

Specialist Certificate in Public Infrastructure

1 Background

The School of Enterprise proposes to introduce a new post graduate award program, known as the Specialist Certificate in Public Infrastructure. This program would comprise of two subjects worth 12.5 points each. The two subjects are to be chosen from existing subjects that comprise the University of Melbourne's Master in Public Infrastructure program.

This proposal is in direct response to detailed discussions the School of Enterprise has had with two global companies. These organizations advise that they will sponsor specialised shorter duration postgraduate studies for their staff in preference to the Master of Public Infrastructure coursework program (2 years part-time study). Students enrolled in the Master of Public Infrastructure program are mostly senior managers aged in their mid-30s generally possessing postgraduate qualifications. They experience difficulty committing the time and/or funds to existing Masters or Postgraduate Certificate programs. In many cases, industry and government are more interested in specialised vocational training and professional development in the multi-disciplined infrastructure field. The programs will be constructed from the current portfolio of highly differentiated Master of Public Infrastructure coursework subjects.

2 Course Objectives

The Specialist Certificate program is designed to provide graduates with a specialist understanding of two sub-disciplines in the field of public infrastructure. Specifically, graduates should:

- Understand the relationship between the specialist subjects selected and the broader economy with particular reference to asset allocation and investment decision-making; regulation, public policy and the role of government; and the relationship that exists between infrastructure provision, the state and the community that it serves
- Possess the skills to know how to source and apply knowledge in this complex multi-disciplinary field
- Impart a familiarity with the measurement of the key indicators of infrastructure investment, public procurement, industry structure and performance, enterprise efficiency and the operation of capital markets
- Possess the skills necessary for the practical application of industry knowledge in both the public and private sectors
- Understand the important relationship between procurement, industry economics, investment, public policy and regulation in the various infrastructure industry sectors, the differences between sectors and projects and the broad implications of efficiency to national and regional economic performance and ultimately, community living standards
- Possess the skills to articulate their knowledge in an appropriate form, and
- Be capable of independent critical thought and exhibit analytical and problem-solving skills in the discipline areas selected for study.

3 Entry Requirements

The entry requirements are equivalent to those of the Master of Public Infrastructure coursework program, namely:

A four-year degree in an appropriate discipline;

or

A three-year undergraduate degree in an appropriate discipline plus and appropriate graduate diploma at an overall standard of at least 70 per cent;

or

A three-year undergraduate degree in an appropriate discipline plus a demonstrated employment experience of no less than 5 years in the infrastructure sector.

4 Course/Program Structure

All subjects are based on a point structure with students required to accumulate 25 points in order to receive an award. The standard subject is worth 12.5 points. A total of two subjects can be chosen from the following seven Masters level subjects:

- Principles of Public Private Partnerships
- Risk Management for Public Private Partnerships
- Infrastructure Economics
- Public Policy & Finance
- Infrastructure Regulation
- Major Project Procurement
- Infrastructure Finance.

5 Availability of Course

The course is available on a part-time basis from semester 1, 2007. It will be available to fee-paying domestic and international students and to CSP students.