

**Associate Professor  
Justin Oakley**

Assoc Prof Oakley has published books on virtue ethics and professional practice, informed consent and clinician accountability, and the moral significance of emotions, along with articles on various topics in bioethics and ethical theory.



**Dr Robert Sparrow**

Dr Sparrow has published extensively on topics including new reproductive technologies, parenthood and genetic relatedness, disability rights critiques of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, liberalism and communitarianism, and other topics in political philosophy and applied ethics.



**Dr Linda Barclay**

Dr Barclay has published widely on issues including abortion, agency, genetic engineering, nationalism, multiculturalism, egalitarianism, distributive justice, and other topics in political philosophy and bioethics.



Advances in biomedical research, genetics and reproductive technologies pose new and ever more complex ethical dilemmas. Many professionals feel a strong need to develop their understanding of ethical frameworks and principles in order to better analyse and resolve these challenging issues.

Further information can be found at:  
[www.arts.monash.edu.au/bioethics](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/bioethics)

**Postgraduate Coursework Inquiries**

Centre for Human Bioethics  
Building 11 Monash University  
Clayton 3800 Australia  
T: +61 (03) 9902 0015  
[human.bioethics@arts.monash.edu.au](mailto:human.bioethics@arts.monash.edu.au)

**Applications for entry into coursework programs should be directed to:**

Postgraduate Coursework Admissions  
Coursework Office  
Building 11 Monash University  
Vic 3800 Australia  
T: +61 (03) 9905 2107

**Inquiries concerning the PhD and Master of Bioethics by Research should be directed to:**

Associate Professor Justin Oakley  
Director, Centre for Human Bioethics  
Building 11 Monash University  
Vic 3800 Australia  
T: +61 9905 4277

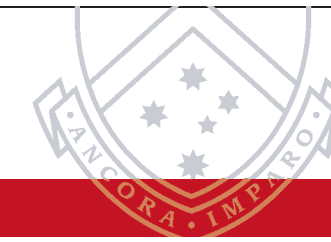
The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Monash University reserves the right to alter fees, regulations and procedures should the need arise.

The inclusion of course details in this brochure in no way creates an obligation on the part of the university to teach it in any given year, or in the manner described. The university reserves the right to discontinue or vary courses at any time without notice. Students should always check with the relevant faculty officers when planning their courses and consult other information such as handbooks and websites for the most current information.

Authorised by the Faculty Manager, Faculty of Arts, Monash University, September 2008

CRICOS provider: Monash University 00008C

FIREBELL 03872



# Postgraduate Courses in Bioethics

Centre for Human Bioethics

# bioethics





# bioethics



## The importance of bioethics

**Bioethical questions are inescapable. Advances in biomedical research, genetics, and reproductive technologies pose new and ever more complex ethical dilemmas. Should we be tested for our genetic predisposition to disease, athletic ability, or even intelligence? Should governments allow cloned embryos to be created and then destroyed for their stem cells?**

We have all been patients, we face decisions about reproduction, and we all need to face the challenges of ageing. Is it ever ethically acceptable for clinicians to withhold details of a patient's diagnosis, prognosis, or medical procedures from them? Should there be any limits on access to abortion or the use of assisted reproductive technologies? Could it be ethically justifiable to hasten a patient's death when their quality of life is very low?

No society can function well without addressing such questions. These bioethical issues have become increasingly important and confronting for us all, but particularly for those working in areas such as healthcare, education, public policy, and law. Many professionals working in these areas feel a strong need to develop their understanding of ethical frameworks and principles in order to better analyse and resolve these challenging issues.

## Postgraduate Courses

To meet this need, Monash University Centre for Human Bioethics has designed a range of graduate programs dealing with these and related ethical issues.

RESEARCH BASED	
PhD	3-4 years full time
Master of Bioethics	2 years full time 4 years part time
Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Research)	1 year full time 2 years part time
COURSEWORK BASED	
Master of Bioethics	1 year full time 2 years part time
Graduate Diploma in Bioethics	1 year full time 2 years part time
Graduate Certificate in Bioethics	.5 year full time 1 year part time

The Centre's coursework programs provide structured programs of units in ethical theory, applied ethics, healthcare ethics, professional ethics, and related policy issues. The courses are designed in ways to suit students with little or no prior educational background in ethics or philosophy, but the courses are also suitable for philosophy graduates with an interest in further study of bioethics.

## Units offered

The units in these coursework programs introduce students to the main approaches to normative ethics, philosophical problems underlying contemporary issues in bioethics, principles of healthcare ethics and their application to current issues in patient care, the main political moralities and their application to legal and policy questions about the regulation of practices in healthcare, reproduction, and genetics, and issues regarding professional integrity and the special role obligations of professionals. Units offered include:

- Ethics
- Questions of life and death
- Healthcare ethics: principles and practice
- Ethical issues in professional life
- Bioethics, public policy and the law
- Bioethics supervised research paper

## Aims and teaching format

Teaching in these courses is designed to improve students' analytical skills, encourage them to think critically about the ethical issues considered, and to develop independent and well-informed views about the ethical and philosophical questions addressed in the course. Seminar topics are directed towards the most

internationally significant bioethical issues, and teaching staff are active and widely-published researchers in the areas on which they teach.

The Centre's seminar-style teaching for bioethics students enrolled in on-campus mode is very conducive to discussion and debate, which helps develop students' understanding of different ethical perspectives and their applications to issues in bioethics. The approaches to teaching and the size of seminars enable teaching staff to address students' individualised learning needs. Our students often tell us that the courses teach them to 'think outside the square'.

## Teaching staff

The Centre's programs are taught by staff with strong national and international reputations for their research and teaching in bioethics, and who are active and prominent contributors to public debate and professional discussions about a variety of issues in bioethics. Teaching staff regularly present invited talks on bioethical issues to hospitals and professional organisations, and have also received Dean's Commendations for Excellence in Teaching.

## Flexible Delivery

An advantage of postgraduate bioethics studies at Monash is being able to study by off-campus learning. Many of our students complete their studies with the Centre while living interstate or overseas.

## Course costs

Another attractive feature of the Centre's Master of Bioethics (by coursework) is that most local students have been able to obtain a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) in the course. The Graduate Diploma in Bioethics and the Graduate Certificate in Bioethics are full-fee paying courses for all students. Research degrees are fee exempt for local students. Further information on fees for local and international students can be found at: [www.monash.edu.au/study/international/courses](http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/courses)

Some of the Centre's postgraduate students have been granted continuing professional development points for their bioethics studies from their professional associations, such as the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners, and the Australian College of Pharmacy.



"I appreciated how much thought went into the superb materials in the Monash Master of Bioethics course."

Lydia Weilert,  
Human Research Ethics  
Committee member



## WHO Fellowship

Since 2002, the Centre has offered an annual three-month internship at the World Health Organization in Geneva. Master of Bioethics students who have completed at least one semester of the course are eligible to apply for one annual fellowship of AUS\$9,000 to work during the Australian summer as an intern in the Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights, at the WHO in Geneva.

## Graduate destinations

The Centre's postgraduate bioethics programs have helped our graduates find work in areas including clinical ethics and research ethics at hospitals and other healthcare and research institutions; public policy development; state guardianship boards; disability advocacy organisations; and in tertiary teaching of bioethics, medical ethics, and nursing ethics. Our graduates have found positions with organisations including the UK Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the World Health Organization, the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, the Alfred Hospital, the Mater Hospital, and Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Also, some of our graduates have gone on to undertake a PhD in bioethics, at Monash or

elsewhere, or have accepted Fellowships and Research positions at institutions such as Yale University and the University of Toronto.

## What our graduates say

"I think of our class discussions every time I do an ethics consultation in the hospital."  
Dr Davis Wilkins  
Intensive Care Specialist

"I really enjoyed the course and have found it to be of great practical use in my work."  
Dr Michael Clarence  
General Practitioner

"I found the Master of Bioethics course to be immensely satisfying, both because of its deep intellectual stimulation and its thought-provoking relevance. It raised myriad issues throughout the field of medicine and its associated disciplines, and requires one to examine them through the spectrum of reason, logic, and justice. It is therefore a must in a world where procedures, technologies, and research seem to be outstripping our ability to truly examine the long-term human repercussions of their individual applications."  
Claire Waldron  
Dialysis Co-ordinator

## A strong international reputation

Established in 1980, the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University (Clayton Campus) was the first of its kind in Australia and is one of the oldest in the world. Since its foundation, the Centre has earned a strong international reputation for excellence in research and teaching in bioethics. As one of the world's top eight bioethics centres, Monash University Centre for Human Bioethics is involved in a new international network established to further develop collaborative research and teaching links. The network is co-ordinated by the University of Tokyo Center for Biomedical Ethics and Law, and its members include the Hastings Center in New York, the National Institutes of Health Department of Bioethics in Washington DC, and The Ethox Centre at Oxford University.

Monash University Centre for Human Bioethics is known for its practical and non-sectarian approach to ethical issues, producing ground-breaking work in several areas of bioethics and ethical theory, particularly reproductive ethics, xenotransplantation, end-of-life decision-making, human cloning, surgeon report cards, and virtue ethics. It has pioneered highly successful graduate programs, with the possibility of flexible delivery through off-campus learning, and attracts students from around the world.