examine the development of colonial, political and ideological structures, and how to challenge dominant discourses.

On-Country Learning, Exploring Indigenous Australian Knowledges

Learn significant historical, cultural, and contemporary issues which have shaped and continue to shape the lives of Nyungar people in Western Australia. Hear life experiences from local Indigenous staff and transition your learning from the classroom to the field.

Indigenous Australian Art & Design: Ancient and Contemporary

Understand Indigenous art production and encounter models and case studies from Aboriginal and Torres Strait protection. You'll discover 'meaning making' in Indigenous Australian Art and will explore the diversity and antiquity of art expression on this continent and the Traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

On-Country Nyungar Culture and Identity

This unit is an amazing opportunity for Curtin students from any discipline to join together and learn more about Aboriginal people in Nyungar Country. The classroom experience transcends the typical four walls – you'll go on Country and gain real world experience. This elective unit is delivered during mid-semester over seven days. You must be able to attend every day and you'll be transported to and from various locations.

Rock Art, Archeology and Antiquity

Study Aboriginal perspectives of rock art and archaeological sites and explore a living narrative of Aboriginal cultural practices. You'll learn about long-term occupation, heritage the continuity of Aboriginal ontologies and understand the interrelatedness of Indigenous ownership, with Indigenous spiritual feeling for Country.



MOOCs

Study the Noongar people of Western Australia, their culture and their language, at your own pace in this online course.

Noongar culture and language

Online learners from across the globe have the unique opportunity to learn about the language and culture of the Noongar people of Western Australia.

You'll be taken on a journey through Noongar Boodja (Noongar country), join Noongar guides as they share knowledge of personal experiences of history, land and culture, and will be introduced to conversational Noongar – learning words and phrases that can be used in simple dialogue. This MOOC is free for students, fully online and self-paced.

Email: brenda.larsen@curtin.edu.au

Wandjoo noonakoort, which means: welcome everyone!



Undergraduate degrees

Our undergraduate courses are available via block release, which means you'll spend most of your study time within your community and attend Curtin Perth for two weeks at a time, four times a year.

Indigenous Professional Practices

Become a role model for positive change in First Nations health and communities.

DEGREE

Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Professional Practices)

MINIMUM ATAR

N/A

PREREQUISITES

Available only to applicants of Indigenous Australian descent. You must do an admissions test and submit a résumé

DESIRABLE

None

STAT

To demonstrate English proficiency only

PORTFOLIO ENTRY

Not accepted

INTAKE

Study block 1¹

STUDY MODES

Full-time*

DURATION

3 years full-time

LOCATION

Perth

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/bach-indigpp

¹ You must attend four study blocks on campus per year. See curtin.edu/blockstudy.

Overview

The Bachelor of Applied Science (Indigenous Professional Practices) provides you the opportunity to learn in a culturally appropriate environment about Indigenous mental health and community development.

This course aims to empower you to become a role model for positive change in Indigenous health and communities. You will learn how to achieve this through the application of Indigenous knowledge, mental healthcare, community development concepts and practice, and project development, implementation and evaluation.

Graduates may qualify for entry into a bachelor degree with honours and some graduate certificates, graduate diplomas and master degrees.

This course allows you to choose between two majors: Indigenous Community Management and Development, and Indigenous Mental Health Principles and Practice.

Indigenous Community Management and Development

The Indigenous Community Management and Development major aims to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students with the knowledge and skills required to bring about effective, culturally appropriate social change in Indigenous services and community settings.

You will learn about innovative community management practices as well as Indigenous way of working and community development principles.

The course covers six main areas of study:

- Project management theories and practice
- Community development processes and practice
- Policy development and implementation issues
- Analysis of the main historical, social, political and economic factors and the ways in which they have influenced contemporary Indigenous society
- Evaluation research
- Organisational management and governance.

Indigenous Australian Mental Health Principles and Practice

The Indigenous Mental Health Principles and Practice major enables you to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to work as an Indigenous mental health practitioner.

It will provide you with comprehensive mental health strategies, skills, knowledge and treatment methodologies to engage with Aboriginal mental health patients.

Careers

- Community engagement officer
- Indigenous mental health officer
- Policy manager
- Project manager

Industries

- Community development
- Indigenous mental health
- Education
- Health
- Public relations

Indigenous Professional Practices (Associate degree)

This associate degree gives you the skills required to provide an alternative, inclusive approach to health management that acknowledges First Nations healing practices.

DEGREE

Indigenous Professional Practices (Associate Degree)

MINIMUM ATAR

Not applicable

PREREQUISITES

None

DESIRABLE

None

STAT

To demonstrate English proficiency only

PORTFOLIO ENTRY

Not accepted

INTAKE

Semester 2

STUDY MODES

Full-time, part-time

DURATION

2 years full-time

LOCATION

Perth

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/ad-indigpp

Overview

Skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers are in great demand. More Indigenous professionals are needed in the health industry to work within their communities and provide holistic healthcare frameworks.

This course also aims to empower you to become a role model for positive change in Indigenous health. You will learn how to achieve this through the application of Indigenous knowledge, primary healthcare, health promotion, community development concepts and practice, and project development, implementation and evaluation.

If you are already working in a health related position, this course will increase your knowledge and skills to perform more effectively. You can learn the skills required to provide an alternative, inclusive approach to health management that acknowledges Indigenous healing practices.

Graduates may qualify for entry into a bachelor degree with honours and some graduate certificates, graduate diplomas and master degrees.

The course allows you to choose between two majors: Indigenous Community Health and Indigenous Mental Health Worker.

Indigenous Community Health

This major provides you with the skills and knowledge necessary to work in the policy, planning, health promotion and project management areas of the Indigenous health industry.

It aims to empower and strengthen the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through a holistic, multidisciplinary approach that encompasses contemporary Indigenous healing practices, Indigenous self-determination in health, the application of Indigenous knowledge, primary health care, health promotion concepts and practices.

This major will you to take leadership roles in the formulation and implementation of programs, in particular, through the development and application of Aboriginal Terms of Reference.

Indigenous Mental Health Worker

This major gives you the skills and knowledge necessary to work in Indigenous mental health.

It aims to empower and strengthen the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through a holistic, multi-disciplinary approach that encompasses traditional healing practices and best practice treatment in mental healthcare.

It provides comprehensive mental health strategies, skills, knowledge and treatment methodologies to engage and inter-relate with Aboriginal community mental health patients who may be suffering with a mental health illness.

Careers

- Community engagement officer
- Indigenous mental health officer
- Policy manager
- Project manager

Industries

- Community development
- Indigenous mental health
- Education
- Health
- Public relations

Indigenous Australian Culture

DEGREE

Bachelor of Arts

ADMISSION PATHWAYS

ATAR; VET Certificate IV or higher; Portfolio entry, STAT, Curtin's enabling courses

GUARANTEED ATAR

70

ATAR PREREQUISITES

None

ATAR DESIRABLE SUBJECTS

ATAR subjects (or equivalent): Geography major: Geography History major: Modern History or Ancient History

INTAKE

Semester 1, semester 2

STUDY MODES

Full-time, part-time

DURATION

3 years full-time

LOCATION

Perth, online

CRICOS CODE

068750M

LEARN MORE

curtin.edu/bach-arts

Overview

In this course you will learn to identify the key components of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity and explore cross-cultural and Indigenous ways of seeing and knowing. You'll gain a strong understanding of Indigenous Australian communities and worldview, and be able to contrast that with the dominant worldview.

You'll also learn about the events and ideas that led to the development of colonial, political and ideological structures; and how to challenge dominant discourses of development – including in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

You'll explore the importance of land and sea in Indigenous Australian culture and learn how to appraise the significance of sacred and significant sites within local and global contexts. This knowledge will also help you to apply appropriate cultural competencies when engaging with Indigenous artists.

This course includes on-Country experiences and study tours, and you'll have access to the facilities of Curtin's renowned Centre for Aboriginal Studies.

Upon completing this course you'll have the skills for diverse professional roles, including in government departments, the private sector and Indigenous organisations.

Careers

- Aboriginal support officer / consultant
- Indigenous culture consultant
- Heritage consultant
- Tourism and travel consultant
- Curator
- Museum officer / consultant
- TAFE teacher¹
- Researcher / research assistant

¹ May require an additional teaching qualification.

Industries

- Arts
- Tourism
- Regional development
- Health
- Mining and energy
- Education
- Foreign affairs



Postgraduate degrees

Complete a postgraduate course to specialise in Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies or to advance research in Aboriginal Studies.

Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

This course is for those working or intending to work with Indigenous Australian people.

It will give you understanding of the cultural diversity and ways of Indigenous Australians, communities and organisations, examining the cultural, social, economic and political contexts and issues confronting Indigenous Australian people. The dynamic and complex environment in which Indigenous Australian people are positioned is considered through an Indigenous Australian perspective.

All the units are underpinned by principles of social justice and are informed by emergent Indigenous Australians critical theory.

To learn more, visit curtin.edu/gc-indauc.

Master of Indigenous Australian Cultural Studies

This distinctive master degree looks at 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 to name a few. It also has opportunities for research.

To learn more, visit curtin.edu/mc-indcs.

Higher degrees and research

Develop culturally appropriate ways to improve the lives and enhance the futures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities continue to face challenges that impact on all facets of life. Our researchers are combining multidisciplinary knowledge — both ancient and new — to develop solutions that will improve the wellbeing and support the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

Across our research, we collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders and communities to ensure the strategies we develop are culturally appropriate and underpinned by Indigenous knowledge, practice and perspective.

Through Curtin, you can study a Master of Philosophy (Indigenous Research and Development) and a Doctor of Philosophy - Aboriginal Studies.

As a doctoral research degree candidate, you will uncover new knowledge either by the discovery of new facts, the formulation of theories or the innovative reinterpretation of known data and established ideas. Your research will use an in-depth understanding of theories and concepts to develop practical solutions for real-world problems.

Find out more about our research at curtin.edu/atsik.





How to apply

You apply for enabling courses and bachelor degree courses directly to the Centre for Aboriginal Studies. You apply for undergraduate certificates, on-Country units and postgraduate courses through Curtin's online course pages. The application process differs slightly for each level of study.

Enabling courses

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 your enabling course in February or July.

Indigenous Community Health and Indigenous Community Management and Development undergraduate degrees

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 at Curtin Perth. The workshop is where we hold the admissions interview and test.
5. Begin your first study block in February.

All other courses

1. Go to the relevant course page
2. Click Apply Now and follow the prompts.

For more information on applying to Curtin, visit curtin.edu/apply.



Applying to Curtin if you have a disability

If you have a disability or health condition, there are support services and resources to help you succeed in your studies.

Finding a suitable course

The Australian Disability Clearinghouse on Education and Training has assistance for exploring your course options, from NDIS plans and financial considerations, to choosing a course. Remember to check for inherent course requirements before you apply. To find out more, visit curtin.edu/inherent-requirements.

Accessing Curtin's disability services

Once you have chosen your course, make an appointment with us to discuss your requirements. We will help you create a Curtin Access Plan, which is a document that outlines the adjustments you need to study the course. You can also apply to bring your support worker onto campus.

Other disability supports include provisions for assistive technologies, tailored library services and a mentoring program for students with an autism spectrum or related condition. To find out more, visit curtin.edu/access-ability.

Coming to campus

Curtin offers wheelchair-accessible routes, courtesy bays and ACROD parking. Subject to availability, we also provide mobility scooters and manual wheelchairs for short-term loan. To find out more, visit curtin.edu/access-and-parking.



We're here to help

If you have any questions about admission, our team can help you.

Tel: 1300 222 888

FAQs: future.connect.curtin.edu.au.

Web: curtin.edu.au/study.



CAS leadership team



Director

Fred Yasso

Mr Yasso, a proud Juru man from North Queensland, has been a part of CAS since 2019, contributing in various capacities, including leadership roles. Yasso holds a Bachelor of Applied Science in Indigenous Community Health and is a prominent figure in Indigenous mental health field.

Former Curtin Provost, Professor Jeremy Kilburn, highlighted Yasso's experience in implementing major teaching initiatives centered on Indigenous cultures and perspectives. He stated that this experience would be instrumental in ensuring CAS continues to uphold its commitment to Indigenous education and positive change for First Nations People.

"Fred is a leader who will foster and maintain the environment CAS is proud of - one in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and all students and staff work collaboratively to achieve excellence in learning and teaching, research, innovation, engagement and impact," Professor Kilburn said.



Dean of Learning and Teaching

Associate Professor Dr. Robyn Heckenberg

Robyn is a proud Wiradjuri woman and esteemed Associate Professor dedicating her life's work to academia. She holds multiple degrees in business and teaching, including a PhD.

Robyn is also a Cathedral Scholar of St Georges Cathedral Perth, has worked in the Higher Education sector and TAFE system for a significant amount of time, and on many community projects and endeavours regarding social justice, environment and Country and accompanying Human Rights.

As a Wiradjuri academic she has been privileged to be given the opportunity to work in Noongar Country and Western Australia more broadly. She has worked in universities across Australia, as well as being an alumna of the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (formerly Batchelor College); University of Newcastle; La Trobe University and Monash University.

Uppermost in her expectations of becoming a better self is supporting ways for Indigenous Australians to secure contentment and to flourish by decolonising non-Indigenous viewpoints, and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stories within the national narrative in a fair and equitable way.



Business Centre Manager

Melony Darroch

I am a proud Whadjuk/Baladong Nyungar woman with deep familial connections to the Baladong, Wilmen, Wongi, and Yamatji peoples.

My sister and I were raised by our parents and grandparents, often staying with our grandparents in York and attending primary school there. I share their stories of resilience and tenacity as they lived and provided for their family in the wake of the 1905 Aborigines Act and their experiences as part of the Stolen Generations.

I hold an undergraduate degree in Indigenous Community Management, Development, and Planning. With over 35 years of experience in finance, policy, and compliance across both private and public sectors, including international work. I am the Business Manager at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University. I love working at the Centre, supporting our staff and students.

Boordawan





For more information

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Web: curtin.edu/study

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