

RIDBC Renwick Centre

For Research and Professional Education

2018 STUDIES IN ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY AT THE RIDBC RENWICK CENTRE

Welcome to the RIDBC Renwick Centre. The RIDBC Renwick Centre is a centre for research, professional training, and continuing professional education for teachers and allied health professionals working with people with sensory disabilities. The following course of postgraduate study has been designed cooperatively with Guide Dogs NSW/ACT to provide specialised training for Orientation and Mobility Specialists. Enrolment in the series of units detailed in this document is restricted to students selected for sponsorship by Guide Dogs organisations of Australia.

Enrolment. Entry into the Master of Disability Studies course is via the Macquarie University application procedure. *(Important note: this procedure is a separate process to the application for sponsorship submitted to Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.)* Enrolment information, timetable and assistance with the application process is available from the RIDBC Renwick Centre by contacting Claire Farrington (02) 9872 0811 or claire.farrington@ridbc.org.au. The closing date for applications for entry into programs is early February 2018; however, it is recommended that students enrol as early as possible. Session One commences 19th February 2018.

Master of Disability Studies – Sensory Disability specialisation (2 years part-time)

Studies in Orientation and Mobility at the RIDBC Renwick Centre employ the current structure of Macquarie University's Master of Disability Studies (Sensory Disabilities specialisation). Staff from Guide Dogs NSW/ACT make a significant contribution to teaching courses and supervision of practicum.

The Master of Disability Studies degree requires completion of an approved sequence of 32 credit points and is designed for a wide range of candidates, including those already working in the field who wish to upgrade their skills and qualifications in sensory disability.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is offered in two parts. The first four-4 credit point unit courses of the Master of Disability Studies are undertaken in Semester One, 2018.

Semester One 2018
SPED926 Introduction to Vision Impairment
SPED928 Foundations of Orientation & Mobility for Instructors In Training
SPED929 Advanced Orientation and Mobility for Instructors In Training
EDCN800 Introduction to Educational Research *

**EDCN800 Introduction to Educational Research is offered online, directly through Macquarie University. This course is available in both Semester One and Two. Students have the option to enrol in this course during a later semester of study.*

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

SPED926 Introduction to Vision Impairment

Online.

This course provides foundation knowledge in the cause and implication of disease and vision impairment across the age spectrum. The learner will develop a broad view of the low vision needs of individuals and their role in meeting these needs.

SPED928 Foundations of Orientation and Mobility for Instructors In Training**

Providing an introduction to orientation and mobility (O&M) theory and the application of theory to problems relevant to practitioners of O&M who provide services to people with vision impairment. Topics covered will include: specification of O&M objectives, evaluation of ethical and legal frameworks, models of service delivery, theory and practice of O&M strategy and technique, and a comprehensive investigation and analysis of best practice in organisations providing low vision and blindness services.

SPED929 Advanced Orientation and Mobility for Instructors In Training**

Providing an in-depth examination of major orientation and mobility (O&M) theories and approaches necessary for delivering complex O&M services to people with multiple disabilities including vision impairment. Topics covered will include: identification and specification of complex O&M service delivery models and approaches; evaluation of

ethical and legal frameworks in complex client service delivery; family and client-centred service delivery.

*** SPED928 and SPED929 require attendance at twenty days of lectures conducted at RIDBC Renwick Centre during February and March 2018 - consult timetable.*

EDCN800 Introduction to Educational Research

Online.

By completing a series of modules, students extend their understanding of the research methods used to explore contemporary issues in a variety of education settings (eg, early childhood, school, workplace, technical and further, and higher education). Students are supported in their learning through guided reading and a series of face to face workshops. For those students who are unable to attend, audio recordings of the workshops are distributed via the unit's iLearn site.

COMPLETION OF THE MASTER OF DISABILITY STUDIES (MDisStud) DEGREE

Upon successful completion of the above four units, candidates will become eligible to apply for full-time employment with Guide Dogs NSW/ACT and complete the remainder of the MDisStud program part-time. The remaining four units in the MDisStud course includes a supervised practicum experience (SPED930) which is mentored through Guide Dogs NSW/ACT.

The anticipated part-time study sequence for the remaining four units in the MDisStud program is as follows:

Semester Two, 2018 SPED930 Orientation and Mobility Practicum SPED927 Complex Vision Impairment
Semester One, 2019 SPED910 Critical Reflection and Professional Experience in Sensory Disability
Semester Two, 2019 SPED911 Inclusion and Professional Collaboration in Sensory Disability

The above courses are offered in flexible delivery mode, permitting off-campus study.

SPED930 Orientation and Mobility Practicum

Prerequisite: completion of SPED928 and SPED929.

The practicum will provide students with opportunities to gain exposure to O&M programs and teaching situations under the guidance and assistance of an experienced Specialist. Students will receive a gradual induction into the profession of O&M.

Students will have opportunities to work with clients with VI and multiple disabilities from a broad range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. Students will be required to plan, implement, and evaluate a broad range of mobility programs, with significant consideration given to professional ethics and reflective practice.

SPED927 Complex Vision Impairment

Prerequisite: completion of SPED926

Online.

The unit extends and develops concepts and learning introduced in SPED926 Introduction to Vision Impairment, with a particular focus on individuals and groups with complex support needs. Further development of the candidate's knowledge and understanding of the substantial challenges for individual, family and community arising from blindness and vision impairment will occur.

SPED910 Critical Reflection and Professional Experience in Sensory Disability

Online.

This unit provides students with the opportunity to prepare for, and then undertake professional experiences in practice, in management and evaluation. Central to this professional experience is a critical reflection model that guides and highlights the students' awareness regarding the role that research plays in strengthening their professional skills and knowledge. Using critical reflection students will demonstrate professional practice that optimises outcomes for people with sensory disability.

SPED911 Inclusion and Professional Collaboration in Sensory Disability

Online.

This unit explores features of inclusive and collaborative practice in early intervention and school-age programming for children who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH), and/or blind or have low vision (B/VI). The combination of knowledges and perspectives

required to implement helpful, individualized child-parent support that nurtures and promotes a child's independent learning is discussed. Current and future challenges to the development and functionality of inclusive and collaborative programming are examined and priorities for practice considered.