OASES Graduate School

Master of Sustainability and Social Change

Prospectus 2015
OASES Graduate School offers an innovative, fully accredited postgraduate program that genuinely addresses the great challenges and opportunities of our time. We provide an education more directly relevant to our participants’ lives and work, one that empowers them to imagine and bring about personal, organisational and social change.

Our program is unique within Australia for its focus on transformative learning. Transformative learning involves deep changes in the way we think, feel and act that have a profound impact on how we live our lives. It is a kind of learning that transforms your relationship with the world and enables you to imagine and work towards a more sustainable, just and joyful future.

Our participants live and work in a diverse range of places, with varied capacities and interests. These include the fields of sustainability, environment, health, politics, design, agriculture, economics, leadership, the arts, philosophy, sociology, community development, social justice and many others. Your learning at OASES will be useful and applicable in all workplaces and community arenas as well as your personal life and relationships.
Leading Minds Making a World of Difference

There is a wealth of knowledge experience and wisdom amongst OASES teachers, who approach learning by way of ‘living the questions’, as Rilke would say, rather than becoming side-tracked by a search for answers.

There’s a capacity for deep listening as we explore our own learning journey and allow our project or thesis to emerge. There’s a humility demonstrated by teachers, stepping outside the role of expert and instead nurturing for each one of us our unique learning edges and challenges. OASES is an inspiration in education and I feel privileged to be part of the School.

- Nikki Marshall

We Strive to…

Contribute to a world where people recognise they are part of a natural global ecosystem & live sustainably in community with all human & non-human beings.

Provide a mindful learning environment where individuals can gain a better understanding of their relationship with the world while developing the ability to live sustainably & engage in seeking solutions to the pressing ecological & social challenges of our time.
Master Program Structure

We offer a Master Program of three to four years duration with nested exits after year one or year two.

Our program is structured around four key learning areas: the aesthetic, the social, the ecological and the spiritual.

Participants undertake units in each of these areas, drawing the threads of these areas together in the ‘double unit’ that runs throughout each full year, *Integrative Conversations*.

1st year (Grad.Cert) core units
- Integrative Conversations 1 (Semesters 1 & 2)
- Entering the Ecological Domain (Semester 1)
- Entering the Aesthetic Domain (Semester 1)
- Entering the Social Domain (Semester 2)
- Entering the Spiritual Domain (Semester 2)

2nd & 3rd year core units
- Integrative Conversations 2 (Semesters 1 & 2)
- Integrative Conversations 3/4 (Semesters 1 & 2)
- Research project (Semesters 1 & 2) 3rd and if required 4th year

2nd & 3rd year electives (2015)
- Voice, Body, Mind
- Synapse: Creating Connections
- Community Development
- Co-evolving Spirituality for Life
Duration & Workload

Our course is generally taken part-time with monthly 2 to 3 day seminars/workshops & classes generally held on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays.

This structure has been designed to minimise impact on weekday commitments, allowing people to attend while working, and those living outside Melbourne more opportunity to participate.

In first and second year there are 26 days of timetabled class time across 13 weekends each year. In the third and fourth year there are 10 days of discussion seminar classes, regular one-on-one work with a facilitator (1 hour per month for 20 months) and 2 elective units of 4 days duration each.

The expectation is that in addition to this timetabled program you will engage in private study for approximately 180 hours each year in the first and second years and approximately 600 hours over the 3rd and 4th years. This includes the undertaking of a research project of your choice.

"I was looking to change direction personally and professionally. I had a desire for intellectual stimulation and the OASES course seemed to match my interests much more than any other course I could find. My experience so far is good. The mode of delivery of the course is conversational and it is fantastic to work in small groups."

– Sean O'Sullivan

RPL

Recognition of Prior Learning

Applications are invited for recognised prior learning from other courses or work experience of relevance to the OASES program. Credit may be awarded to successful applicants for one or more elective units.

For more information on entry & degree requirements visit oases.edu.au
Postgraduate Courses

How do we…?

Respond to the ecological, cultural, social & spiritual crises of our time?

Thrive in the face of change & uncertainty?

Put our values, visions & intention into practice?

The OASES Graduate Program is for anyone looking for a place to engage deeply & rigorously with these questions.

We look at these & the many other complex dilemmas facing us as we try to live lives of integrity & make a positive difference in the world.

Master of Sustainability and Social Change

1 to 2 years part time upon successful completion of your Graduate Diploma in Sustainability and Social Change, a core unit, 2 elective units, and completion of a research project.

Our Master is a three to four year program whose first two years comprise the Graduate Diploma.

In third and fourth years, students complete two more elective units and participate in final Integrative Conversations units but your main engagement will be through your research project. Master projects take a wide variety of shapes and are tailored to each participant’s needs and place in life.

Your choice of co - visor, a mentor from the faculty, will work alongside you as you engage in your Master project. In general, however, your Master project will be an application of the learning that has taken place within OASES and towards transforming some aspect of your own life, seeking to more deeply recognise your place in the world, and how you can contribute to more positive ecological, social, cultural and/ or spiritual change.

For more information visit oases.edu.au/masters
Graduate Diploma in Sustainability and Social Change

2 year part-time postgraduate degree, equivalent to the first 2 years of the OASES Master Program, achieved upon successful completion of the *Graduate Certificate in Sustainability and Social Change*, plus a 6th core unit and 4 electives.

The Graduate Diploma is a two-year program which follows the Graduate Certificate with *Integrative Conversations 2*, run over 10 days throughout the second year, and four elective units of your choice. A mentor from the faculty will work alongside you as you engage in your degree.

Electives offered in 2015 will be announced soon.

For more information visit oases.edu.au/graduate-diploma

Graduate Certificate in Sustainability and Social Change

1 year part-time postgraduate degree, equivalent to the first year of the OASES Master Program, achieved upon successful completion of first year core units.

The Graduate Certificate covers the first year of the Master program and is centred around *Integrative Conversations 1*, a discussion seminar which runs over 10 days throughout the year.

Each of the four foundational units usually consist of four full-day workshops, and include two residential programs off-campus at Moora Moora and Dunkeld respectively.

These programs provide grounding in the four learning areas around which the course is structured: the aesthetic, the social, the ecological and the spiritual. A mentor from the faculty will work alongside you as you engage in your degree.

For more information visit oases.edu.au/graduate-certificate

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First Year Units (2015)

Integrative Conversations 1, with Chris Lloyd
Friday March 6, Saturday March 7, Monday May 11, Monday June 29, Monday Aug 10, Sunday Sept13, Monday Oct 12, Friday Dec 4, Saturday Dec 5, Sunday Dec 6
Please note: No second semester intake.

The ways we think about language and perceive the world (consciously and unconsciously), and the worldviews that emerge, have important consequences for our actions, values and ways of being in the world. As individuals and as members of society, organisations, families etc . . . . we are continually making decisions about how we live, what we learn and how we lead others.

In our Integrative Conversations we focus our attention on becoming increasingly mindful of our everyday choices and practice, considering them as holding the potential for transformation. Many writers argue that the great challenges and opportunities of our time (ecological, spiritual, social, political) require an engagement with transformed ways of understanding the reality of which we are a part. In a dynamic, experiential environment, you will explore the assumptions within which you learn and upon which you make choices and take action. You will experience learning as a new way of thinking and being in the world.

Drawing on the application of learning theory, chaos and complexity theory, and theories of ‘structures of consciousness’, we explore the emerging possibilities for a growing consciousness and the world that emerges. You will participate in conversations about how this way of thinking about the world may transform our actions, experiences and ways of being in the world. We will consciously and practically develop our own ‘integrative and transformative practice’, together.
Entering the Ecological Domain, with Dr Peter Cock & Sandra Cock

Introduction Friday April 10, 6-8pm at OASES; weekend residential at Moora Moora, Thursday evening till Sunday afternoon April 16–19; debriefing Friday April 24, 6-8pm at OASES.

Entering the Ecological Domain, we wish to reclaim the notion of re - enchantment. We explore the interconnections between spirit, nature and humanity at a time of increasing environmental degradation. We address the evolution of the Western disconnection of mind with the natural world and pose the question through theory and praxis: In what ways can sacred nature encounters lead to insight, personal transformation and earth - caring?

The central belief is that environmental problems are problems of the human condition, which may be addressed by a conscious reconnection of the human spirit with the spirit of nature.

We explore the motivations, commitments and experiences of people involved in environmental policy, advocacy and change, at a community level, a personal level, more broadly at a cultural level and on a global scale. We develop frameworks for social, environmental and personal sustainability in a spiritual framework.

Together we delve into structures of conserver and consumer society; analyse reasons (social, political, economic, cultural) for the current ecological crisis; and address the process of recreating sacred relationships between human and earth in ways that embrace diversity, ecosystems, balance, beauty and love. The core of this domain is passion, for both environmental and social justice.

Entering the Aesthetic Domain, with Dr Kristin Diemer & Alan Browne

Sunday May 10; Saturday May 30, Sunday May 31, Sunday June 28

We make visual, aural and kinaesthetic choices every moment as we navigate daily life. Entering the Aesthetic Domain, central integral questions of aesthetics are explored through media scenarios, colour, photographs, ritual interaction, visual thinking and voice. We explore the social construction and social expression of self and identity, exploring aspects in the world around us that influence and shape our identity as well as exploring how identity and perception of 'self' shapes our understanding of the world.

We attempt to heal aspects of the socio - culturally induced schism between the rational - logical and intuitive - creative, integrating the intuitive and the rational mind through experiential learning, art practice, and meditation, giving the mind space through which our thoughts, ideas and perceptions can be digested, or simply released. Over time participants uncover principles of aesthetic judgments, cultural preferences and prejudices, and develop their own praxis in communication for social change, identifying integrated layers of social, ecological and spiritual forces in the materialisation of aesthetic forms.
First Year Units (2015) Cont.

Entering the Social Domain, with Dr Jacques Boulet
Sunday August 9, Friday Sept 11, Saturday Sept 12, Sunday Oct 10

Entering the Social Domain, participants are guided through a critical analysis of our common understanding of processes of social change, and of ways of influencing such processes. Philosophical, theoretical and methodological issues underpinning our notions of culture, organisation, development, change, innovation, progress and the like are examined and their consequences for practice reflected upon and discussed.

Our own implication in societal and organisational complexities, processes and relationships (global, institutional, every - day and 'mental') are reflected upon, so that practical changes can be considered. And the technical / methodical strategic discussions we have are firmly rooted in reflections about fundamental issues, to do with how we lead our every - day lives and how we relate to one another and to the world around us. The unit is essentially about eco - ethics and socio - ethics towards more sustainable community building and development.

Entering the Spiritual Domain, with Paul Sanders & Peter Ross
Sunday Oct 11, introduction at OASES
Weekend at Dunkeld, Thursday evening till Monday afternoon Nov 6-9

Considering spiritual life as conscious presence in the world, we invite participants to critically reflect on the personal and social characteristics of emergent self - consciousness, which we explore through personal and group engagement, including pre - reflective consciousness, reflective consciousness and non - dual awareness.

Dialogue and self - questioning are used to open the internal and external dimensions of this awareness. We explore self - emergence as it pertains to the importance and urgency of understanding the place of the Earth - Self, including a comparative examination of spirituality as a social and cosmic reality through the windows of contemporary feminist thought and Eco - psychology.

Participants develop a variety of psycho - spiritual and eco - spiritual practices, approaches and attitudes instructive for the integration of mind and body; learning to relate, within the OASES learning environment, as an intentional commitment to others and as the reciprocal and mutual enactment of self - emergence as intentional presence.
# First Year Calendar 2015

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IC 1 – Integrative Conversations  
ECO – Entering the Ecological  
AES – Entering the Aesthetic  
SOC – Entering the Social  
SPI – Entering the Spiritual  

Leading Minds Making a World of Difference
The OASES Experience

What else do our students have to say about their time at OASES?

“Becoming a member of the OASES community, and a participant in the Master program has been an immensely enriching and rewarding experience for me.

Participants are encouraged to learn through more traditional means, such as reading and researching, and also through their own lived experiences and reflections – allowing an integration of learning with one’s whole self and ways of seeing and knowing the world.

This way of learning and sharing also encourages connecting our learning and development with having a positive impact in the ‘real world’.

– Charlotte Almond

“When I look back at my time with OASES, I am grateful for the respect and encouragement given to deep inquiry and reflection. This deep questioning was not experienced in isolation but was shared amongst the participants and facilitators, as we grappled together with the complex issues of ecology, aesthetics, social responsibility and spirituality, and their integration.

Our learning was deeply personal but collective as well. It felt organic. We lived and breathed the questions together. My previous experience of learning, in comparison, felt static and lifeless.

– Julie Clarke
2nd & 3rd Year Core Units

Integrative Conversations 2, with Dr Robert Hoskin & Dr Jenni Goricanc
Friday March 6, Saturday March 7, Monday May 11, Monday July 29, Monday Aug 10, Sunday Sept 13, Monday Oct 12, Friday Dec 4, Saturday Dec 5, Sunday Dec 6
Please note: No second semester intake.

Second Year Integrative Conversations, part of the Graduate Diploma, is a forum for participants to further develop new thinking and practice, as they contemplate proposals for their Master projects. Participants engage as a group and individually, in practice and conversation about different techniques that can facilitate ongoing integrative and transformative practice.

In this year the group leadership shifts further from the facilitators towards the participants. This builds the foundation for Integrative Conversations 3, and the Master Course level generally, where participants engage in the relatively unstructured and individual work of the research project. Integrative Conversations becomes a focus of support to participants' learning throughout their project development.

Integrative Conversations 3, with Dr Jacques Boulet & Dr Kristin Diemer
Friday March 6, Saturday March 7, Monday May 11, Monday July 29, Sunday June 29; Monday Aug 10, Sunday Sept 13, Monday Oct 12, Friday Dec 4, Saturday Dec 5, Sunday Dec 6
Please note: No second semester intake.

As participants in third and fourth years have entered the 'project phase' towards completion of their Master Degree, they will be offered the assistance of a 'co-visor' from the faculty staff. Co-visioning is a supportive dialogue between participant and co-visor. It is established as a process within Integrative Conversations, and through individual arrangements made between participants and co-visors during second year and/or during the transition from second to third year.

Integrative Conversations continues in a modified and restricted format throughout the third and fourth years, acting as 'Graduate Seminars/Conversations' where, in a mutually supportive learning environment, participants have the opportunity to share with each other their 'progress', blockages, findings and insights, and will maintain a sense of the dialogic enquiry approach typical of all learning at OASES.
2nd & 3rd Year Elective Units

Voice, Body, Mind.
April 10, April 11, May 17-18

This unit is about coherence in communication. Its focus is voice and our ability to effectively use it in our relations with those around us. Voice is a complex holistic phenomenon, a product (i.e. sound) which is invisible, made from a place in the body we cannot see (larynx) or sometimes feel, linked to both emotional and physical responses, and with an output we hear differently to those around us.

The work of this unit is the reconstruction of the coherent self. By evoking the fullness of voice, mediating between the singer/speaker’s intention and the listener’s receptivity in one integrated, coherent interaction, we heal broken connections between mind, body and voice.

Synapse: Creating Connections
July 18-19, September 19-20

An aesthetic experience is the spark of enlightenment or connection in an ‘Aha’ moment when things make sense and everything becomes clear! Such a bridging moment has been described by James Joyce as ‘aesthetic arrest’. This unit will assist participants to create their own bridges between many and varied ways of knowing, crossing disciplinary divides between art, spirituality/religion and science.

Community Development
September May 3, June 13-14, June 27

This unit will introduce participants to the notion of “Community Development” and enhance their understanding of concepts, strategies, practices and ways-of-living associated with it. As with so many of our operative concepts, Community Development has variously been condemned to oblivion – as naïve romanticism – or promoted to an – ill-understood – panacea, especially for the ‘disadvantaged’ and then, in turn, criticized as a ‘cheap’ pseudo-solution for problems which have their roots far beyond the local community in the (globalising) infrastructure and processes of ‘society-at-large’. This unit offers a reflective and constructive space, where we can reconstruct community in its ontological, epistemological and ‘praxis’ dimensions.
Co-evolving Spirituality for Life
June 27 October 30 (Evening), November 5-8, November 13 (Evening)

How do we live an engaged spiritual life in a post-modern multicultural, multi-faith world where all truths are relative and culturally situated? How do we understand Spirit in the context of evolution? How do we approach the sacred in a society dominated by scientific and psychological reductionism?

In this unit we explore our personal narratives of belief in the context of the evolution of consciousness and cosmology. We explore the inter-relationship between the evolution of personal, social and cultural consciousness looking to see how spirituality can be that co-creative participation in dynamic mystery.
OASES Graduate School

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