**Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision Specialisation**

The NextSense Institute welcomes you to consider enrolling in the [Master of Disability Studies](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/master-of-disability-studies). For more information, please contact the Course Director - Sue Silveira on [sue.silveira@nextsense.org.au](mailto:sue.silveira@nextsense.org.au)

The [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) is offered by [NextSense Institute](https://www.nextsense.org.au/professional-education/postgraduate-study)— Australia’s leading centre for research and professional studies in the field of education and service delivery for people with sensory disabilities—in affiliation with the Macquarie School of Education, Faculty of Arts, [Macquarie University](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) Education.

Specialisations in the Master of Disability Studies link to the [Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership](https://www.aitsl.edu.au/) (AITSL) national accreditation standards, with reference to the SPEVI [Professional Standard Elaborations](https://www.spevi.net/professional-standards-elaborations/). Graduates from the [Master of Disability Studies: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) are recognised in all Australia states and territories.

**Why should I consider studying this program?**

The [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) offers opportunities for qualified teachers to undertake online postgraduate studies to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt content, develop teaching methodology, and apply specialised instructional techniques to meet the needs of individual learners with sensory disabilities. We understand the many responsibilities postgraduate students face, so this program provides flexible study patterns while studying with experts in the field.

This course will support your career development and increase your employment opportunities in inclusive education and within the disability sector. When you graduate you will qualify as a specialist teacher of students with blindness or low vision. You’ll learn how to support students to gain the skills they need to enjoy a satisfying career that looks beyond their disability, as well as achieving their personal goals. Completing this specialisation will enable you to register with the [SPEVI](https://www.spevi.net/) . Once registered, you can apply to become a service provider under the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](https://www.ndis.gov.au/) .

**Who can apply for this program?**

The [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) is a postgraduate degree program which attracts applications from:

* Qualified teachers wishing to obtain a specialist qualification to teach students who have blindness or low vision; and
* Teachers already working in the sensory disability field wishing to upgrade their skills and qualifications.

Students with disability are welcomed into The [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision). We set high standards to ensure all aspects of our program are accessible. We introduce our students to the principles of Universal Design and provide them with the skills to produce their work in accessible formats.

**What will I learn?**

In the [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) you will gain knowledge in visual function and functional vision; inclusive educational adjustments; the fundamentals of Orientation and Mobility and assistive technology; and language, literacy and numeracy development for learners with blindness and low vision. Your studies will also include professional experience - designed to ensure you are well prepared with a combination of academic knowledge and specialist teaching skills. Professional experience placements in diverse settings with qualified supervisors ensure that you can observe and be guided as you participate purposefully in a school/service. You will gain experience in a range of authentic teaching practices which facilitate learning, and strategies to evaluate student learning. Supervisors provide constructive written or verbal feedback so you can reflect on your teaching progress, and act on suggestions to enhance your teaching performance.

**Are any scholarships available?**

To support your successful completion, you may be eligible for one of the various scholarships which are available including from educational providers and Macquarie University.

**What opportunities are available when I graduate?**

Graduates of the [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision) become important members of professional teams, applying their expertise in a wide variety of roles such as:

* classroom teachers in specialised programs
* itinerant/support teachers working with children in inclusive educational settings
* consultants working with teachers to assist them in their inclusion of learners with sensory disabilities
* early intervention specialists working with families and children from the earliest possible stages of their development
* learning support professionals supporting students in higher education
* many other roles supporting people with sensory disabilities to access a wide range of other services

**How do I find out more about the Master of Disability Studies?**

You are welcome to make contact with NextSense Institute staff to discuss your enrolment opportunities in the [Master of Disability Studies Education: Blindness/Low Vision Specialisation](https://www.mq.edu.au/study/find-a-course/courses/specialisation/education-blindness-low-vision). Please email Sue Silveira, Course Director at: [sue.silveira@nextsense.org.au](mailto:sue.silveira@nextsense.org.au).