



MASTER OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES EDUCATION

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE &
GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF
INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES EDUCATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

“The Master of Indigenous Languages Education course has not only enhanced my confidence and professionalism as a teacher, but has also been vital in my current role as regional consultant. Having knowledge of Indigenous Languages Education has allowed me to further strengthen links with traditional custodians and language keepers in order to maintain and promote the local language across my region.”

MILE Student – 2008

“The Master of Indigenous Languages Education course has further developed my teaching skills and that in turn has increased my employability within the educational and broader arenas.”

MILE Student – 2009



The Koori Centre of the University of Sydney offers three Graduate courses in Indigenous Languages Education; the Master, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate. These courses are designed to meet the need for qualified Indigenous Australian instructors to participate in teaching their languages in a range of educational settings. They are delivered in away-from-base mode (block-release) over three one-week blocks each semester. The Master and Graduate Diploma take one year to complete and the Graduate Certificate takes one semester.

To qualify for the award of the Graduate Certificate students must complete the following units of study offered in the first semester:

- Sounds & Writing in Indigenous Languages
- Words & Meanings in Indigenous Languages
- Sentences & Texts in Indigenous Languages
- Theories & Methods in Languages Education.

Graduate Diploma students must also complete two of the following second semester units:

- Language Curriculum Development
- Technology & Language Learning
- Learning an Indigenous Language.

Masters students must complete four second semester units chosen from:

- Language Curriculum Development
- Technology & Language Learning
- Research Methods in Languages Education
- Research Project in Languages Education, or
- Learning an Indigenous Language.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

These courses are only available to Indigenous Australian people. Candidates for the Graduate Certificate must have completed two years towards a teaching qualification, or hold similar qualifications acceptable to the Koori Centre. Candidates for the Graduate Diploma must have first qualified for the award of the Graduate Certificate. Candidates for the Masters must have qualified for the award of the Graduate Certificate with an average grade of 70% or higher, or currently hold a four year teaching qualification such as a Bachelor of Education, or Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Education. There is no language proficiency requirement for entry to or award of these courses.

TEACHING QUALIFICATION

Please note that the Masters, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate do not substitute for a standard teaching qualification. But they do provide professional development for teachers in Indigenous Languages Education, and training for others to assist teachers or work in community education in Indigenous Australian languages. If you wish to be employed as a teacher in a school you will still need to complete a standard teaching qualification for your state or territory.

The NSW Department of Education & Training acknowledges the availability of the Master of Indigenous Languages Education offered at the University of Sydney and accepts this program as providing appropriate training for qualified Aboriginal teachers seeking additional approval to teach an Aboriginal language.

LEARNING A LANGUAGE

Candidates who wish to learn an Indigenous language as part of the Masters or Diploma programs must have access to a suitable external language learning program or study a language offered by the University of Sydney. Such programs may be provided by TAFE, language centres, or private providers and must entail at least 36 hours of fluency teaching to be recognised as equivalent to a 6 credit point unit of study.

At this stage the University of Sydney is only offering a six credit point unit of study in Gamilaraay as part of a Bachelor of Arts Degree. Students who wish to undertake this course would need to attend classes in Sydney one day each week for 13 weeks in first semester. No travel, accommodation or food money is available to attend these classes as they are not offered in away-from-base mode.



CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS STUDIES

Candidates who have undertaken previous studies in the area of Indigenous Languages Education may be eligible for credit up to a maximum of half the program total, provided that those studies are equivalent in content and standard and have not already been counted towards the award of any other qualification. An application for credit is included with the application form. In general credit is not available for being a speaker of a language or having undertaken previous studies in a language. Instead, candidates will be encouraged to undertake further study or research in their language, or learn another language to expand their skills in Indigenous Languages Education.

COSTS

These courses are offered under the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS). Students may elect to pay their HECS upfront and receive a discount, or defer payment to be made in future through their income tax.

Students who live more than 1.5 hours travelling time from the University will have their travel, meal and accommodation expenses to attend blocks of teaching in Sydney covered by Commonwealth government funding.

All Indigenous Australian students undertaking full-time study are eligible for payment of an incidentals allowance under Abstudy at the beginning of each year. This applies whether or not they are eligible for living allowance. The incidentals allowance is usually enough to cover the cost of most student fees or textbooks and related expenses.

Candidates who are eligible for Abstudy living allowance may also be eligible to have part of their HECS and other compulsory fees reimbursed. Check with your local Centrelink office to have your eligibility assessed.

Currently employed teachers and education assistants should check with their employer regarding conditions for study leave and the availability of scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The University of Sydney offers a number of scholarships for Indigenous Australian students. These may be equity or merit based and can provide for payment of HECS or other purposes. Applications can only be made after enrolment.

INTERESTED?

For more information or to express your interest in undertaking the Masters, Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate, please contact:

Graduate Languages Programs

Koori Centre

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The Koori Centre is located in the Old Teachers' College at the corner of Manning Rd and Western Ave on the Camperdown Campus.



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KOORI CENTRE

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The University reserves the right to make alterations to any information contained within this publication without notice.