



# *Why study* **COUNSELLING?**

If you enjoy learning about how the human mind works, have a passion for understanding and journeying with people, and are interested in developing skills and gaining qualifications that will help people heal and live a better life, you would thrive in a career in counselling.



## WHY STUDY COUNSELLING?

Avondale's Graduate Diploma in Counselling offers you the opportunity to develop these skills. Successful completion of the diploma will help you be industry-ready and enable you to seek employment as a professional counsellor or in a counselling-related position. Possible jobs available to you include:

- | School counselling
- | Gambling counselling
- | Private practice
- | Telephone counselling
- | Relationship counselling
- | Drug and alcohol counselling
- | Welfare and youth work counselling.

## WILL I GAIN PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE?

Your educational experience will have a strong emphasis on practical skill development. You will engage in practise counselling sessions with other students to simulate the counselling-client-experience. Through personal reflection and group discussion you will develop your skills in settings that will nurture your growth and enhance your learning.

You will also complete a clinical placement for a minimum of 40 hours of face-to-face counselling with clients to help you engage professionally and competently in the workplace.

## WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

The Graduate Diploma in Counselling is a two-year, full-time program that includes 16 units of study.

It provides students with both the experiential and theoretical foundation to function as professional counsellors in Australia. Examples of some units of study you will take include:

- | **Fundamentals of Counselling**
- | **Psychotherapy and Counselling Theories**
- | **Ethics, Diversity and Spiritual Integration**
- | **Developmental Theories and Counselling.**

## WHAT MAKES OUR PROGRAM UNIQUE?

Based on a Christian worldview, the course:

- | Emphasises the common factors essential to counselling;
- | Introduces students to research in the science of counselling;
- | Introduces various counselling methods, and;
- | Builds basic and advanced counselling skills.

Because of our small class sizes, you will receive personalised attention and have the ability to interact closely with your lecturers and other fellow students. This will enhance your learning experience.

# WHAT DO OUR *students say?*

Micheal Godfrey was a teacher before studying counselling at Avondale University.

"Avondale was one of my options when I decided that counselling is what I wanted to pursue and study. I talked to the course convenor on the phone, and I was quite impressed.

***"The thing that swayed me was the Christian foundation. I really value studying counselling from a Christian perspective. I think that's an advantage Avondale has over other universities."***

"Avondale has a good balance between theoretical and practical components. I enjoy being on campus and getting that hands-on experience. Something else I like about Avondale is the small student class sizes. I felt that I would get more support at Avondale, and this has been true: I am getting a lot of support. It's nice to know your lecturers and be supported in this way."

## **As a student, you can expect:**

- | Lecturers who are regularly available to provide feedback and engage with students
- | Flexibility and consideration of individual student circumstances
- | Emphasis on your learning style
- | Faculty who is committed to your development as a whole person, and
- | Real focus on your career readiness upon graduation.

## **MEET THE COURSE CONVENOR**



Paul has been a clinical counsellor in educational, private practice and agency settings for many years. He has been involved in counsellor education since 1996 and has been working full time at Avondale University since 2014. Paul holds a Master of Science in Marriage and Family Therapy and is a PhD candidate. His PhD is exploring the relationship between attitudes to faith and emotional wellbeing.

Paul is passionate about helping people in faith communities increase their understanding of mental health in order to provide greater empathy and acceptance to those suffering from emotional brokenness. He also enjoys seeing students grow in their understanding and practice of the art of counselling.

## IMPORTANT PROGRAM DETAILS

### Fees

Tuition fees for 2023 are A\$2,495\* per unit of study for domestic students, and A\$3,405 per unit of study for international students. Eligible domestic students can apply to defer their tuition fees to a FEE-HELP loan.

\*This is the fee for a standard unit of study. Some units attract higher fees.

### Program Intakes

There are two intakes a year:

February/March and July/August.

This course can be completed on-campus or via distance mode (with some residential intensives).

### Program Duration

The Graduate Diploma of Counselling is a two-year course with 16 units of study. You can choose to study full-time or part-time, with up to six years to complete the course.

### Entry Requirements

Prospective Australian or New Zealand students will need to:

- | Have an undergraduate university degree in any field, and
- | Participate in an interview with the course convenor, placement coordinator and an experienced psychologist or counsellor. The interviews can happen face-to-face or online.



Prospective international students will need to meet the university's English language requirements. **Scan or click here for more information.**

## WHAT NOW?

**Your Counselling journey starts here. Get in touch with our postgraduate student advisors and we will guide you through the online application process, or provide you with more information.**

**Book a 15-minute consultation**

Email [study@avondale.edu.au](mailto:study@avondale.edu.au)  
Call +61 02 4980 2377

