



Curtin University

POSTGRADUATE  
COURSE GUIDE  
2018

COURSEWORK AND  
RESEARCH DEGREES

HEALTH SCIENCES

OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY

Make tomorrow better.



[healthsciences.curtin.edu.au](http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au)

# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT CURTIN

For more than 50 years Curtin has taught occupational therapy and social work to local and international students.

Our internationally accredited entry-level master program means our graduates can work with individuals and communities across Australia and the globe.

## FACILITIES

We've built new learning and research facilities to enhance the study experience of the next generation of Curtin occupational therapy and social work students.

With an investment of more than AUD\$9 million, the impressive two-storey development features innovative facilities and technology that will enable you to practice client- and family-centred care learning scenarios in realistic, team-based settings. The building's state-of-the-art equipment also gives researchers the tools needed to produce research outcomes that make a difference to the community

Take a virtual tour: [healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/about-us/facilities](http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/about-us/facilities)



*"I chose to study my course at Curtin because it's the only university in WA with an accredited occupational therapy Masters program."*

*"Through my degree, I aspire to learn as much as I can in the field of occupational therapy so I can help give every person an equal opportunity to achieve their dreams and aspirations. I believe that everyone has something to give. I have optimism, openness, and determination and will always share it in the hope of brightening someone's day."*

**Daina Dickins**  
Master of Occupational Therapy student



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



Curtin was named the most collaborative university in Australia in the 2016 Nature Index. Nature also deemed Curtin the third-fastest 'rising star' in research in the Asia Pacific.



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](http://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 to help you improve the standard of healthcare in Australia and make a real difference to people's lives, locally and globally.

### 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 GEM courses.

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

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](http://courses.curtin.edu.au)

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

Occupational therapists assess the functional limitations of people with illness or disability. They provide therapy to help people perform their daily activities and occupations.

Employment for this occupation has consistently risen very strongly over the past ten years. Looking forward, employment for occupational therapists to November 2020 is expected to grow very strongly.

More than 92 per cent of occupational therapists are female. 46.9 per cent of occupational therapists work full time. Average weekly hours for full-time workers are 31.6 (compared to 40.2 for all occupations in Australia).

The main age group for those in the profession is 25 - 34 years (40 per cent) and the median age is 35 years (compared to 40 years for all occupations in Australia).

In 2016, there were 18,304 registered occupational therapists across Australia. Occupational therapists made up 2.8 per cent of all registered health practitioners across the National Scheme, and 95.9 per cent held general registration to practise.

[careercentre.dtwd.wa.gov.au](http://careercentre.dtwd.wa.gov.au) | [aihw.gov.au](http://aihw.gov.au) | [myhealthcareer.com.au](http://myhealthcareer.com.au)



# MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

This graduate entry master course offers you a fast-track option to becoming an occupational therapist.

In this course you will develop knowledge of four broad areas:

- Medical, psychiatric, orthopaedic and neurological conditions that affect the health and wellbeing of individuals.
- The theory and practice of occupational therapy including the study of occupation and analysis of the physical, psychological and social requirements of a variety of skills and activities.
- Human development covering normal growth and development within the life cycle along with problems such as learning disabilities and the effects of ageing.
- Occupational health and management, including prevention, education and rehabilitation programs for a variety of workplaces.

Please note: Essential learning strategies demand that all students have the ability to disrobe appropriately, have the ability to participate fully and are willing to act as patients/clients for their peer group and as mock patients for other students.

## COURSE ESSENTIALS

CRICOS CODE	INTAKE	DURATION
077383K	Jan	2.5 years full-time
LOCATION	STUDY MODE	
Perth	Full-time, Part-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](http://curtin.edu/hs/application-deadlines)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A bachelor degree or equivalent, preferably in a health related discipline with a credit average of 65 per cent. However, as selection is competitive, this cut-off may be higher.

Evidence of studies in the human biosciences (e.g. human biology) and psychology or behavioural science is required. If you do not have this background you may be required to undertake additional bridging units. Please refer to the information on the Health Sciences Graduate Entry Foundation course on the previous page.

You will also be required to provide supplementary information with your application. For more information, visit: [curtin.edu/hs/admission-requirements](http://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

This course is recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

Graduates using the title registered health practitioner or the title of occupational therapist must be registered with the Occupational Therapy Board of Australia

Graduates may also apply for registration in most countries, although some countries may require you to sit a licensing examination.

### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Occupational Therapy Australia
- Occupational Therapy Australia (WA)
- World Federation of Occupational Therapists



# RESEARCH DEGREES

We aim to initiate and support research that makes a positive contribution to the lives of vulnerable people, their families, and the wider community. We hope to contribute to inclusive, healthy societies and find innovative solutions to real-world problems.

We offer the following postgraduate research courses:

- The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Occupational Therapy OR Social Work and Social Policy
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Occupational Therapy OR Social Work and Social Policy.

[healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/healthsciences-research](http://healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/healthsciences-research)

## OUR KEY RESEARCH THEME

The School of Occupational Therapy and Social Work's key research theme is social inclusion. This is reflective of the school's commitment to promoting the inclusion and participation of vulnerable individuals, families and communities in order to achieve health, social justice and quality of life.

Under the social inclusion theme, our research falls within four groups:

1. autism
2. participation and rehabilitation
3. research on teaching and learning
4. social policy and practice.

### 'BOOST-A': BOOSTING CONFIDENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Those on the autism spectrum face many challenges, one of which is leaving high school to enter the workforce.

"BOOST-A aims to enhance the lives of adolescents with autism by helping them to feel less anxious about leaving school."


The long-term intended social and economic impacts include improved employment outcomes for people with autism and overall improved quality of life as a result of this.

"They are less likely to get a job or go onto post-secondary education than their peers, despite often having many sought-after skills," says occupational therapy research student, Megan Hatfield.

Recognising this challenge, Megan launched a research project entitled 'Development of the Better Outcomes and Successful Transitions - Autism (BOOST-A) Program', which brought about the creation of an app, BOOST-A, a fun online system which provides parents and adolescents with an easy-to-follow process to prepare for leaving school.

The aim of the tool and the research project overall is to build on adolescents' strengths and provide them with a team of people who will support them in the transition from school to the workforce.

"It supports engagement in mentoring, work experience and community activities, as this has been shown to improve post-school outcomes," says Megan.





## FEE INFORMATION

### AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND STUDENTS

Course fee information can be found at [courses.curtin.edu.au](http://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](http://fees.curtin.edu.au/amenities.cfm)

### 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](http://ato.gov.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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:GRS.FutureStudents@curtin.edu.au)

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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/hs/essential-requirements](http://curtin.edu/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](http://scholarships.curtin.edu.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](http://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](http://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\$
Master of Occupational Therapy	19,500	43,900	106,100	820

For more information about health sciences postgraduate courses, visit [courses.curtin.edu.au](http://courses.curtin.edu.au).



#### Disclaimer

Information in this publication is correct at the time of printing 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](http://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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