



Curtin University

POSTGRADUATE
COURSE GUIDE
2018

COURSEWORK AND
RESEARCH DEGREES

HEALTH SCIENCES

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Make tomorrow better.



healthsciences.curtin.edu.au

WELCOME TO CURTIN

Formed in 1953, the School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science has established an international reputation for the calibre of its graduates and the quality of its research.

Over the years, the science and practice of physiotherapy has developed to the extent that in 1993, the school graduated its first doctoral student. We operate two clinics, one based at the Curtin University Bentley campus and the second at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

FACILITIES

MOTION ANALYSIS LABORATORY

The Motion Analysis Laboratory is a specialised research facility designed to allow the study of a wide range of human activities. The lab is circular in shape, with an upper mezzanine level accessible from the second floor of the building.

REHABILITATION LABORATORY

The school has a modern rehabilitative strength and conditioning facility featuring a range of new pin-loaded weight stack machines.

TEACHING LABORATORIES

Building 408 has six world-class physiotherapy teaching laboratories located on the second floor, as well as a dedicated laboratory on the fourth floor.

CURTIN LIBRARY

The library has remained one of the most important buildings at Curtin, with much of the traditional library now replaced by technology-rich, cafe-style environments.

On level 2, the iZone has computers with large, adjustable monitors, touchscreens, bluetooth and webcam capabilities, whiteboards, graphics workstations and charging facilities for your devices. When it's time to charge your own batteries, you can use the sleep pods installed on level 3.



"On moving to Perth from Dublin, I met up with numerous members of the school's staff and was extremely impressed with their passion and enthusiasm for the course. I was convinced that this was what I needed to do to move my career and learning forward. I can honestly say it was the best decision I have made in my career to date. Since graduating, I have been working in a multidisciplinary team at a large sports medicine clinic in Perth. This role would not have been available to me prior to doing the master course."

Owen Threadgold,
Master of Clinical Physiotherapy graduate



Curtin University is ranked in the top two per cent of universities worldwide, in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2016.



Curtin is ranked eighth in Australia and top 100 globally for Sports-related Subjects in the QS World University Rankings by Subject in 2017.



Curtin proudly celebrates the innovation at its heart. This innovative spirit has seen us mature from the Western Australian Institute of Technology (1967–1986) to the sophisticated global university that we are today.
50years.curtin.edu.au



WHY STUDY A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE AT CURTIN?

ACCESS NEW KNOWLEDGE AND DISCOVERIES

A Curtin health sciences degree can give you access to the latest knowledge and discoveries that will improve the standard of healthcare in Australia and make a real difference to people's lives.

MOVE UP THE CAREER LADDER

A postgraduate course can add new or specialist skills and knowledge to your repertoire. Our postgraduate coursework and research programs are diverse, ranging from life sciences and clinical sciences to population health sciences.

CHANGE YOUR CAREER

A postgraduate graduate entry master (GEM) degree can give you the right skills to change careers.

GET AN EDGE IN THE JOB MARKET

A postgraduate qualification may also help you stand out from other candidates in an increasingly competitive job market.

PROFESSIONALLY RECOGNISED

Many of our courses are accredited nationally and are internationally recognised, allowing you to work in a number of countries around the world when you graduate.

GRADUATE ENTRY FOUNDATION COURSE

This course is for students who want to start a career in health, but have a degree in a different field. The enabling course allows domestic students who have completed their undergraduate degree in a different field to complete the essential prerequisite undergraduate-level units to gain entry into approved graduate entry master courses.

You may select prerequisite units that you need to become eligible to apply for a postgraduate program. A maximum of four units can be undertaken.

Completion of this enabling course may allow entry to:

- Master of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Nursing Practice
- Master of Pharmacy
- Master of Physiotherapy
- Master of Speech Pathology.

Please note: entry to these master courses is competitive and a strong course weighted average is required.

For more information, visit courses.curtin.edu.au

PHYSIOTHERAPY INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT ¹

Physiotherapy plays an integral role in the prevention of injury and disability, and as a clinical response to people after injury or disability has occurred. From international-level sports organisations, to hospitals and nursing homes, and local community practice, physiotherapists provide advice and treatment to restore physical function and wellbeing.

The role of physiotherapists has evolved to incorporate a variety of responsibilities. These include rehabilitating adults who are returning to work, children who have been injured on the sporting field, treating urinary incontinence, hand therapy, treating sufferers of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions and, with additional education and training, providing advice as a diabetes educator.

Employment for this occupation rose strongly in the past five years. Looking forward, employment for physiotherapists is expected to grow very strongly.

This is a large occupation (25,300 in November 2015), suggesting that opportunities should be available in many regions throughout Australia.

Physiotherapists have a below average proportion of full-time jobs (66.5 per cent). For physiotherapists working full-time, average weekly hours are 40.1 (compared to 40.2 for all occupations) and earnings are above average.

Sources 1: 2016 Job Outlook data, joboutlook.gov.au, www.myhealthcareer.com.au

CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

Our clinical physiotherapy postgraduate courses encourage evidence-based practice to develop your skills in identifying, acquiring, evaluating and using evidence.

Clinical practice is a significant component of these courses. During your placement you will examine a variety of case histories and evaluate each as a reflective practitioner.

Please note: Participation is obligatory in laboratory classes, which require frequent disrobing when acting as clients or patients within the peer group. Being able to physically manipulate people, including lifting and supporting those with disabilities, is also an essential requirement.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

In this course you will choose to major in continence and women's health or musculoskeletal physiotherapy. You will further your clinical decision-making skills through the use of statistical analysis, including the examination of various forms of statistical testing. The rest of your studies will comprise specialised coursework units and clinical practice.

COURSE ESSENTIALS

CRICOS CODE	INTAKE	DURATION
049886G	Feb, Jul*	6 months full-time
LOCATION	STUDY MODE	
Perth	Full-time, Part-time	

*Beginning in July may extend the course duration due to unit availabilities. July intake is not available to international students.

International students: if you are studying in Australia on a student visa, you must study on-campus and full-time.

This course has an earlier application deadline. curtin.edu/hs/application-deadlines..

MASTER OF CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY

In this course you will choose to major in continence and women's health, musculoskeletal physiotherapy or sports physiotherapy.

Selecting from a range of specialised higher-level units, you will study clinical management, examining the theories and techniques of physiotherapy practice. You will also study models of service delivery, current developments in physiotherapy care, promotion of health and prevention of disease and dysfunction in the client group.

It is possible to exit this course with a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy once you have completed certain units.

COURSE ESSENTIALS

CRICOS CODE	INTAKE	DURATION
049888F	Feb or Jul*	1 year full-time
LOCATION	STUDY MODE	
Perth	Full-time, Part-time	

*Beginning in July may extend the course duration due to unit availabilities. July intake is not available to international students.

International students: if you are studying in Australia on a student visa, you must study on campus and full-time.

This course has an earlier application deadline. curtin.edu/hs/application-deadlines.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Graduate Certificate: A bachelor degree in physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least two years of relevant clinical experience.

You must be a registered physiotherapist with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia, or be eligible for temporary registration with the Australian Health Practitioners Registration Authority.

You will need to provide evidence of your successful completion of an approved course in first aid (CPR).

You will also be required to provide supplementary information with your application.

curtin.edu.au/hs/admission-requirements

Master: A bachelor degree in physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least two years of relevant clinical experience.

You must be a registered physiotherapist with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia, or be eligible for limited registration for postgraduate training in Australia.

You will need to provide evidence of your successful completion of an approved course in first aid (CPR).

You will also be required to provide supplementary information with your application.

curtin.edu/hs/admission-requirements

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IELTS (Academic) overall band of 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in each band or equivalent (or equivalent English test).

MASTER OF PHYSIOTHERAPY

This course offers a fast-track pathway to becoming a physiotherapist. A series of coursework units will provide you with foundational knowledge in the broad range of specialist and practical areas that encompass the physiotherapy profession.

You will complete case studies and clinical placements to help you apply your knowledge to make well-informed clinical decisions. Furthermore, your studies will emphasise evidence-based practice and encourage you to think critically.

Please note: Participation is obligatory in laboratory classes, which require frequent disrobing when acting as clients or patients within the peer group. Being able to physically manipulate people, including lifting and supporting those with disabilities, is also an essential requirement.

COURSE ESSENTIALS

CRICOS CODE	INTAKE	DURATION
038783F	Jan	2.5 years full-time
LOCATION	STUDY MODE	
Perth	Full-time	

International students: if you are studying in Australia on a student visa, you must study on campus and full-time.

This course has an earlier application deadline. curtin.edu/hs/application-deadlines

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A bachelor degree or equivalent with a course weighted average mark of at least 70. Selection is a competitive process as places are limited.

Three subjects (units) at Bachelor of Science (BSc) or equivalent (Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) level 7): Human musculoskeletal anatomy, human biology/physiology and health research methods or evidence-based practice. Study of psychology is desirable.

You are required to have a current Senior First Aid Certificate or equivalent and a swimming qualification (Bronze medal or Aquatic Rescue Award, as per Australian Royal Lifesaving awards or equivalent) and criminal record screening prior to enrolment in semester 1 units. You do not need to satisfy these requirements at the time of application.

You will also be required to provide supplementary information with your application.

curtin.edu/hs/admission-requirements

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

IELTS (Academic) overall band of 7.0 with a minimum of 7.0 in each band (or equivalent English test).

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

The Physiotherapists Act 2005 requires all practising physiotherapists to be registered with the Physiotherapist Registration Board of Western Australia.

This course is accredited by the Australian Physiotherapy Council. Graduates are eligible for registration in any state or territory of Australia. Registration in New Zealand is available under the terms of the Trans-Tasman agreement. Graduates applying for licensure in the US, UK or Canada will be required to provide details of their program of studies to the relevant bodies and sit a licensing examination.

Please refer to the back page of this brochure for information on how to apply.



"I could never have imagined how much potential for improvement physiotherapy gives to so many people with physical and neurological conditions. Learning about non-pharmaceutical treatments and seeing the positive impact these can have for people, and being able to help my patients make real improvements, has been amazing. Helping someone after a brain injury to learn to walk again was undoubtedly one of the best things I've learnt and experienced at Curtin University."

Hannah Small
Master of Physiotherapy student



RESEARCH DEGREES

A Higher Degree by Research (HDR) from Curtin will enable you to pursue a specialist area in your field, build knowledge in your profession and contribute to important research for industry and the community. Our researchers enjoy access to great facilities and dedicated support services.

Physiotherapy at Curtin has a well-earned international reputation for high-quality and high-impact research.

We have a vibrant research community that embraces the discovery and dissemination of knowledge relating to physiotherapy, and our staff and students regularly contribute to scholarly publications, keynote speeches and other presentations at both national and international conferences.

Our key areas of research focus include:

- arthritis, joint pain and osteoporosis
- cardiopulmonary health and disease
- child and adolescent health
- electrophysical agents
- exercise science and sports
- fall prevention
- Indigenous health
- lifestyle and physical activity
- measurement
- neurology
- occupational health and information technology
- pain mechanisms and assessment
- spinal health
- teaching and learning.

In the 2015 Excellence in Research Australia results, Curtin ranked at world standard level or above in 85 per cent of assessed discipline areas, including medical microbiology, nursing, and nutrition and dietetics.

RESEARCH HELPING CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY TO GET A RUNNING START

Curtin Physiotherapy research student Annie Chappell commenced her research project entitled, 'Running in children and adolescents with Cerebral Palsy (CP); to answer the question: How can we train kids with mild cerebral palsy to run better?

"For those living with CP a commonly articulated goal is to be able to run. It's closely linked to self esteem, participation and confidence," Annie explains.

Annie and her supervisory team, Dr Susan Morris, Dr Noula Gibson, Dr Gavin Williams and Professor Garry Allison, designed a randomised, controlled trial of a training program adapted from a program for adults with acquired brain injury, developed by Dr Williams and colleagues (Schache, Dorn, Williams, Brown and Pandy, 2014).

Throughout the trial, joint angles, moments and powers were measured using specialised equipment in the

Motion Analysis Laboratory, and strength and fitness field tests were undertaken. These measures were performed before and after the running training program.

The data is now being processed to describe how children and adolescents with CP run, as well as their response to the training program.

Following positive feedback from parents and participants, the running training program has now been implemented as a regular service at Ability Centre in three metropolitan locations. Undertaken in a group setting, the program is individually tailored for each child, and a system of mentoring and rotation is upskilling the physiotherapists to ensure its successful delivery.

On a broader scale, the results of the study will inform development of the running training program and also other interventions that impact upon gross motor function, such as botulinum toxin injection and orthopaedic surgery.



Speaker's Corner



FEE INFORMATION

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS

Course fee information can be found at courses.curtin.edu.au

STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE

Student Services and Amenities Fees (SSAF) support a range of non-academic services and amenities at Curtin. For information on the cost and services covered by the SSAF, visit fees.curtin.edu.au/amenities.cfm

COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTED PLACE

A number of our postgraduate Health Sciences courses are commonwealth supported. A Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP) is subsidised by the Australian Government and is available to Australian and New Zealand applicants only. For more information about CSPs and whether you are eligible, visit studyassist.gov.au

EMPLOYER-PAID STUDY

Your employer may be able to help you with the cost of postgraduate study. Many employers have developed formal employee education assistance policies in which education costs may be shared.

FEE-HELP

If you are an Australian citizen or hold a permanent humanitarian visa, you have the option of applying for FEE-HELP – this is a loan to help pay for part or all of your tuition fees. You repay the loan when your income is above the minimum repayment threshold.

TAX BENEFITS

You may be entitled to an income tax deduction for tuition fees and related expenses, if there is a direct connection between your course and your current work. For more information, please consult the Australian Tax Office at ato.gov.au

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The tuition fees (shown in Australian dollars) are based on a normal full-time workload of 100 credits per semester (200 credits per year) unless otherwise stated. If you study more than 100 credits per semester, you will have a higher annual tuition fee. The tuition fee is calculated and charged on a semester basis. Individual unit (subject) fees are listed at fees.curtin.edu.au/course_fees.cfm
Note: all listed fees are subject to annual increases.

OFFER LETTER (100 CREDITS) PUBLISHED FEE

As an international student, you need to pay the fees for your first study period (one semester or 100 credits) before arriving in Australia in order to receive a confirmation of enrolment. The fee quoted on the international offer letter is only an approximation and may differ slightly in accordance with the units you choose to study upon your enrolment.

INDICATIVE ESSENTIAL INCIDENTAL FEES

Some courses require compulsory additional payment for retainable materials and course-related fees, known as essential incidental fees.

Some individual units may have optional fees for course materials and other course-related items. The indicative essential incidental fees listed in this guide are correct for 2017 and may be subject to change.

REFUND AGREEMENT

The categories under which the University Fees Centre will assess an application for refund are laid out in the University's International Student Refund Agreement. The agreement is supplied to you with your Letter of Offer and can also be accessed online at fees.curtin.edu.au/refunds.cfm, where you can also view the most up-to-date information as the policy is subject to change.

FEES TABLE

COURSE NAME	OFFER LETTER (100 CREDIT) PUBLISHED FEE AUD\$	INDICATIVE YEAR 1 FEE AUD\$	TOTAL INDICATIVE COURSE FEE AUD\$	INDICATIVE ESSENTIAL INCIDENTAL FEE AUD\$
Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy	19,200	19,200	19,200	310
Master of Clinical Physiotherapy	19,200	38,400	38,400	310
Master of Physiotherapy (graduate entry)	19,200	43,200	119,500	1,293

For more information about health sciences postgraduate courses, visit courses.curtin.edu.au

HOW TO APPLY AND SCHOLARSHIPS



COURSEWORK DEGREES

To make applying to Curtin as easy as possible, we have put together online guides and services to help you.

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS

To apply now and for more information, visit curtin.edu.au/hs/pg-apply

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

You're considered an international student if you are required to hold a student visa to study in Australia. This includes temporary residents and non-residents of Australia and New Zealand.

To apply now and for more information, visit international.curtin.edu.au/apply

In addition to meeting the entry requirements for your chosen course, you will need to provide evidence of your proficiency in the English language. If you do not have this evidence, consider taking a study program with Curtin English or Curtin College. You can package your English language course with your chosen course to streamline your enrolment and visa application process.

english.curtin.edu.au

RESEARCH DEGREES (ALL STUDENTS)

To find a thesis supervisor, and for information on entry requirements, guidelines and how to apply, visit howtoapply.curtin.edu.au/research

Alternatively, you can contact our Graduate Research School for more information:

Tel: +61 8 9266 3337

Email: GRS.FutureStudents@curtin.edu.au

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Students enrolling in the Master of Psychology (Clinical) or Master of Psychology (Counselling) must apply separately for provisional registration with the Psychology Board of Australia.

Health Sciences students who will be working with children aged from new born to 17 need to have a Working With Children Check. Courses that include supervised practice in a clinical setting require screening for and vaccination against a range of infectious diseases before beginning placement. A criminal record screening is also necessary.

curtin.edu.au/hs/essential-requirements

SCHOLARSHIPS

Curtin offers a variety of scholarships to students. Some are offered for academic achievement, while others are designed to make university possible for students who face financial hardship.

scholarships.curtin.edu.au

Disclaimer

Information in this publication is correct as at April 2017 but may be subject to change.

In particular, the University reserves the right to change the content and/or method of assessment, to change or alter tuition fees of any unit of study, to withdraw any unit of study or program which it offers, to impose limitations on enrolment in any unit or program, and/or to vary arrangements for any program. This material does not purport to constitute legal or professional advice. Curtin accepts no responsibility for and makes no representations, whether express or implied, as to the accuracy or reliability in any respect of any material in this publication. Except to the extent mandated otherwise by legislation, Curtin University does not accept responsibility for the consequences of any reliance which may be placed on this material by any person.

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International students

International students studying in Australia on a student visa can only study full-time and there are also specific entry requirements that must be met. As some information contained in this publication may not be applicable to international students, see international.curtin.edu.au for further information. Australian citizens, permanent residents and international students studying outside Australia may have the choice of full-time, part-time and external study, depending on course availability and in-country requirements.

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Published by Curtin University 2017.
CRICOS Provider Code 00301J

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