

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of all the unceded lands, skies and waterways on which Deakin students and teachers come together. As we learn and teach through virtually and physically constructed places across time, we pay our deep respect to the Ancestors and Elders of Wadawurrung Country, Eastern Maar Country and Wurundjeri Country, as well as the Traditional Custodians of all the lands on which you may be learning and teaching, where education has taken place for many thousands of years.

Cover artwork: Dr Deanne Gilson (2020) Karringalabil Bundjil Murrup, Manna Gum Tree (The Creation Tree of Knowledge).

Welcome to the NIKERI Institute

Accessibility for all Australian First Peoples

The National Indigenous Knowledges Research and Innovation (NIKERI) Institute aims to increase the rate of university education for Australian First Peoples by offering accessible and flexible courses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to study, regardless of where they live in Australia.

NIKERI Institute provides an understanding and supportive learning environment. With us, taking the next steps into higher education is achievable and culturally inclusive.

Institute success

Since 1986, we have had more than 1000 graduates across our disciplines, including nursing, social work, teaching, law, the arts and research. These graduates go on to fulfilling careers and help to maintain and strengthen their communities.

Our supportive and flexible course delivery allows students to balance their work, family and cultural obligations while studying – without having to relocate.



In this guide

	_		
About the NIKERI Institute	2	Arts	1
Your study experience	4	Caring for Country	1
Why choose Deakin?	6	Education	1
Courses	8	Health and social development	1
How to apply	9	Law	1
		Research	2

1

About the NIKERI Institute

Who we are

The NIKERI Institute provides fully-accredited Deakin University courses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We offer a unique style of teaching, in which your studies are completed through a combination of one or two week long intensives and online learning back home.

While studying at the Institute, you access a learning space with shared cultural values and belief systems. You complete your studies in a way that is flexible, supportive and culturally respectful.

How we help you gain access to university education

Our courses are highly accessible, thanks to the combination of online teaching and intensives. With us, you are able to balance your studies with your other commitments, regardless of where you live in Australia.

We value the life experience and knowledge of our students. Admission to the Institute is based on alternative entry – an ATAR or high school graduation certificate is not a necessity. Applications are accepted based on answers to the online application, submission of required documentation, a small assessment task and an interview.







'I have a passion for working alongside my people. I have seen the disadvantages our mob face daily and I wanted to do something that would give back and give a voice to our mob.'

Kaydi Enoch Bachelor of Social Work student

Your study experience

Community Based Delivery

Community Based Delivery (CBD) is the name for our unique blend of on- and off-campus course delivery at the NIKERI Institute. CBD reflects our commitment to delivering higher education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in an engaging and culturally respectful way, taking account of the many obligations and commitments you have in your home communities.

We cover all of your transport to Deakin for your week-long intensives and back home again. We also supply all of your accommodation and meals while you stay with us. And when you're back home and taking your regular online classes, we find you a local tutor to help keep your studies on track.

With our CBD model, you experience learning in a space with shared cultural values and belief systems where you'll be empowered to study successfully while maintaining your family, work and community commitments.



Your studies through the Institute will differ to the way that courses are usually conducted at Deakin. They have been adapted to be supportive and flexible to your needs.

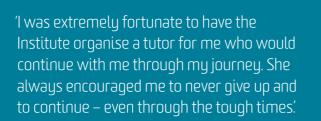
Deakin courses operate using a trimester system, where units are taught over three 12-week teaching periods:

- Trimester one: March–June
- Trimester two: July-October
- Trimester three: November-February

When you study through us, you come and live on campus to complete a one or two week long intensive. You do this approximately two to three times per trimester, usually during trimesters one and two.

Kitjarra student residence

The name Kitjarra means 'learning place' in local Wadawurrung language. Located at the Deakin Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus, Kitjarra is a convenient and comfortable place to live during your on-campus intensives. The bedrooms, lounges, kitchens and computer areas are spacious, comfortable and fully equipped to provide a positive environment during intensives. The Kitjarra kitchen also supplies a range of chef-prepared meals to enjoy in the student common room, including continental breakfast, beverages,



Donna Lee Louch Bachelor of Social Work graduate



We'll support your learning

No matter what your education background is, we make sure you're supported so you can hit the ground running at university. On campus, our academic support officer will guide you to develop the necessary study skills to excel in your course. They will help you prepare for assessments as well as further develop your abilities to write, plan, take effective notes and enhance your academic skills. The Student Services team are also available to answer any questions related to scholarships or enrolments.

Student assistance includes:

- · assignment writing and planning feedback
- referencing
- oral presentation preparation
- time management
- exam preparation.

Indigenous Tutorial Network (ITN)

The Indigenous Tutorial Network (ITN) provides tutors in your community to help keep your studies on track when you're

A tutor can help you clarify what you're learning and will assist you with the academic study skills needed to be successful in your course of study.

Whether you're a first year student needing extensive assistance with an academic study framework or a more experienced learner looking for a few pointers, ITN tutors can support you.

The ITN is a vital service that not only assists you academically but also actively promotes strengthening your cultural identity.

deakin.edu.au/nikeri

Why choose Deakin?

World-class qualifications and teaching

With a qualification from Deakin University, you gain a highly respected degree that is grounded in industry experience and employability. You will have access to exciting programs, world renowned research and passionate and engaging teaching.

Deakin integrates real-world experience with practical skills to give you a competitive edge. It's for this reason that Deakin students have had the highest course satisfaction rate of all Victorian universities for 13 years running.¹

Course structure

Most full-time course loads are completed in three to four years. However, NIKERI Institute students often study part time over a period of five or more years.

At Deakin, each unit (or subject) is worth 1 credit point. Courses have a certain amount of credit points you need to complete your degree — usually 24 or 32. A typical full-time load would be 8 credit points a year, but this amount can change if you're doing placements or extra units in trimester 3. In terms of your study load, a good rule of thumb is to allow around 10 hours of study per unit per week that you're enrolled in.

Indigenous studies

NIKERI Institute is responsible for the development and delivery of an Indigenous Studies minor and elective units available to all Deakin students. These units promote diversity and cultural understanding through the exploration of histories, cultures and identities of Australian First Peoples.

NIKERI Institute has a cultural responsibility to record, share, teach and research Indigenous Knowledges and encourage respect for self, others and Country.

Our Indigenous Studies units aim to build understanding, recognition and validity of Australian First Peoples' Ways of Valuing, Being, Knowing and Doing. Our units enable students to co-contribute ethically to positive reconciliation aligned to self-determination processes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

The support and encouragement from the tutors was seemingly endless. They displayed a lot of cultural sensitivity and support and I'm not sure if I'd get that at another university.'

Helen SpinneyBachelor of Nursing graduate

Scholarships

The NIKERI Institute believes everyone should have access to higher education without limitations or battling financial hardship. As such, our broad range of scholarships provide an opportunity to substantially reduce your university costs and ensure your study experience is both positive and productive.

Scholarships can be academic based, awarded as recognition for certain achievements or in place to redress the inequity in access for students seeking to gain higher education qualifications. Awarding a Deakin scholarship is our chance to acknowledge and reward your accomplishments and hard work.

You could be eligible for a number of scholarships during your time at Deakin. Use our online search tool to help you find out what scholarships you could be eligible to apply for at **deakin.edu.au/find-a-scholarship**.



Courses

Our nationally accredited undergraduate and postgraduate courses can develop you into a strong community leader who pursues a valued and successful career. Our courses are relevant, engaging and delivered in a culturally inclusive way.

Arts

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

Caring for Country

• Graduate Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management

Education

- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor of Education (Primary)

Health and social development

- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Master of Public Health

Law

Bachelor of Laws

Research

- Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Research
- Research degrees

How to apply

Choosing to undertake higher education is a big decision, so we've taken the guesswork out of applying. By following the steps below you will be well on your way to experiencing the unique advantages of flexible and culturally inclusive studies.

Get help with your application

For information or guidance about how to apply to the Institute, contact our student services team on 1800 063 383 or via nikeri-studentservices@deakin.edu.au.

Applying to the NIKERI Institute



Decide which course you want to study.



Go to **deakin.edu.au/nikeri** to complete the Institute declaration statement and application form.¹



Receive confirmation of your application via email. An assessment task – designed to ensure you're prepared for academic study – will be sent to you.



Return your completed assessment task and forward an endorsed Proof of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander heritage (signed by local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community Organisation).



Receive the results of your assessment task. An interview may be arranged.



Attend your phone or in-person interview.

At this stage, you should start thinking about scholarships.



Find out the outcome of your application.



Enrol in your course and start applying for scholarships.

Note that postgraduate
 courses may require additional



Transition from course to career with confidence

At Deakin, every course is shaped by industry experts, ensuring you'll graduate with real-world expertise and practical skills – giving you a competitive edge in the workplace. Secure your future today at Victoria's #1 university for teaching quality¹ and overall educational experience.¹

1 2021 Student Experience Survey, Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT).

Arts

Bachelor of Arts

A310 deakin.edu.au/course/A310

A Bachelor of Arts is a versatile course that creates career opportunities in a huge variety of fields. This multi-disciplinary course develops your understanding of society and human behaviour which you can use to solve problems, influence groups and advocate for change. You will also develop your writing, communications and critical thinking ability which will put you in a great position to influence policy, business or education.

Your teachers have real understanding of Australian First Peoples' experiences and they provide you with the tools to offer innovative solutions to real-world problems. This degree will equip you with the hands-on experience and transferable skills that employers are looking for.

Key areas of study

Available majors are Sociology or Criminology. The available electives include Indigenous Studies and Psychology.

Students are also able to take online units from any Bachelor of Arts discipline that is available through Deakin.

Career opportunities

Community management, law enforcement, business administration, government organisations, welfare agencies and education.

There is also an opportunity for graduates to apply for further study in a masters degree or PhD.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates will gain discipline specific knowledge as well as skills in communication, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving. You will develop the ability to self manage and to work collaboratively in a team.





Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)

A301 deakin.edu.au/course/A301

With a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), you can explore your interests in human behaviour and cognitive processes. You'll study psychology as a scientific discipline, while also maintaining a strong focus on empathy and Australian First Peoples' perspectives.

Accredited by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC), this course provides you with the stepping stones towards professional registration. Course content combines research with professional study, as well letting you explore other areas of interest by taking an arts major sequence in Criminology or Sociology.

Key areas of study

Neuroscience, child and adolescent psychology, relationships and the psychology of groups, cognitive psychology, forensic psychology and psychopathology. You'll also explore selected arts, social science and humanities disciplines.

Career opportunities

Counselling services, government and community organisations, the health system, forensics and law enforcement, private enterprises and non-profits. There is also ample opportunity to undertake further study in pursuit of a specialisation.

in demand and job-ready.

this fast growing sector, ensuring you will graduate

1 2021 Employment Projections – for the five years to 2026, Jobs and Skills Australia.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates are able to undertake the next steps towards registration. You will also gain discipline specific knowledge as well as skills in communication, digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving. You will develop the ability to self manage and to work collaboratively in a team.

Caring for Country

Graduate Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management

A660 deakin.edu.au/course/A660

This course will enhance and empower your ability to solve problems on Country so that you can have a voice in decision making. Natural and cultural resource management policy across Australia is adapting to the perspective that all land is a cultural landscape. This presents many leadership opportunities for those who have experience in traditional practices and your studies will equip you to become more proactive and informed in project implementation and management.

By bringing your own knowledge of Caring for Country to this course, you gain the ability to expand your cultural land knowledge, enhance community agency and build your voice for leadership in environmental and cultural protection.

Key areas of study

Land management facilitation, Caring for Country, environmental management, waste and water management, cultural heritage interpretation and protection, sustainability, project management and education.

Career opportunities

Land and environmental management, fresh water and sea protection, cultural heritage consultancy, strategic project design, sustainability and education.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates will gain the ideas, strategies and skills that are now characterising Caring for Country throughout Australia. You will also understand environmental protection from a different perspective.

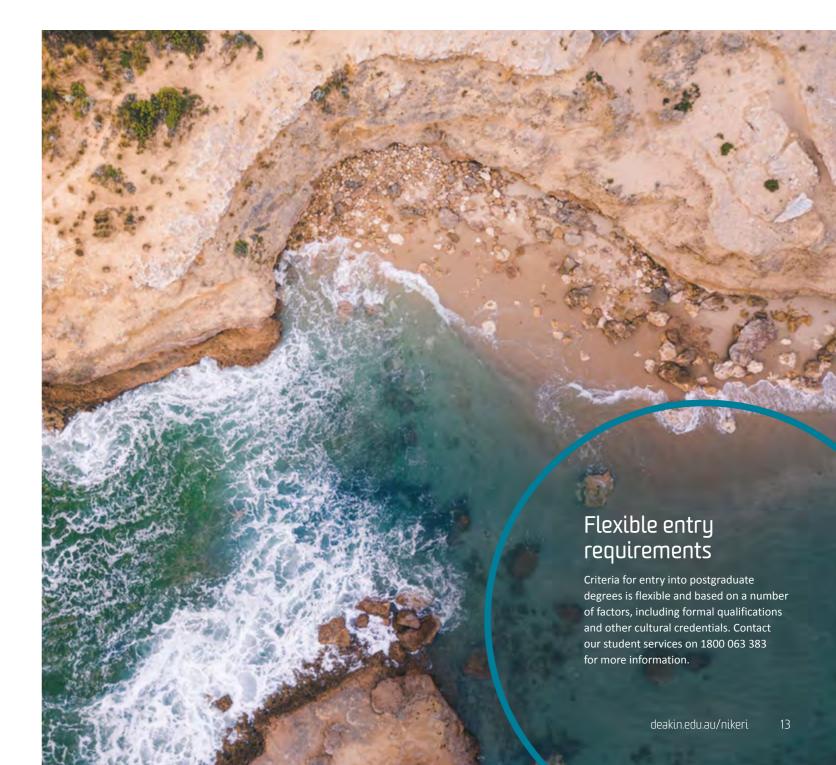




The [course] is important because it helps you find your own voice in the activities you want to do for Country.'

Aaron Morgan

Diploma of Land and Sea Country Management graduate



Education

Bachelor of Early Childhood Education

E333 deakin.edu.au/course/E333

The Bachelor of Early Childhood Education gives you the qualification and knowledge to nurture our children's future and become a world-class teacher. Through real-world experience in early childhood settings, you'll learn how to teach children from 0–5 years old and become their role model. This degree combines in-classroom theory with practical placements in real community-based learning settings. Diverse and culturally respectful studies focus on understanding children's learning and development across all early childhood frameworks. This course also allows you to focus on particular areas like advocacy, partnerships and children with additional needs.

Key areas of study

You will study all areas of the curriculum including maths, literacy, the arts, science and technology combined with child development, child theory and pedagogies. The course does not require the uniTest as a prerequisite.

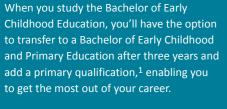
Career opportunities

There is a high demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers. You will finish this degree a fully accredited teacher ready to begin valuable work in early childhood settings as an early childhood teacher, educational leader, coordinator or adviser. Graduates may also find employment opportunities in consultancy, NGOs, policy, and research or community-based organisations.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates learn a broad range of theoretical perspectives and practical strategies that can be applied to early childhood education. You will be given the opportunity to use your skills in real learning settings that are close to home.

Expand your qualification





The Casper test

All applicants applying for entry into an initial teacher education course must complete an additional selection tool for non-academic attributes. Casper is a 90-minute online, video scenario-based situational judgement test that allows you to demonstrate your suitability for a teaching career.

To learn more about the test, visit deakin.edu.au/casper.

Bachelor of Education (Primary)

E359 deakin.edu.au/course/E359

The Bachelor of Education (Primary) prepares you for work in the classroom. This course allows you to develop a specialised study area while you're gaining real-world experience in schools.

During this course you explore all areas of the curriculum before developing specialist expertise in either mathematics and numeracy or language and literacy. You will also complete practical teaching placements which are organised to be flexible to your location and commitments.

Key areas of study

You will explore all areas of the primary curriculum including literacy, mathematics, science, arts, humanities, technology and health and physical education, developing in-depth specialist knowledge in one priority curriculum area.

Career opportunities

There is a high demand for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers. You will finish this degree a fully accredited teacher ready to begin valuable work in public or private education sectors, as well as government agencies, community services or not-for-profit organisations.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates learn a broad range of theoretical perspectives and practical strategies that can be applied to primary education systems. You will be given the opportunity to use your skills in real learning settings that are close to home.



'Since completing my Bachelor of Education (Primary) I have worked as a year 7 English and Humanities teacher at a local public school in Alice Springs. My goal in life is to have a positive impact on Indigenous Education, particularly in Central Australia.'

Kate Axton

Bachelor of Education (Primary) graduate

Health and social development

Bachelor of Nursing

H326 deakin.edu.au/course/H326

The Bachelor of Nursing prepares you to become a highly sought-after health professional by giving you the expertise you need to provide high-quality, patient-centred care. Classes are designed to reflect Australian First Peoples' ways of learning and to encourage cultural connectedness and the sharing of knowledge among students.

As a graduate you can register through the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) as a Registered Nurse. You can also pursue further study in specialised areas such as mental health, paediatrics, maternity or emergency nursing.

Key areas of study

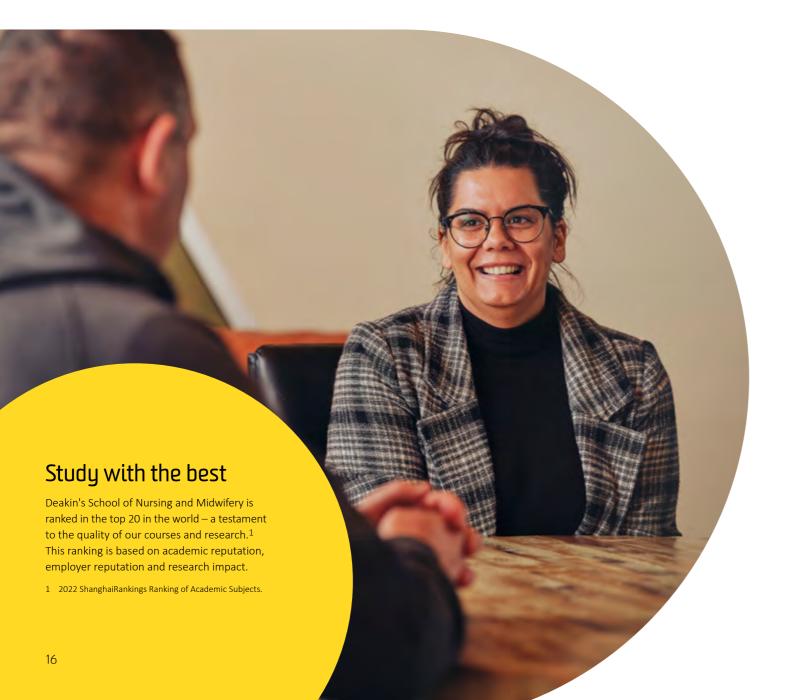
Acute and chronic care, mental health, aged care, child care, clinical governance and district and community care.

Career opportunities

Work across a broad range of nursing disciplines or pursue further study to enhance your knowledge in a specialised area. Graduates are eligible to complete a graduate year in a hospital of their choice.

Graduate outcomes

On successful completion of your course, you will be eligible to apply for registration as a Registered Nurse with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).





'I love looking after patients who are a part of my community. I know a familiar face makes them feel welcome and comfortable. I look forward to a long career in nursing and changing the health statistics of our people.'

Davinea O'Brien

Bachelor of Nursing graduate

Bachelor of Social Work

H330 deakin.edu.au/course/H330

With the Bachelor of Social Work, you are empowered to make a real difference and change lives in Australian First Peoples' communities and beyond. You will become an advocate for social justice and community outreach, with the skills to enhance the well-being of people – taking into account the influence of policy, socio-economic factors and social justice issues.

With the Bachelor of Social Work, you will have the skills and knowledge to walk alongside those in need, make a real difference and enact change.

Key areas of study

Policy, research, ethics, theory, sociology and physical, social and emotional well-being. You will also complete two compulsory field placements.

Career opportunities

Community development, counselling, activism, consulting, policy change and development and advocacy.

As a graduate you can apply for membership to the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). You can also apply for student membership.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates will be able to apply local and global knowledge of the socio-political, cultural and economic contexts to their careers in social work. You will also be able to apply decolonising practices that acknowledge Australian First Peoples as Traditional Land Owners.

Master of Public Health

H757 deakin.edu.au/course/H757

The Master of Public Health equips you to become an advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health policy. It allows you to take a 'bigger picture' approach to contributing to health policy and programs and improving the health of individuals, populations and communities.

In this course you will learn strategies and practical techniques to take action on health challenges, prevent diseases and promote the conditions that optimise population health. Many students enrol in this program to progress in their current roles or to obtain senior positions.

Key areas of study

Research, Australian First Peoples' public health issues, health promotion, epidemiology, contemporary health issues and policy, health equity and human rights.

Career opportunities

Australian First Peoples' health services, government health departments and research positions. There is also a pathway into a PhD program.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates develop enhanced research skills and a capacity to contribute to health policy and programs. You will develop skills and knowledge to solve existing and emerging public health issues.

Law

Bachelor of Laws

M312 deakin.edu.au/course/M312

The Bachelor of Laws is a highly versatile degree, allowing you to empower your future and develop the skills you need to become a world-class lawyer. This degree is about getting the necessary training for accreditation to practise, in an economy where the demand for Australian First Peoples in legal roles is high.

In this course you will study all areas of legal practice (such as contract, business and criminal law) and develop vital skills including negotiation, mediation and legal drafting. You will also be given the opportunity to undertake work experience with law clinics.

Key areas of study

Commercial, contract, criminal, land, corporate, torts, constitutional and administrative law. You will also study ethical conduct and legal research.

Career opportunities

Family, litigation, criminal, tax or personal injury lawyer. You will also be well equipped to work in all areas of government, policy development or business.

Graduate outcomes

This degree is your first step to entering the legal profession. Upon completion of your degree and the additional practical legal training, you'll be qualified to work as a solicitor or barrister in all legal fields.







'Studying through NIKERI and being able to come here for intensives gave me a very human element to studying law at Deakin through NIKERI that I think is missed out by a lot of mainstream study.'

Emilie O'BrienBachelor of Laws graduate

Research

Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Research

A601 deakin.edu.au/course/A601

The Graduate Diploma of Indigenous Research begins your pathway to a masters degree or a PhD. In this course you will learn how Indigenous knowledges act as complex and sophisticated systems of thought.

This course will equip you with in-depth training specific to First Nations' Ways of Valuing, Being, Knowing and Doing that will allow you to enact ethical protocols and worldviews. During your studies you will design and complete your own research project, which forms a prerequisite to entering a masters or PhD program.

Key areas of study

Indigenous knowledges, research project design and ethics, cultural responsiveness and knowledge modalities.

Career opportunities

Higher degree by research, research careers in tertiary education institutes, government departments, Indigenous communities and the private sector.

Graduate outcomes

Graduates who achieve an overall WAM above 75 can gain entry to a PhD program. Those who get a WAM of 65–75 can apply for a masters by research.



This place has played such an integral role in shaping the woman I am today. I really owe so much to be able to come here in a space and not just study within a Western Knowledge system but in a First Nations Knowledge system. That's incredible, that's powerful.'

Jessica Byrne PhD graduate

Research degrees

With a PhD or masters degree you will become a specialist in your field. You will build knowledge in your profession and contribute to strengthening academic ties to industry and communities. With a research degree at Deakin, you will work with renowned researchers and mentors to develop necessary skills and knowledge.

This is your opportunity to begin a rewarding and meaningful research career in a multi-award-winning university. Research candidates at the NIKERI Institute are encouraged to research the influence of Australian First Peoples' Ways of Knowing, Being and Doing. However, your options for research areas are limitless, and you will work with your supervisors to develop your own voice.

Course structure

Research degrees involve completing an approved program of research within a prescribed time period. Research is incorporated into a thesis or equivalent project and exegesis which is submitted for examination.

Career opportunities

Research candidates are eligible for university teaching positions. Graduates of a research degree can continue their careers as academics or find work as an expert in their field of study.

Graduate outcomes

Through this research program you will develop the ability to relate your research to a broader knowledge framework and gain the skills to describe new knowledge that you've gained through exploration.

Tive had the privilege of becoming part of a group of amazing researchers who are leading the way in Indigenous Knowledge Research. Through my studies with the Institute I am now able to benefit my community by conducting research that highlights the importance of research being conducted by community for community.

Tauri SimonePhD graduate



Geelong Waurn Ponds Campus KC Building, 75 Pigdons Road Waurn Ponds Victoria +61 3 5227 2538 nikeri@deakin.edu.au

deakin.edu.au/nikeri

Published by Deakin University in March 2023. While the information published in the guide was accurate at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course offerings and other information published here. For the most up-to-date information please view our website at **deakin.edu.au/nikeri**.