Preparation for Tertiary Success

2013 Course Information Guide
Table of Contents

**Introduction** .................................................................................................................. 1
  How to apply for entry ........................................................................................................ 2
  Who to contact .................................................................................................................... 2
  How long does the PTS course take? .................................................................................. 3
  How is the PTS course delivered? ....................................................................................... 3
  Where is the PTS course delivered? ................................................................................... 3
  Course costs ........................................................................................................................ 4
  Abstudy and scholarships .................................................................................................... 4

**Course structure** ............................................................................................................. 5
  PTS1 ..................................................................................................................................... 5
  PTS2 ..................................................................................................................................... 5
  Choosing elective units ......................................................................................................... 6

**Unit descriptions** ............................................................................................................ 7
Introduction and welcome

Welcome! We hope you will make Preparation for Tertiary Success (PTS) an important step on your personal learning journey.

PTS is an enabling course that uses a both-ways approach to teaching & learning. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students bring together Indigenous & western/academic knowledge & ways of learning.

The course is designed especially to prepare Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for entry into Diploma and Bachelor degree courses at most universities.

This course is delivered by the Australian Centre for Indigenous Knowledges and Education (ACIKE) which is a partnership between Batchelor Institute and Charles Darwin University (CDU).

As you manage your own inquiries and projects you will uncover your study power by strengthening learning identity. PTS offers you the chance to strengthen your learning by developing skills and knowledge in the following areas:

- understanding your learning strengths and goals
- making connections between your own experiences and the way things work in tertiary study, and in the professions
- study skills and information gathering
- creative approaches to problem solving
- reading and writing, speaking and listening
- questioning and critical thinking
- learning in teams and communities
- career development
- online learning, science and mathematics.
**How to apply for entry**

You can apply to enrol in this course if you are at least 18 years old and are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent. You will need Year 11 or a Certificate III qualification or have a work history where you use computers, as well as read and write documents.

To apply for a position in the PTS course you will need to fill in the online form on the ACIKE website [www.acike.edu.au](http://www.acike.edu.au) If you do not have a computer or would like help with applying online contact an Academic Advisor listed below.

**Getting into PTS**

After we have received your application, you will be sent a booklet of diagnostic activities.

- The booklet has activities in 4 main skill areas being reading, writing, maths and computing.
- The diagnostic task helps us to determine whether PTS1 or PTS2 is the suited course for you.
- Once we have evaluated your diagnostic task, we will send you a “Letter of Offer” with instructions of what to do next.
- If the diagnostic task shows us that you need further qualifications before you can start the PTS course, an academic advisor will contact you and talk to you about options of how to obtain those qualifications.
- Providing your personal details does not oblige you to anything. You can cancel the PTS application process at any time.

**Who to contact**

All of the following people are here to help you. If you have any concerns at all please call us.

---

**Batchelor Academic Advisors, Sarah Anthony & Michael Keating**

T: 1800 677 095

or

**CDU Indigenous Academic Support Lecturer, Kathy Arbon**

T: 08 8946 6037

or

**PTS Course Coordinator, Catherine Maughan**

T: 1800 677 095
How long does the PTS course take?

Your time doing the PTS course will depend on how many units you study each semester and which level course you are enrolled in. If you enrol in 4 units (full-time study load):

- PTS1 takes two semesters (32 weeks)
- PTS2 takes one semester (16 weeks).

Students who work and/or have family commitments often study the course part-time. This will take longer but is often easier to manage.

How is the PTS course delivered?

The PTS course is delivered in workshop mode. This means you will study each unit for 8 to 10 days of face to face teaching. The in-class teaching will be supplemented by online study in Learnline.

After your workshop, you will be expected to continue private study in your own home.

- As a full time student, you will need to allow 30 to 40 hours of study time per week to successfully complete a full time study load.
- As a part time student, you will need to allow 10 to 20 hours of study time per week to successfully complete a part time study load.

Where is the PTS course delivered?

In 2013, the PTS course will be delivered in two locations:

- Casuarina campus (CAS) for people living in Darwin, Palmerston or nearby rural areas. Students enrolled at the Casuarina campus will travel to the campus each day to attend class. There are no accommodation facilities at the Casuarina campus.
- Desert Peoples Centre campus (DPC) in Alice Springs for all other students. Students who have to travel to study the PTS course are known as away-from-base (AFB) students. AFB covers the costs of travel, accommodation and meals for eligible students. AFB students will stay in Batchelor’s residential accommodation in Alice Springs.
**Course costs**

There are no higher education (HECS) fees for this course.

You are expected to buy your own stationery items such as files, paper, pens, pencils and USB memory stick. You are also expected to bring to class a dictionary and a calculator (for Maths).

Many students use their Abstudy payments to buy their own laptop.

**Abstudy and scholarships**

Students who enrol in PTS may be eligible for Abstudy.

You need to contact Centrelink directly on 13 23 17 or through their website [www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/abstudy](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/abstudy)

The amount of money allocated depends on many factors including whether you are studying a full-time or part-time load.

If you are receiving Abstudy payments you should always discuss with Centrelink the impact on benefits before you make changes to your study load (ie withdraw from a unit). This is the student’s responsibility to talk directly with Centrelink.

Academic advisors at the Desert Peoples Centre and Casuarina campuses can help you with phone calls to Centrelink.

To apply for a Commonwealth Scholarship, you complete an application form and submit it to the CDU Scholarships office. For more details see the CDU scholarships website [www.cdu.edu.au/scholarships/](http://www.cdu.edu.au/scholarships/) or contact:

**CDU Scholarships Officer**

Sophie Proudler

**T:** 08 8946 6442

**E:** scholarships@cdu.edu.au

**F:** 08 8946 6642
Course structure

PTS1 students complete 8 units (80 credit points). Preliminary units must be completed before the advanced units are undertaken.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTS1 UNITS OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preliminary level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 3 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PTS2 students complete 4 units (40 credit points).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTS2 UNITS OF STUDY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 2 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTS011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Choosing elective units

At the advanced level of study you will be able to choose elective units according to your planned future course of study.

Below are some examples of Higher Education fields of study at ACIKE and CDU, and the PTS electives suggested for entry.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>1st choice elective</th>
<th>2nd choice elective</th>
<th>3rd choice elective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal Studies</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Commerce</td>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Maths</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Teaching</td>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Maths</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences, Nursing &amp; Sport Science</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Maths</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Services &amp; Social Work</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Languages &amp; Linguistics</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law &amp; Legal Studies</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Management &amp; Agriculture</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Maths</td>
<td>PTS003 Learning in Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; Mathematics</td>
<td>PTS009 Introduction to Science</td>
<td>PTS011 Advanced Maths</td>
<td>PTS006 Ways of Knowing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some degree courses prefer intending students to take particular PTS elective units especially relevant to their course. You should contact the course coordinator of your intended degree course to confirm entry requirements.
Unit descriptions

PTS001 Learning Identity
The purpose of this unit is to assist you to develop in-depth understandings about your own learning behaviours as an Indigenous learner. As you enter this course you will have different ideas about yourself as a learner (some positive and some not). You will also have various perceptions about your future learning and career path. To be successful in degree studies, you need to develop beliefs, attitudes and skills that help you with learning as a lifelong journey. In short, you need to develop a positive learning identity.

PTS002 Strength and Success
This unit will assist you to develop resilience in life and learning through identifying Indigenous role models of strength and success in the recent past and in the present. Students analyse the characteristics of strength and success from different perspectives, then move to identify, research and talk with Indigenous students or professionals who have been successful in learning within a tertiary environment. You will research success strategies and barriers experienced by other tertiary learners and develop a guide for yourself and other students.

PTS003 Learning in Communities
In this unit you will be answering the question: “What's it going to take for us to learn effectively as a group of students?” To help you answer that question, your learning community (or group) will explore the values, language and behaviours of successful learning. You will think about your actions and behaviours and your role in the group as you conduct an inquiry-based research project.

PTS004 Discipline Inquiry
In Discipline Enquiry you are invited to ‘open the doors’ to the world of study and career possibilities. The purpose of this unit is to help you determine your future study and career goals. You will conduct an enquiry project into a study area (or discipline) that interests you and discuss the contributions of both Indigenous and Western knowledges to that area of knowledge (or discipline).
PTS005  Reading and Reflection
In this unit you will strengthen the reading skills and habits that support successful learners at tertiary level. You will look to other Indigenous readers and writers as role models through a program of reading and discussion. You will identify your own reading patterns and reading goals and will practise successful strategies for reading challenging texts. You will choose Indigenous and mainstream writings to develop a personal reading list which you will read, discuss and present in class.

PTS006  Ways of Knowing
This unit will allow you to consider how knowledge is socially constructed across a variety of cultures including your own Indigenous culture. You will consider fundamental questions such as: What is knowledge? How do we know? Where do we know? What do we know? How do we act out our knowledge? You will link your findings about knowledge with your own community, your values, ethics and modern life, including the impact of technologies.

PTS007  Introduction to Mathematics
In this unit you will inquire into a range of mathematical systems from Australian Indigenous cultures, Western academic and other cultures and demonstrate and discuss their relevance and application. You will experience how mathematical processes such as measurement, financial calculation and graphics can be applied to real world problems. The unit will help you to use a range of mathematical language and ideas.

PTS009  Introduction to Science
This unit will engage you in science-focused inquiries to develop critical thinking and evidence-based investigation and research skills including practical laboratory based research. This unit brings together Indigenous world views with western scientific thinking about evidence.

PTS011  Advanced Mathematics
In this unit you will inquire into advanced mathematical problem solving using measurement, algebra and coordinate geometry applied to real world problems. You will learn how to visualise mathematical data through reading and creating graphs and will apply mathematical frameworks to solve problems in real life contexts.