2019 POSTGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE

PHYSIOTHERAPY

COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH DEGREES

Make tomorrow better.
PHYSIOTHERAPY AT CURTIN

Curtin has established an international reputation for the calibre of its physiotherapy graduates and the quality of its teaching and research.

There are two clinics in operation available to our postgraduate and research students – one based at Curtin’s Bentley Campus and the second at St Charles Gastric 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 at Bentley Campus 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 our Bentley Campus, with much of the traditional library now replaced by technology-rich, cafe-style environments.

On level 2, the Zone 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 recharge your own energy level, you can use the sleep pods installed on level 3.

“Tired of the long commutes and working the typical 9-5, I chose to study the sports physiotherapy course to better myself as a clinician. I studied part-time over three years so I could ‘chip away’ at it while working full-time and gaining more hands-on experience in sports physiotherapy. I could apply course content immediately to ‘real life’ sports physiotherapy environments and consolidate my learning.

I love about physiotherapy is the variety of work opportunities. Working in elite sport, owning my own business, and teaching part-time are all avenues that appeal to me which I will continue to pursue as I progress through my career.

I currently work for Ascend Physiotherapy (private practice), Australian Wallabies (Australian women’s sevens rugby) and IRBES (sailing and swimming).”

Stacey Stockman
Master of Clinical Physiotherapy (Sports)

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, 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.

PHYSIOTHERAPY INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

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 injury incontinence, hand therapy, treating sufferers of arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions and, with additional education and training, providing advice as a diabetes educator.

Employment for physiotherapists is expected to grow very strongly. This is a large occupation (29,114 registered physiotherapists in 2017), suggesting that opportunities should be available in many regions throughout Australia.

More than 66 per cent of physiotherapists work full-time. Average weekly hours for physiotherapists working full-time are 35.5 (compared to 40.0 for all occupations). The average of physiotherapists is 36 years and 67 per cent of physiotherapists are female.

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 for application to our 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

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. All students must meet the English language requirements set by Curtin University. For more information on specific entry requirements and your course weighted average, please visit courses.curtin.edu.au.

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**MASTER OF PHYSIOTHERAPY**

This graduate entry master 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**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

This course requires a higher level of English language proficiency: 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 accredited by the Australian Physiotherapy Board of Australia. Graduates using the title ‘Physiotherapist’ must be registered with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia. This course is also accredited by the Australian Education Quality and Standards Agency.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Graduate Certificate: A bachelor degree in physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (Clinically Relevant): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (Clinical): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (SPORTS PHYSIOTHERAPY OR MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (PHYSIOTHERAPY (CONTINENCE AND WOMEN’S HEALTH OR MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY)): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

Graduate Certificate (MASTER OF CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY (CONTINENCE AND WOMEN’S HEALTH OR MUSCULOSKELETAL THERAPY)): A bachelor degree in Physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months of relevant clinical experience.

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**CLINICAL PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Our clinical physiotherapy postgraduate courses will enable you to take your physiotherapy career to the next level. You will develop an in-depth knowledge of evidence-based practice, enhanced practical skills and high-level clinical reasoning, allowing you to practise physiotherapy at an advanced level.

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.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA**

Graduate Certificate: A bachelor degree in physiotherapy or equivalent, plus at least 12 months 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.

**COURSE ESSENTIALS**

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

“...I studied for a year at TAFE to get my Certificate IV in Fitness in order to get accepted into Curtin for the Bachelor of Science (Health Sciences) course. After I finished it, I applied for the Graduate Entry Masters physiotherapy program. It hasn’t always been easy, and it has taken a long time, but the feeling of being accepted into the GEM course after all that work was a serious high point.

I have learned that if you set your mind to something you can achieve it and that hard work pays off. When you start a course it may look like there is an incredibly long road ahead of you, but there are no back steps. Even if you defer a semester or change courses along the way, you will always be closer than when you started. Trust in the process and you will get to where you want to go.”

Jonathon Miller-Eves
Master of Physiotherapy

curtin.edu/hs-application-deadlines
Our key areas of research focus include groundbreaking discoveries, participation in national and international conferences, and contributions to scholarly publications, keynote speeches, and other presentations at both national and international events.

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 this field. Our researchers enjoy access to great facilities and high-impact research.

**FIT FOR A PURPOSE**

Fitbits – the wireless high-tech wristbands people wear to track their daily steps, among other things – are usually considered the domain of the young or tech-savvy. However, Curtin Research Fellow Dr Elissa Burton is curious about how older people use Fitbits, and has taken the ubiquitous activity tracker to a group of seniors in the community to find out.

"Other researchers have been looking at the validity and reliability of fitness trackers with younger people but not as much with older people, who are the fastest growing proportion of the population throughout the world," says Dr Burton, who is research lead on the project. "Assessing the reliability, validity and feasibility of fitness tracker devices for older people is an important research area, particularly as the population ages." (one semester or 100 credits) before paying 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.

**DOMESTIC STUDENTS**

**TUITION FEES**

Your tuition fee is calculated and charged on a semester basis.

Indicative course fees for the 2018 commencement year are available at courses.curtin.edu.au. Indicative course fees for the 2019 commencement year will be available from September 2018.

For more information on individual unit (subject) fees, visit fees.curtin.edu.au/course_fees.cfm

**STUDENT SERVICES AND AMENITIES FEE**

Your Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) supports a range of non-academic services and amenities at Curtin. For more information on the cost and services covered by the SSAF, visit 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 – a loan to help pay for part or all of your tuition fees.

For more information, visit fees.curtin.edu.au/feeHELP.cfm

**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, you may be able to claim a tax deduction. For more information, please consult the Australian Tax Office at ato.gov.au

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

**TUITION FEES**

Tuition fees 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 in Australian dollars and is charged on a semester basis. Course and individual unit (subject) fees are listed at fees.curtin.edu.au/course_fees.cfm

Please note: all listed fees are subject to annual increases.

**OFFER LETTER (100 CREDITS) 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.

**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.

**INDICATIVE ESSENTIAL INCIDENTAL FEES**

Some courses require compulsory additional payment for essential 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.

**FEE INFORMATION**
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.

DOMESTIC STUDENTS
You are a domestic student if you are an Australian citizen or Australian dual citizen, a permanent resident of Australia, a holder of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa or a New Zealand citizen.

To apply now or for more information, visit curtin.edu/pg-apply

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
You are 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

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
Curtin requires all students to demonstrate proficiency in English. You will meet the English language proficiency requirements by demonstrated completion of at least one year full-time of an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework degree at recognised universities in Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom or United States of America.

Alternatively, you can demonstrate your English language proficiency via other tests, such as the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

For further information on the postgraduate English language proficiency requirements, visit curtin.edu/pg-english

RESEARCH STUDENTS
To find a thesis supervisor and for information on how to apply for both domestic and international students, 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
Web: curtin.edu/postgrad-research

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 newborn to 17 need to have a Working With Children Check. Your course coordinator will advise you when this is required. Courses that include supervised practice in a clinical setting require screening for and vaccination against a range of infectious diseases before beginning placement. A recognised first aid certificate and a criminal record screening are also necessary. curtin.edu/hs-fieldwork-requirements

SCHOLARSHIPS
You may be able to apply for a scholarship to support your study. To find out more and sign up to the scholarships email alert, visit scholarships.curtin.edu.au

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