



Charles Sturt
University

Explore.
Progress.
Change.
Your career.

Postgraduate guide 2023-24

Join Australia's leading regional university

Our university is grounded in the qualities we draw from our regional roots – our sense of community, our will for hard work, and our resilience when times get tough.

We are proud to partner with the traditional owners and custodians of the lands where our campuses sit: the Wiradjuri, Ngunawal, Gundungurra and Birpai peoples.

And we're connecting new technologies with traditional wisdom to protect regional ecosystems and forge a more sustainable future.



Good Universities Guide 2022/23

Yindyamarra winhanganha

is a Wiradjuri phrase meaning 'the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live well in a world worth living in'. It's at the heart of everything we stand for at Charles Sturt University. Join a community that's committed to changing things for the better.



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Why do postgraduate study?

Progress your career

Are you looking for a way to advance your career? The answer is ongoing skill development. In a word, upskilling.

Upskilling refers to learning new skills to improve your performance – and possibilities – in your current career. You're building on your existing knowledge base to keep yourself at the cutting edge of your industry and make yourself invaluable to your employer.

Studying an industry-aligned postgraduate degree from Charles Sturt will help you upskill and progress your career. Expand your knowledge, diversify your skills or explore a new specialisation. From health and education to business and science, there's a graduate certificate, graduate diploma or master's degree for you.

Continual skill development is a necessity in our changing world of work. But there's also a lot in it for you.

1. Skill development = job security.
2. Position yourself for promotion – explore leadership or management positions.
3. Transition into new opportunities – learn a new specialisation.
4. Boost your salary – increase your earning potential.
5. Increase your job satisfaction – grow professionally and personally.



Frances Brogan loves working in nursing. She knew she wanted to stay in the industry, but was keen to progress her career – and move away from shift work. Cue postgrad study with Charles Sturt.

“The role I started in at the same time as my postgraduate study was as a nurse educator, a direction I wanted to take my career in. Since then I've moved into a nursing research intern position. That's a role I would never have thought of looking at before I did my postgraduate degree. I've found there are so many more pathways in my career that I'm interested in now – and can pursue.”



In 2022, median salaries for workers with postgraduate qualifications were \$23,600 higher than those with undergraduate qualifications.

Postgrad coursework graduates earned \$91,600, while postgrad research graduates earned an average wage of \$96,000.*

*2022 Graduate Outcomes Survey Report

Change your career

Is it time to take your career in a new direction? Do you want to make a change and pursue a new path? Whatever the reason you're considering a career revamp – and there are many – postgrad study can put you on the path to a successful career change.

Reskilling refers to learning a new set of skills in order to move into a completely new occupation. It will help you transition between job functions and industries.

Any previous study and industry experience mean you've got a unique advantage – transferable skills and knowledge to transform your career. At Charles Sturt you'll get the right support, preparation and guidance to help you make a successful career change that will open up a world of opportunity.

- Find a better work-life balance.
- Benefit from increased pay opportunities.
- Explore new and evolving careers.
- Reinvent yourself to extend your career.
- Pursue a passion and get the career you really want



For Clare Jackson, graduating from her postgraduate degree at Charles Sturt led to a surprising career change.

“Postgraduate study broadened my horizons. It allowed me to find an area of learning that I was passionate about – sustainability, renewable energy and waste management. Postgrad study also gave me the self-confidence to apply for roles that I didn't think I had the skills for.

Reflecting on where I was prior to completing the postgraduate study, I was in a position where I enjoyed my job; however, I knew it wouldn't be for ever. Ultimately, postgraduate study has led me to the position that I'm in today.”

Study that works for you

We have more than 190 postgraduate courses available – and each one is packed full of the latest knowledge, ideas and skills.

- **Fit** – Online study means you can learn when and where suits you. Your busy life doesn't stop, so at Charles Sturt we make it easier to juggle your commitments, with everything you need for your course online.
- **Adapt** – We know life is more hectic at some times than others. So as things change, you can modify your study to fit them. Take extra subjects when you have a bit more time. Scale back to one or two when you're busier. You can even study over the summer to get ahead.
- **Build** – You know where you want to take your career next. Build the course that will get you there. Combine subjects from different areas and select from a range of elective subjects. You might be studying comms but also want to gain an understanding of your audience's mindset with a psychology subject. Or you might want to complement your IT studies with some management skills to help you run your future business. With us, you can.

It's your degree, done your way.



Where will you make a difference?

Our career areas



Agriculture and environment



Animal and veterinary sciences



Arts and communication



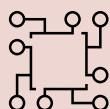
Business



Education and teaching



Information and library studies



IT and computing



Medicine and health



Policing, law and security



Psychology and social work



Science and engineering



Theology and Islamic studies

→ study.csu.edu.au/career-area

Charles Sturt University courses may be subject to change. Course information is correct at the time of publishing. For up-to-date information, please visit study.csu.edu.au

Choose how far you'll go

We have different types of postgraduate study – so you can find the right level of study for your career goals.

Short and sweet

Micro-credential

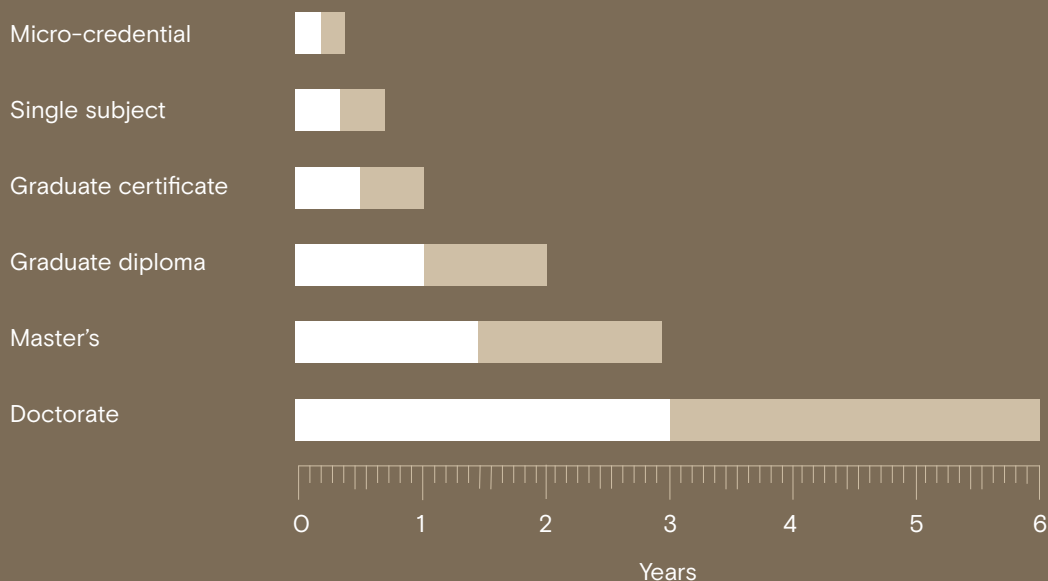
Though a micro-credential isn't technically postgrad study, a quick two- or four-point micro-credential can be a great upskilling opportunity. What's more, you can then stack them towards a graduate certificate, graduate diploma or master's. Browse the full range of [micro-credentials](#).

Single subject study

Dip your toe into university study or gain knowledge of a particular area to boost your career. Study a single subject to hone a new skill or get back into the groove of studying. You'll study the same course material that's in our degrees so you can apply for credit if you decide to study a related course. Explore Charles Sturt's [single subject](#) options.

How long does postgraduate study take?

■ Full-time ■ Part-time





A graduate certificate

A graduate certificate, or a grad cert for short, is all about giving you advanced skills and knowledge. They're ideal if you're already working in a field, or have qualifications in that particular area, but want to take your career up a notch.

Want to change careers? A grad cert is also perfect if you want to reskill by learning something completely different and move into a new occupation. We've all heard the word 'pivot' in terms of career flexibility. You can shift and adapt to the world around you very quickly by having a grad cert under your belt.

The benefits

- You can finish in just six months! Most Charles Sturt graduate certificates can be completed in half a year of full-time study.
- You can dip your toes into postgrad study and get a valuable qualification without committing to more lengthy study. But there's nothing stopping you from building on your qualification because a grad cert is...
- A great stepping stone to a graduate diploma or master's degree.
- Start and complete selected job-ready grad certs in 2023 or 2024 and you could get discounts on your course fees. Explore what's on offer: study.csu.edu.au/graduate-certificate

A graduate diploma

We like to call it a grad dip. It's a step up from your grad cert. A more specialised qualification, it's shorter to study than a master's. You can complete it in a year of full-time study.

Sometimes this qualification is available if you don't have a bachelor's degree but have relevant work experience.

The benefits

- A grad dip is often the ideal qualification to transition into another career or get your foot on the next rung of the corporate ladder. It boosts your career credentials.
- More specialised than a grad cert, but shorter to complete than a master's, the grad dip is just right!
- Often a grad dip is what you'll need to gain professional accreditation.
- Want to go all the way? With a grad dip you're usually halfway to your master's – and you'll get credit for it if you take the next step.



What is a master's degree?

A master's degree is a specialised qualification that can lead to career advancement and opportunities for further study (such as a doctorate/PhD).

When people consider doing a master's they have two choices: a master's by coursework or a master's by research. Most areas of study offer a master's by coursework, whereas a master's by research is a more specialised qualification. (We look into the master's by research a little further along; just keep reading!)

Studying your master's by coursework means you'll delve into advanced critical analysis of your chosen subject and become the specialist you want to be.

The benefits

- Give yourself a competitive career edge with a master's degree in around 1.5 years of full-time study or three years part-time.
- For many of our master's degrees you can choose to exit early with a graduate certificate or diploma – and pick up where you left off when you're ready to.
- Depending on your previous study and industry experience, you may be able to enrol directly into a master's degree.
- It's a stepping stone to a higher degree by research – like a PhD.

Credit for prior learning

Keen to graduate as early as possible? You could with Charles Sturt's credit for prior learning. If you've studied before, or you have relevant work experience, you could receive [credit](#).

Higher degree by research

A higher degree by research (HDR) includes a research master's and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). With these qualifications you'll change the world for the better! Add new knowledge to your area of interest through original research – make new discoveries and undertake groundbreaking work.

A Doctor of Philosophy is your chance to establish yourself as an expert in your field given it's the highest university qualification. Completing a PhD could pave the way for a rewarding career in research or academia anywhere in the world.

Over three to four years of full-time study you'll make an original and significant contribution to knowledge in your chosen discipline by conducting your own research and documenting your findings as a thesis or dissertation.

A master's by research includes undertaking a major research project, usually over a two-year period. You'll develop clinical research knowledge and skills to identify, investigate, manage and resolve problems in your chosen discipline. Joining our vibrant research community and having the support of renowned discipline experts will help you shape your research and make your own distinct contribution.

The benefits

- You can apply at any time for the PhD and master's by research program. We're ready when you are!
- Your research will be unique and make a significant contribution to our world.
- You can explore research, academic or policy roles nationally or internationally.

Did you know?

Charles Sturt University was ranked well above or above world standard for seven areas in the latest Excellence in Research for Australia report.

- Agriculture and veterinary science
- Applied ethics
- Astronomical and space sciences
- Curriculum and pedagogy
- Environmental science and management
- Horticultural production
- Library and information studies



Postgraduate study is online study

Charles Sturt is Australia's most experienced online university.

There are around 27,000 people studying online with us right now!

We put everything in place to enable you to advance in your industry, diversify your expertise or start your next career – all from the comfort of... wherever you like. Everything you need is online. Lectures, tutorials, assessments, resources and community forums.

And to really hone your practical skills some courses incorporate [intensive schools](#) into your study. These on-campus experiences are great opportunities to put theory into practice alongside your peers.

Hop online for study benefits

Real flexibility

Need a guarantee that study is going to be flexible and fit in with your life? Online study with Charles Sturt is the answer. When you study online with us, you'll experience real flexibility. The kind of flexibility that lets you deal with unexpected challenges calmly and efficiently. You get to choose how, when and where you learn.

You choose the best time to study – in the morning before work or later in the evening once the kids have gone to bed. Whatever works best for you. You're not bound by a class schedule or constrained by the clock. You can watch recorded lectures whenever it suits. And jump on the forums when you have time.

"I worked full-time, and weekends were filled with sport and driving kids around, so [studying online](#) was very flexible – it suited me. If I had a busy week I could put study on hold and get back to it the following weekend. It fit in with my lifestyle and was really the only option for me."

David McMahon
Master of Environmental Management





Keep your day job

Want to advance or change your career? Don't want to quit your current job until you're ready? Postgrad online study fits around you – and your job.

Start when you're ready

When you're ready, we're ready. At Charles Sturt we have multiple start dates across the year for you to begin the next step of your study journey. So you can find one that's right for you and your family. You can start most postgraduate courses in February, July or November. Select courses also have more start dates – we call them micro-sessions – dotted through the year. So depending on your course, you could also choose to start in January, March, May, June, August or October.

Boost your soft skills

Managing work, family, and study isn't always going to be a walk in the park. But the soft skills you'll develop studying postgrad online will help you take on any challenge. Employers recognise the importance of the soft skills – like time management, organisation and work ethic – it takes to juggle life, work and study.

Stay connect and be supported

If you think online study means doing it alone, think again. At Charles Sturt you'll have plenty of opportunities to build the deep connections that are central to your study. Connections with your tutors, lecturers, fellow students and industry that will last a lifetime.

There are subject forums, live chats, email, phone, Skype and more. You can also book an appointment with your teaching staff. Join your course's [Facebook](#) or online groups. And tech issues won't get in your way when you study because IT support is easily available – and it's just a phone call away.

Top tips for returning to study

Returning to study is exciting and empowering. Keen to know how to get the most out of your time as a postgrad student at Charles Sturt? We've got the intel.

1. Be prepared for work–study balance

If you're going to nail your postgrad degree, you'll need to make a concerted effort to balance everything you have going on in your life. The best way to do this? Focus on organisation and time management. Plan your time. Study when the kids are asleep. Listen to your lectures on your morning commute.

2. Make study a daily activity

Our advice? Make study a part of your day-to-day life. For instance, when there is a mid-session break, it's better to see this as study time without classes rather than a period in which to completely switch off. Even doing something administrative like checking that the format of your essay references is correct can help keep you 'tuned in' to your studies.

3. Be realistic with your expectations

Although we advocate for you to be proactive about balancing study and life, it's also important to be reasonable about what is doable in the time you have. Make sure you build in some down time. Life events have a funny way of popping up when you least expect it – and that's okay! The most important thing is to roll with it and not put too much pressure on yourself.

4. Set SMART goals (and reward yourself!)

One of the best ways to get back into study is to set yourself some good old-fashioned SMART goals. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound – they'll become your new best friend.

SMART goals break work down into achievable steps. They can provide the clarity, focus and motivation you need to make things happen.

Extra study support, and it won't cost you a thing!

Free intro to learning online

If you're new to online study or not quite sure how you'll go in an online environment, our Introduction to Learning Online module will set you up for success. As an online student, you'll automatically be enrolled in this free, short, online course. It's your chance to familiarise yourself with our learning platform, see how you'll complete and submit assessments, and get a feel for what studying online is really like. Best of all, it can be done before the session starts so you'll be ready to roll!

Study Link

[Study Link](#) will make your transition to university a little easier and give you the confidence to succeed. Study Link subjects are short, self-paced, non-credit bearing courses. You can brush up on writing, maths, statistics, science or information technology. Supported by a real person (your subject coordinator) you can work your way through at your own pace (take up to five months if you need).

"The advantage of the Study Link subjects for me was that I got to learn the online space before I started back at uni. I was also having a change of career, coming from an arts background and going into a science course. So, the Study Link subjects that I did in maths and chemistry gave me some grounding in the subjects that I was going to be doing in my university course. That gave me confidence going into the degree."

Helen Barnett

Intensive schools

Some subjects in your course may include a compulsory or optional intensive school. These can be online or on campus. They offer face-to-face or virtual lectures, tutorials and practicals to give you a deeper understanding of your subject. You'll meet with your lecturers and other students. To help you plan, intensive school dates for the following year are released annually in September. There are also intensive school scholarships available to help with the cost of travel and accommodation. Find out if your course has an intensive school by checking the [Charles Sturt Handbook](#).

Career advice

Get that job when you graduate with the help of our [Career and Skills Hub](#). Get tips on job applications, résumé writing, interview techniques and job search strategies. Take part in career development workshops.

Online workshops

We also have a suite of online workshop resources specifically for our postgraduate students. Available any time, these sessions will equip you with valuable information, tools and tricks on essential topics, such as critical thinking, time management, proofreading and academic reading.

Library resources

Study online with Charles Sturt and you'll have access to our full library of ebooks, eJournals, encyclopaedias, multimedia resources and course readings. Order any books to be delivered by post free of charge. When you're done, just pop it back in the mail.

Affordable study to meet your goals

At Charles Sturt, we don't want the cost of study to hold you back. We'll help you navigate the finance initiatives that can help you pay for your studies.

CSP

Some postgraduate courses have commonwealth supported places (CSP), which means the government pays a percentage of your fees.

Secure a CSP and you can apply for a HECS-HELP loan.

FEE-HELP

You may be eligible for FEE-HELP when you undertake one of our postgraduate courses.

FEE-HELP is a government loan that eligible students can use to pay their tuition fees, by deferring payment until you earn a certain amount.

Tax deduction

If there's a direct connection between your study and your work, you may be able to claim your tuition fees as a tax deduction.

A tax agent, financial adviser or the Australian Taxation Office can guide you on educational deductions.

Need advice about the cost of returning to university?

Call on 1800 275 278.

Scholarships and grants

Did you know we offer more than \$5 million in scholarships and grants at Charles Sturt University? Don't rule yourself out of the running, there's an extensive range scholarships and grants available.

Many scholarships get left on the shelf because people assume they won't get one, so they don't even apply. Trust us, it's worth your while to apply – for as many as you can.

Get a discount

If you're a Charles Sturt alumni, you could receive a discount on the cost of your course.

Did you know?

You can save up to 85% on select graduate certificates. You just need to complete your study in 2023.

Ask us how or visit study.csu.edu.au/graduate-certificate



Get an insight into Charles Sturt

Our Insight blog will take you behind the scenes and explore all sorts of topics – from study options, to your next career and new courses.

Meet some of our past and present students – and learn about their personal experiences, valuable study tips and interesting careers. You just might find the inspiration and motivation you need to start your own study journey.

If you're interested in postgraduate study Insight is the place to go for the latest information.

→ insight.csu.edu.au

Make your move

Let's get started

Once you know where your passion lies and where you want to make a difference – the next step is easy. Tick off all of your course requirements, then applying for a postgraduate course online will only take around 15 minutes.

Step 1

Choose your course.

→ study.csu.edu.au/courses



Step 2

Apply online.

→ study.csu.edu.au/start-your-application



Step 3

Accept and enrol.

→ my-offer.csu.edu.au



Remember If you're looking to start study in:

February	Applications usually open August each year
July	Applications usually open February each year
November	Applications usually open July each year



Using My eEquals

To make things easy you can submit documents to us via My eEquals – which is a way you can share certified, digital versions of academic transcripts and graduation documents.

Go to your previous university's website for information about obtaining your records through My eEquals or visit myequals.edu.au

Remember, include your full name, applicant ID and date of birth with your eQual submissions – so we can attach it to the right application.

You can also submit transcripts and documents to us through the

application portal, or email documents to admissions@csu.edu.au. These should be PDF files and include your full name, applicant ID and date of birth.

Just a note, please don't try to share documents using Google Drive.

Other documents you made need

- Employment documents
- Residency documents
- Identity documents
- English language proficiency documents



1800 275 278 (free call within Australia)
+61 1800 275 278 (callers outside Australia)



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[charlessturtuni](https://www.tiktok.com/@charlessturtuni)



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