

Graduate Diploma in Orientation and Mobility (O&M)

1. Entry Requirements

Q: What are the Entry Requirements?

A: A 3-year bachelor's degree (AQF level 7 is the entry level into this program. Applicants with equivalent undergraduate qualifications or other experience are welcome to apply to determine if they might meet the requirements through alternate pathways.

A requirement of the US certifying body ACVREP (Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation & Education Professionals) is that candidates have qualification of AQF 7 or higher, thus graduates of this Graduate Diploma will be eligible to take the US ACVREP certification exam to become a COMS. (Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist)

Q: Can postgraduate qualifications be assessed for credit transfer?

A: Yes, please state when applying if you wish to be considered for credit transfer.

Q: I have a postgraduate degree, will this be accepted?

A: Yes, we accept bachelors and higher degrees. (AQF level 7)

Q: I have a bachelor's degree from health sciences, can I receive credit for this?

A: Students with a prior qualification in health science or a related area may receive credit for prior learning. Please state when applying if you wish to be considered for credit transfer.

Q: Can work experience be considered for credit eligibility?

A: Work experience can be considered for credit eligibility. Please provide CV, lived and occupational experience, work references and statement of service and specify on your application if you wish to be considered for credit eligibility. Please all provide information including whether you were supervised by a certified Orientation and Mobility specialist with ACVREP COMS certification. You will still be required to complete assessable components.

2. Length and Offering

Q: How long does it take to complete this degree.

A: This program is 1 year Fulltime, it is made up of 8 x 6 UoC courses. You need to complete 48 UoC. Over three terms.

Q: When is this program offered?

A: In 2021 the program opens in Term 2 (31 May 2021). From 2022 onwards the program will accept new students in Term 1 (January-February) of each year.

3. Cost

Q. How much does this program cost?

A. The Fee is \$31,200 plus there is an annual student services and amenities fee of \$313.00.
<https://student.unsw.edu.au/ssaf>

Q. Are there Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP)?

A. Currently no, but this may change in the future.

Q. Does this program qualify for HECS-HELP?

A. Yes, please refer to: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/hecs>. to find out if you are eligible for HECS-HELP.

Q. Are there other costs associated with this program?

A. Students are required to complete 80 simulation-teaching training hours. Students not residing in Sydney might need to travel to Sydney for 1-3 weeks to complete these hours if the appropriate supervision is not available in their home state.

Students are also required to complete 350 hours of work experience learning (WIL). Some costs associated with this work experience might need to be met by the student, although many organisations will support WIL hours through in-kind support.

4. Learning and Teaching

Q. Can this program be taken part time?

A. Currently this is a full-time program only.

Q. Is this program taught face to face or online?

A. Lectures and tutorials are on-line, with approximately 1 hour face to face tutorials per course per week. There are placements made up of a significant Work Integrated Learning (WIL) component, and real-world simulation. As mentioned above, if appropriate supervision (COMS) cannot be arranged for students residing outside of Sydney, students might need to travel to Sydney for this face-to-face learning.

Q. I don't live in NSW, can I complete this program in another State?

- A.** Yes you can, we are hoping you will have the opportunity to complete your placements in your home state. If arrangements for the block of practical's in the second term of study cannot be arranged for students residing outside of Sydney, students might need to travel to Sydney for this face-to-face learning. As if a WIL placement can not be arranged in your state, then you may need to undertake this requirement in another state.

Job Prospects and Professional Recognition

Q. What sort of job opportunities will be available once I have completed the Graduate Diploma in Orientation and Mobility?

A. The UNSW Graduate Diploma in O&M is the only program of its kind in Australia. Currently there are a lack of orientation and mobility specialists in Australia, particularly in rural areas. There is the opportunity of working in non-for-profit rehabilitation organisations, the private sector, in research and overseas, i.e. Singapore, Africa and the Pacific Islands are in need of O&M specialists.

Q. Registration with ACVREP

A. Following completion of the Graduate Diploma in O&M, graduates wishing to achieve registration with ACVREP will need to pass a certification exam. The Graduate Diploma in O&M has been developed to meet the content and WIL hours required for COMS certification.