



Professional Community Relations

qualification in the minerals industry



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA



INTRODUCTION

The MCA considers that the quality of stakeholder engagement, community and industry partnering and the overall wellbeing of communities can only improve with an accompanying increase in a professional workforce skilled in key social competencies.

Accordingly, the Minerals Council of Australia, in partnership with the University of Queensland, has developed a postgraduate program in Community Relations for the mining industry.

The program is designed to cover four key areas:

- » community engagement;
- » community development;
- » corporate social responsibility; and
- » cultural awareness.

Although currently offered as a Graduate Certificate, the program may be expanded over time to include a Graduate Diploma and Masters, subject to sufficient enrolment.

Applicants will normally be expected to have an undergraduate degree with two years relevant work experience. However, subject to University approval, people without formal tertiary qualifications may qualify for admission through recognition of prior learning, work experience or identified skill development. International applicants will be required to provide evidence of competency in written and spoken English.

To enable students currently employed in the industry or living in remote and regional Australia and overseas to undertake the Graduate Certificate, the program will be delivered primarily online, but with some intensive face to face delivery, including a five day compulsory workshop at the commencement of the program. The workshop for the program will be held at the University of Queensland St. Lucia campus from Monday 16th to Friday 20th February 2009. Beyond the workshop the program requires students to commit to reading course materials, assignment writing and participating in online class discussions throughout the year.

The Graduate Certificate will draw upon expertise across the University of Queensland's Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences and the Sustainable Minerals Institute, plus The Australian National University's Resource Management in Asia Pacific program in the Research School of Asia and Pacific Studies, and Indigenous expertise from across the ANU campus.

OVERVIEW OF COURSES

The Graduate Certificate comprises four courses ('subjects') specifically targeted at the minerals industry. There are three core courses plus an industry preferred elective course to be made available on a cross-institutional basis as follows;

MINE7052: Community Aspects of Minerals Resource Development

This core course will provide an introduction to the program and assist students to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes to identify and analyse community issues and formulate appropriate responses. Specifically, students will learn:

- » the role of the community relations practitioner and how to manage the tensions inherent in the role;
- » the changing nature of the global minerals industry and the implications for community relations practice;
- » the business case for companies investing time and resources in addressing community issues; and
- » effective communication, presentation and influencing techniques.

MINE7023: Community Development for the Mining Industry

This core course introduces students to a framework for understanding how community development theory, methods and techniques can be used by community relations practitioners in the minerals industry. The course includes four modules:

- » understanding community;
- » relating to the community;
- » understanding change in communities; and
- » community development roles and interventions.

MINE7024: Community Engagement for the Mining Industry

This core course explores the tools and techniques associated with community engagement and the minerals industry. It focuses on the areas of community engagement and consultation, stakeholder analysis, building partnerships, understanding impact assessment and program and project management. The techniques and skills will be focussed around sustainable development for communities and companies. The course links local and global development practice community relations frameworks, policies and practice in the minerals industry.

* students may apply to the program coordinator to enrol in an approved elective offered through the University of Queensland

Mining Projects and Indigenous Peoples



This industry preferred elective course will be provided by The Australian National University on a cross institutional basis. It will examine the social, political and economic relationships between Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders involved in the development of large-scale mining projects. Case study material will mainly be drawn from Australia, South Africa, Indonesia, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea.

On completion of this course, students should:

- » understand the social, political and historical context of relationships between mining companies and Indigenous peoples; and
- » be able to apply this knowledge to the task of negotiating this engagement in different political settings.



ENROLMENT

To register your interest in the program and to obtain an application form contact:

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Applications close on 24th January 2009.

Please note: enrolment numbers are limited to 35.