

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MEDIATION

Relationships Australia (NSW) has offered a specialist service in conflict management since 1991. Through our long association in the field of mediation and conflict management we have built up a high level of expertise and experience. This accumulated experience has subsequently led to the development of many training programs in these areas. Over the years we have conducted a range of training programs and the Graduate Certificate in Mediation represents the culmination of many years of training in this field. This course is accredited at a postgraduate level with the NSW Department of Education and Training

Aim of this course

The Graduate Certificate in Mediation is designed to provide both a general theoretical platform and a specialised concentration either in the area of Family Dispute Resolution or Work Place Dispute Resolution.

It consists of four units, two of which are common to all students. Two units are provided for the area of specialisation chosen by the student.

Who is this course for?

The Graduate Certificate in Mediation is suitable for lawyers, social workers, human resources specialists, local government officers, psychologists and others

Entry Requirements

Applicants to the Graduate Certificate in Mediation frequently have earned qualifications as lawyers, social workers, nurses, psychologists, medical practitioners, managers, human resource consultants and the like. Applicants are often registered with their appropriate professional organisations. The Graduate Certificate in Mediation is designed not only to be a stand alone qualification but also to augment existing skills and to enhance student's work in other professional disciplines. The entrance requirements are as follows:

1. Applicants need to complete and submit an application for admission available at the AIRS office, via e-mail request, or via the AIRS web site.
and
2. Applicants are required to write and submit a brief letter (of up to 2 pages) expressing their interest to the course and outlining reasons why they believe they qualify for admission.
and
3. Applicants are required to submit a current copy of their Curriculum Vitae or resume.
and
4. Completion of a Bachelor Degree or equivalent from a recognised institution in the human service subjects such law, education, social work, psychology, or counselling is preferred. Applicants seeking admission who do not have a suitable Bachelor's degree need to provide evidence that a combination of advanced study and work experience would equate to possessing a Bachelor's, such as having earned an Advanced Diploma in Counselling or closely related field, presenting at professional conferences, publications in peer reviewed journals, and directly relevant work experience involving negotiation or conflict resolution. Applicants are required to submit certified copies of all academic records.
and
5. Applicants are required to attend an interview where they will be expected to demonstrate clinical knowledge, self-awareness, a relational capacity, the ability to understand and practice ethical behaviour, and the preparedness to follow a code of ethics.

- and
6. Applicants for whom English is a second language need to provide evidence verifying completion of one of the following within the last five years:
- A TOEFL Internet-based test score of 90 with a minimum score of 24 in writing college level course work in English as evidenced by certified copies of original transcripts.
- Or
- A TOEFL paper-based score which includes the Test of Written English (TWE) with a minimum overall score of 570 and a minimum score of 5.0 in the TWE.
- Or
- One year of full-time equivalent study at the University level wherein the sole language of instruction and assessment was English. Students need to have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent in a relevant field such as health sciences, legal studies, management, human resources, industrial relations, business studies, accounting, public administration or education.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MEDIATION

MED01 Foundations of Mediation Practice

The purpose of this first unit is to introduce the student to a framework for understanding dispute resolution and in particular the 'diamond' model of mediation practice. The unit focuses on developing the students' ability to understand conflict, its impact on self and on others. Various forms of dispute resolution will be compared and contrasted. This foundational unit will then present the stages of the mediation model, and provide opportunities for skill development through the use of structured role plays. The unit will introduce the challenges and need for flexibility in working with various diverse groups and finally introduce the concepts of ethical mediation practice.

Prerequisite: Nil

MED02 Advanced Mediation Practice

The students will broaden and deepen their mediation knowledge in five key areas

- Investigation of alternative mediation models (transformative, therapeutic and commercial), and alternative dispute resolution models (conciliation, conferencing, family group conferencing and arbitration).
- Advanced exploration skills
- Advanced negotiation skills
- Variations in mediation models to suit the needs of diverse client groups including cross cultural and indigenous mediation
- Ethical considerations

Prerequisite: MED01

MED03a Specialist Area

Mediating with Families

In this unit the theoretical and practical aspects of the use of non-litigious approaches to dispute resolution in the context of various forms of family dispute – non family law - are considered. This unit will provide a foundation for understanding the unique characteristics of family mediation, and present a framework for the management of dispute resolution. Adolescent/parent, sibling, inter-generational, wills and inheritance disputes are covered.

Prerequisite: MED01 and MED02

MED03b Specialist Area

Workplace Dispute Resolution

The purpose of this unit is to introduce students to a framework for the provision of workplace dispute resolution. Students will explore workplace conflict management when interventions in addition to mediation are required, such as coaching, training team facilitation, team building, goal setting exercises and policy and procedure development.

Prerequisite: MED01 and MED02

MED04 Practicum

Supervised Mediation Practice

This unit provides opportunities for students to directly apply and practise the knowledge, skills and mediation techniques they have acquired through the previous units. It provides a range of structured learning experiences including

- live work with clients who are seeking to resolve disputes through mediation
- participation in mediation supervision of practice
- participation in continuing mediation education
- observance of case management and case administration

*Prerequisite: MED01
MED02
MED03a or
MED03b*