

Frequently Asked Questions

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Q: How long will the PSM Program take to complete?

A: Delivery of the PSM Program varies in each jurisdiction. Please contact your Local PSM Program office for more information.

The active registration period in the PSM Program is valid for two years and you must complete all coursework and assignments in this timeframe. This is a rigorous and challenging Program that requires excellent time management skills to balance the needs of work and home life with university level study. As well as attending the workshops, it is also essential to spend time researching, reading and preparing for assignments, at least five to ten hours per week in your own time.

Q: At what management level do I need to be at to be eligible for the PSM program?

A: To be eligible to undertake the PSM Program, you must be a current mid-level manager working in local, state or territory or commonwealth government. Potential applicants not yet at this level may still be considered and should contact the Local PSM Program office to discuss their individual circumstances in more detail.

Potential applicants must keep in mind that:

- Your role needs to be able to give you the scope to undertake a significant work-based project. This is the final assessment piece for the Program and culminates the learning of the content of the four Units of work.
- You should be in a role where you have a significant amount of responsibility for either personnel, projects or resources.
- The discussions at the workshops are aimed at a management level and can be quite strategic in their focus
- Those working at an operational level will generally not be considered suitable applicants

- Finally, you need the motivation and commitment necessary to apply yourself to university level study

Q: Do I need to have completed university study before?

A: No, you do not need to have completed previous university study before, however it is a requirement that you have had at least 5 years experience in the public sector.

Q: What qualification will I receive upon completion of the PSM Program?

A: All participants who complete the assessment requirements of the PSM Program will be eligible to receive a Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Management from Flinders University of South Australia. This is a tertiary, Post Graduate qualification.

Q: Can I receive credit for previous study?

A: Yes, the PSM Program has a policy that recognises previous postgraduate study. More information about receiving credit standing for previous study is available on the Credit Transfer page of this website.

Please note: that even if your prior study is credited in this program, the cost to complete the program will not change.

Q: Can I articulate to a Masters Program once I have successfully completed the Program?

A: Yes, Graduates of the PSM Program are eligible for credit or advanced standing into further postgraduate programs at the Graduate Diploma and Masters level. The PSM Program has established numerous learning pathways with universities across Australia. Effectively, by completing the PSM Program, you may be eligible to receive credit equivalent to one third of a master's degree!

Q: Do I need the support of my workplace?

A: Yes, It is essential that your workplace supports your application and this is why you must have a workplace sponsor. Most assignments in the PSM Program are workplace centered and in some cases you are asked to relate them specifically to your agency. For this reason, it is beneficial to both yourself and your respective agency to have a supportive working relationship.

Q: Who is suitable as a workplace sponsor?

A: As you are required to have time out of the workplace to attend PSM Program workshops your supervisor would be the most appropriate workplace sponsor. You may also wish to look for a separate workplace mentor or establish an informal study group to facilitate your learning.

Q: Do I have to attend the Unit Workshops?

A: Yes, the workshops are a compulsory part of the Program and are fundamental to the Program's 'networking' philosophy. For each workshop you will receive participation marks which can sometimes be the difference between a credit and a distinction overall!

Total contact days vary in each jurisdiction; please contact your Local PSM Program office for more details

Q: Can I change cohorts or defer the PSM Program?

A: A participant may change cohorts in special circumstances; this should be negotiated with the Local PSM Program office. Accepted applicants or participants seeking to defer from the program must apply in writing to their PSM Program Manager. **Deferrals will only be granted once**, and in exceptional circumstances.

Once deferred, the process of managing a participant back in to the program is subject to availability of places in future intakes.

Q: Who can I speak to if I am having difficulties with the PSM Program?

A: Please do not hesitate to contact your Local PSM Program office between 9:00 am-5:00 pm weekdays. If we are not able to answer your question, we will put you in touch with the appropriate person who can.

If at any stage you have doubts about anything, **do not wait until it is too late**. Ask your fellow participants, peers, workshop presenters or PSM Program staff for some help and guidance.

Q: What is the PSM Program policy for assignment extensions?

A: You must apply for an extension in writing (an email to the PSM Program office stating the need for an extension and reason). If approved, a standard extension of two weeks will apply. Late submission of assignments, where an extension has not been granted, will result in an academic penalty, where the maximum mark attained will be no more than 64% (pass). Ample time is allowed for completion of assignments before the due dates.