

Bioethics at Monash University

Arts

What is Bioethics?

Bioethics is a fascinating, challenging and relevant field of study which draws on philosophy, science, sociology and other disciplines in the attempt to answer ethical issues raised by the biological and medical sciences and questions of life and death as they arise in the context of healthcare.

A World-Renowned Centre

Established in 1980, the Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University 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.

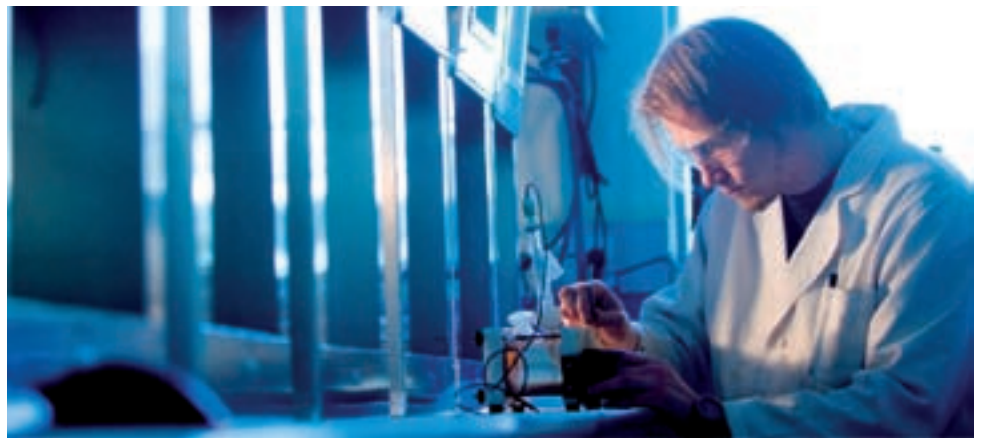
The Centre for Human Bioethics at Monash University has pioneered innovative and influential approaches to the ethical provision of Assisted Reproductive Technology and End of Life decision-making. Staff at the Centre continue to work on ethical issues at the cutting-edge of medical science, including stem cell research, human cloning, xenotransplantation, and surgeon report cards.

Why study Bioethics?

All of us are confronted with ethical issues in our lives but rapid advances in scientific research means we are continually posed with new and more complex dilemmas. This is particularly so for those working in the professions of health-care, education, public policy and law.

Some of the most controversial and important public issues are questions of bioethics – What should the law say about abortion? Is there enough funding for public hospitals? Should the government fund stem cell research involving human embryos?

Studying bioethics equips us with the knowledge and skills to make decisions about ethical issues and to contribute to debates in an informed, critical and effective manner.



A valuable, transferable skill set

The study of bioethics, like philosophy, develops skills in critical reasoning, argument, comprehension, communication, research, and logical analysis, at the highest level. These are the skills that employers look for in today's world, where flexibility and the ability to adapt to rapid change are essential prerequisites for a successful career.

Career areas

Monash graduates have entered careers across a range of areas and organizations including genetics, health science, medical practice, research, government, law, overseas aid, education, and social policy.

“The reason I chose Monash was the world class Centre for Bioethics, which no other university in Australia can match.”

Laura Ballantyne-Brodie

(The Age, Education section, 10 July 2006)

“As bioethical issues, sustainable development and corporate social responsibility are gaining more traction in the main stream, a rigorous knowledge in these philosophical-related areas will become increasingly beneficial in the workplace.”

Alice Gibson

“I think of our class discussions every time I do an ethics consultation in the hospital.”

Davis Wilkins

Courses offered

The Centre offers six postgraduate coursework or research qualifications designed for students with varying levels of experience and knowledge in bioethics.

Course	Duration
PhD	3–4 years full-time
Master of Bioethics by Research	2 years full-time, 4 years part-time
Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Research)	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Master of Bioethics by Coursework	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Graduate Diploma in Bioethics	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time
Graduate Certificate in Bioethics	6 months full-time, 1 year part-time

Examples of postgraduate units include:

- Questions of Life and Death
- Ethical Issues in Patient Care
- Ethical Issues in Professional Life
- Legal Issues in Bioethics
- Bioethics Supervised Research Paper
- Ethics
- Health Care Ethics: Principles and Practice
- Bioethics, Public Policy, and the Law

Monash – WHO Fellowship

Master of Bioethics students who have completed at least one semester of the course are eligible to apply for an annual fellowship of \$9000 to work during the Australian summer as an intern in the human genetics program at the World Health Organisation in Geneva.

Fees

Research degrees are fee exempt, and Commonwealth Supported places may be available for coursework degrees.

Further Information

Further information can be found at:
www.arts.monash.edu.au/bioethics

Inquiries and applications

Inquiries about for the Master of Bioethics by Coursework, the Graduate Diploma in Bioethics, the Graduate Certificate in Bioethics and the Postgraduate Diploma in Arts (Research) should be directed to:

Postgraduate Coursework Inquiries

Centre for Human Bioethics
Building 11
Monash University VIC 3800
Australia
Ph: + 61 (03) 9902 0015
Email: 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
Ph: +61 (0)3 9905 2107

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

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