POSTGRADUATE COURSE GUIDE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, SOCIAL WORK AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH DEGREES

Make tomorrow better.

healthsciences.curtin.edu.au
Welcome to Curtin

Curtin is a vibrant, young university where ideas and cultures combine to create a place of enthusiasm, endeavour and achievement.

When you choose Curtin, you are choosing an innovative, global university with extensive industry connections and campuses in Western Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai and Mauritius.

You will learn in technology-rich environments and feel inspired by our high-impact research spanning many areas including astronomy and planetary science, emerging technologies, economics, health, minerals, energy and sustainability.

THE SCHOOL OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, SOCIAL WORK AND SPEECH PATHOLOGY

We offer internationally accredited entry-level master programs that prepare our students for rewarding careers in occupational therapy, social work and speech pathology.

We are committed to ensuring our students for rewarding careers in occupational therapy, social work and speech pathology.

STUDYING AT POSTGRADUATE LEVEL

A postgraduate degree at Curtin can change your life. It will give you additional knowledge to advance your career, specialise in a particular area or take your career in a promising new direction.

Postgraduate options

Curtin offers postgraduate coursework and research qualifications. A graduate certificate is six months’ full-time study, a graduate diploma is one year of full-time study, and a master degree is one to three years’ full-time study.

A research degree involves independent, original research and completion of a thesis, and may involve up to four years of full-time study.

Gain industry experience

Experiential learning is highly valued by employers. You will benefit from Curtin’s strong links to industry by working on real research initiatives, undertaking placements and attending events and networking opportunities.

Convenient and flexible study

Course flexibility enables you to combine your current work commitments with study. Many courses allow domestic students to study full-time, part-time or online.

Financial assistance

You could be eligible to apply for a Curtin scholarship or other support such as FEE-HELP, employer-funded study or income tax deductions.

LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE?

Our Graduate Entry Foundation course can help.

This enabling course is for domestic students who want to start a career in health but have a degree in a different field. It enables you to complete prerequisite undergraduate level units for application to our graduate entry master (GEM) courses, including the Master of Occupational Therapy, Master of Speech Pathology and Master of Social Work (Qualifying).

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

Entry to our GEM courses is competitive and a strong course weighted average is required.

For more information, visit curtin.edu/en-gefmth

EXPERIENCE PERTH

Located on the beautiful west coast of Australia, Perth is multicultural, prosperous and safe – an ideal destination for students and tourists alike.

AFFORDABLE LIVING

Perth has lower living costs than Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide.

TRANSPORT

The metropolitan area is served with an extensive road network and easy-to-use public transport.

SHOPPING AND CULTURE

Perth is home to Elizabeth Quay, Forrest Place, Murray Street Mall and numerous galleries. Close to Perth, the port city of Fremantle is a great place to learn about WA history.

FOOD AND DRINK

Cafés and restaurants offer a variety of global cuisine. You can try the best of WA produce at Yagan Square, and find wineries, cheese shops and chocolate factories in the Swan Valley, WA’s oldest wine region.

ENTERTAINMENT

Perth hosts numerous domestic and international sports competitions, music concerts and festivals throughout the year.

NATURE AND WILDLIFE

There are many magnificent parks and gardens in and around Perth. Kings Park, which is larger than New York’s Central Park, showcases more than 3,000 species of WA’s unique flora. Caversham Wildlife Park has many Australian animals, including kookaburras you can handfeed.

AQUATIC AND COASTAL

Perth’s coast features breath-taking beaches and scenery. Don’t forget to visit Rottnest Island – a famous holiday destination near Perth that is home to the friendly quokka.


Welcome to Curtin

CAMPUS LIFE

The Perth campus is located just six kilometres from the city centre. Through our 20-year master plan, we’re transforming the campus into a contemporary cultural precinct that brings together higher education, business, technology, the arts and recreation.

LIVING ON CAMPUS
We offer more than 1,000 places to stay at our Perth campus. You’ll enjoy comfortable and tidy single or shared accommodation, free Wi-Fi, parking and an off-peak gym membership at Curtin Stadium.

Rooms are fully furnished and there are plenty of recreation facilities and support services, plus you’re in easy walking distance of your classes, the library, shopping centre, gym and public transport. You can also participate in a range of weekly activities and social events.
curtin.edu/housing

WELLBEING SERVICES
There is a range of confidential wellbeing services if you ever need help or advice, or you’re unsure where to find the support you need.

You can also consult a doctor, counsellor, physiotherapist and other health professionals at our campus-based medical centre and health and wellness clinics.
curtin.edu/personalsupport

CHILDCARE AND SCHOOLING
The Curtin University Early Childhood Centre is a popular on-campus childcare facility for children under the age of five.

We strongly recommend you apply for a place for your child as early as possible.
curtin.edu/earlychildhoodcentre

Subsidised schooling
If you’re an international student and have school-aged children, your children may be eligible to access government schooling at the same subsidised fee levels that apply to local students.
curtin.edu/familyfriendly

SECURITY AND PERSONAL SAFETY
Curtin provides a range of safety resources including swipe-card building access, 24/7 security patrols, well-lit pathways, after-hours security escort, a campus courtesy bus, emergency telephone stations and the SafeZone security app.
curtin.edu/safety
Curtin ensures you gain the knowledge and skills required to get ahead in today’s changing workplace.

WORK-INTEGRATED LEARNING
Practise and develop the knowledge and skills you have learned in class by undertaking a professional placement. You will work alongside professionals from diverse disciplines, developing your practical, interprofessional and leadership abilities.

CAREER SUPPORT
Curtin Careers, Employment and Leadership can help you find part-time work in Perth to support you while you’re studying. We also offer career planning services to identify further study or career options, while our Global Careers service can connect you with employers around the world.

careers.curtin.edu.au

FACILITIES
Modern learning environments recreate real workplaces that enhance your studies.

Occupational therapy and social work laboratory
Curtin has invested over AUD$9 million in learning and research facilities for its students. Our innovative occupational therapy, social work and speech pathology facilities enable you to practise client- and family-centred care scenarios in realistic, interprofessional settings.

Learn with avatars
If you study speech pathology, you will meet ‘Jim’ the virtual patient, a computer-based avatar like those you find in a computer game. By engaging in a clinical interaction with Jim, students can learn how to effectively communicate with a client in a safe environment before moving on to work with real clients.

Speech pathology clinic
Our on-campus stuttering clinic and adult speech pathology clinics, located at the Health and Wellness Centre, allow students to learn in a clinical environment while providing services to members of the public.

healthsciences.curtin.edu.au/our-clinics

Meet ‘Jim’, the virtual patient.
This graduate entry master course offers you a fast-track option to becoming an occupational therapist. 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 the 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.

Essential learning strategies demand that all students have the ability to disabl appropriately, have the ability to participate fully and are willing to act as patients/clients for other students.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A bachelor degree or equivalent, preferably in a health-related discipline with a course weighted average of 65 per cent.
- Evidence of studies in the human biosciences (e.g. human biology) and psychology or behavioural science at university level.
- Meet Curtin’s English language proficiency requirements.
  1. Entry to this course is competitive and the cut-off score may be higher.
  2. If you do not have this background, you will need to complete additional bridging units – refer to the Graduate Entry Foundation course on page 1.

Additional requirements

You will be required to provide supplementary information with your application. For more information, visit curtin.edu/hs-admission-requirements.

You will also need to undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

This course is accredited by Occupational Therapy Australia.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This course is recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Graduates must be registered with Occupational Therapy Board of Australia to use the title of registered health practitioner or occupational therapist. Registered graduates can practise occupational therapy in all Australian states and territories.

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

INDUSTRY SETTINGS

- Aged care homes
- Disability organisations
- Hospitals – acute and rehabilitation
- Mental health services
- Oncology care
- Paediatrics services
- Vocational rehabilitation services

For more information visit curtin.edu/master-occt

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

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A bachelor degree in a related field, including at least one-year full-time study in social or behavioural sciences.
- Evidence of equivalent prior learning and appropriate professional experience.
- Meet Curtin’s English language proficiency requirements.
  *If your qualification has not specifically addressed social or behavioural sciences, you will need to complete additional bridging units – refer to the Graduate Entry Foundation course on page 1.

Additional requirements

You will be required to provide supplementary information with your application. For more information, visit curtin.edu/hs-admission-requirements.

You will also need to undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This course is accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers, the WA Society of Professional Social Workers and the Professional Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers, the WA Society of Professional Social Workers.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A bachelor degree in a related field, including at least one-year full-time study in social or behavioural sciences.
- Evidence of equivalent prior learning and appropriate professional experience.
- Meet Curtin’s English language proficiency requirements.
  *If your qualification has not specifically addressed social or behavioural sciences, you will need to complete additional bridging units – refer to the Graduate Entry Foundation course on page 1.

Additional requirements

You will be required to provide supplementary information with your application. For more information, visit curtin.edu/hs-admission-requirements.

You will also need to undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This course is provisionally accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

- A bachelor degree in a related field, including at least one-year full-time study in social or behavioural sciences.
- Evidence of equivalent prior learning and appropriate professional experience.
- Meet Curtin’s English language proficiency requirements.

Additional requirements

You will be required to provide supplementary information with your application. For more information, visit curtin.edu/hs-admission-requirements.

You will also need to undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

This course is provisionally accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Are you committed to social justice, human rights and working with people to improve their quality of life?

The Master of Social Work will provide you with in-depth knowledge and skills to become a professional social work practitioner and help people to address life challenges.

This graduate entry master course draws on knowledge from a range of disciplines including sociology, psychology, philosophy, politics and health. You will develop a research-informed approach to professional practice and learn how to work with individuals, families, groups and communities to improve their livelihood, promote positive relationships and develop responsive human service systems.

You will address contemporary areas of social work including mental health, disability services, working with Aboriginal families and communities, culturally responsive practice and social policy imperatives, such as a growing ageing population.

You will also undergo two fieldwork placements to apply your learning in a range of settings and establish your professional identity as a social worker.

Curtin University is committed to ensuring the future of social work has a greater proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners, and encourages Indigenous Australians to apply for this course.

For more information visit curtin.edu/master-scwk

THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL WORK

Technological advances, environmental change and an increasingly ageing and mobile global population will mean future social workers are ideally positioned to work with a range of people in their specific environments. To continue to deliver specialised care and services to individuals, families, groups and communities, social workers will need to have a thorough understanding of the impacts of changing systems and structures at a policy and personal level.

CAREER SPECIALISATIONS

- Child protection officer
- Community outreach coordinator
- Family support worker
- Family violence service provider
- Homelessness advocate/support officer
- Human services officer
- Hospital social worker
- Juvenile court liaison
- Mental health social worker
- Refugee support officer/advocate
- Research/policy officer
- Social responsibility manager

For more information visit curtin.edu/master-scwk
MASTER OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

This course is currently only available to Australian, New Zealand and Singaporean students.

This graduate entry master course combines theory with clinical practice to prepare you for a career as a speech pathologist.

Speech pathologists diagnose, treat and provide services to people with communication impairments, including speech, language, voice, fluency disorders, or clients with eating and drinking difficulties across the lifespan.

You will gain a detailed understanding of communication development, developmental and acquired communication and swallowing disorders, clinical practice and research. Your studies will be supported by fieldwork opportunities.

The course includes the introduction of theoretical, evidence-based material and its link to clinical practice, and research skills to become an evidence-based clinician.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

• An honours degree or a bachelor degree with a minimum course weighted average of 65.
• Evidence of studies in human biology at university level.
• Meet Curtin’s English language proficiency requirements.

If you do not have these background, you will need to complete additional bridging units – refer to the Graduate Entry Foundation course on page 1.

Additional requirements

You will also need to obtain first aid certification and undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

THE FUTURE OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Changes to access and decision making regarding service provision will see speech pathologists providing more services to clients with disabilities, particularly in the private sector, and advocating for the client and their individual needs.

The expertise of speech pathologists will also be required to meet increasing needs of the ageing population to ensure adequate support for effective communication, eating and drinking.

INDUSTRY SETTINGS

• Aged care homes
• Community health centres
• Disability organisations
• Mental health service
• Private practice
• Public hospitals
• Rehabilitation centres
• Schools – early childhood, primary and secondary

You will also need to obtain first aid certification and undergo health and criminal screenings before commencing any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. For more information on screenings, see page 9.

CLINICAL HEALTH SCIENCES SCREENING

Before applying for a health sciences course, you should be aware that some additional screening may be required.

CRIMINAL RECORD SCREENING

Many of our health sciences courses require you to undertake external placements, clinical practice or fieldwork involving contact with the public. External agencies, such as government departments, non-government agencies and hospitals may require you to obtain a criminal record screening prior to undertaking any external placement, practicum or fieldwork. Please note that external agencies may use their requirements without notice and may not always advise Curtin of these changes.

A criminal record screening may not necessarily preclude you from participating in any of the above. However, serious crimes of a violent or sexual nature, where the victim was under 18 years of age or elderly; for dealing or trafficking drugs; involving fraud; or any offence that resulted in a jail sentence, may render a person unsuitable for employment and/or provision of services to clients.

If you apply for a clearance and have a conviction relating to offences at a violent or sexual nature, or where the victim was under 18 years of age or elderly, this information will be placed on a national database and made available to other authorities.

In such cases, you will need to have a Working with Children Check. Your course coordinator will advise you when you need to obtain this check.

For more information visit curtin.edu/healthscreening.

SCREENING AND REGISTRATION

The following courses, which lead to registration as a health professional, require Curtin to register students with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA):

• Doctor of Physiotherapy
• Graduate Diploma in Midwifery
• Master of Occupational Therapy
• Master of Pharmacy
• Master of Nursing Practice

Under national law, it is a requirement that Curtin notifies AHPRA if it believes a student may place members of the public at risk as a result of a health impairment or criminal history. Curtin or its staff may also make a voluntary notification if a student has been charged, convicted or found guilty of an offence punishable by an imprisonment of 12 months, or contravened a condition of their student registration. Students who have impairments or a criminal record that has resulted in imprisonment are required to self-report to AHPRA.

See the relevant courses for more information on the screening and registration requirements.

For more information visit curtin.edu/hs-application-deadlines.

This course has an earlier application deadline: curtin.edu/hs-application-deadlines.
OUR RESEARCH FOCUS
The School of Occupational Therapy, Social Work and Speech Pathology aims to initiate and support research that makes a positive contribution to the lives of vulnerable people, their families, and the wider community. We work towards these aims through:

- collaborative research and development that seeks to partner vulnerable groups and families with organisations and individuals who can provide support services
- encouraging approaches that are interdisciplinary and cross sectors, for example disability, ageing and mental health
- recognition of our place in the Asia-Pacific rim and the need to promote cultural understanding and diversity.

The school is affiliated with the US Association of University Centres on Disabilities, and is an Organisational Member of the Australasian Society for Intellectual Disability.

GIANT LEAPS ON HORIZON FOR CEREBRAL PALSY
Every week, 11 Australian babies are born with cerebral palsy (CP) and there is no known cure. But two positive aspects of CP are known: the brain injury is non-degenerative, and early intervention can improve the long-term outcomes of children.

Professor Catherine Elliott is Chair of Allied Health at Curtin, and is one of 10 Chief Investigators involved in the Australasian Cerebral Palsy Clinical Trials Network. The project aims to develop tools for earlier detection of CP, fast-track children to clinical trials of new neuroprotectants, and develop and test new rehabilitation.

curtin.edu/giant-leaps

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEES

SCHOLARSHIPS
You may be eligible for a scholarship to support your study. Sign up to the scholarships email alert to make sure you don’t miss an opportunity.

scholarships.curtin.edu.au

FEES
Tuition fees
Tuition fees are calculated on a semester basis. Fees are subject to annual increase and are calculated according to the credit points within a course. Indicative course fees for the 2020 commencement year are available from September 2019.
curtin.edu/fee-calculator

Student Services and Amenities Fee
The Student Services and Amenities Fee (SSAF) is used for supporting a comprehensive range of non-academic services and amenities. SSAF does not apply to international students.
curtin.edu/amenities-fee

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Postgraduate study is an investment in your future. If you are concerned that you cannot afford postgraduate study, there are several options for financial assistance you can explore.

Employer-paid study
Your employer may help you with the cost of postgraduate study. Many organisations have employer-education policies designed to share the costs of education that is mutually beneficial.

FEE-HELP
If you are an Australian citizen or a New Zealand Special Category Visa holder or a permanent humanitarian visa, you may be eligible for the Australian Government’s FEE-HELP loan for all or part of your tuition fees.
curtin.edu/fee-help

Tax benefits
If there is a direct connection between your postgraduate course and your current employment, you may be entitled to an income tax deduction for tuition fees and expenses.
at.gov.au
STUDY OPTIONS
Curtin offers flexible study options to help you manage work and family commitments. You can study full-time, part-time or online*, subject to availability.

To study full-time, you must enrol in three or four units per semester (75 or 100 credits), while part-time study involves as few as one or two units (25 or 50 credits) per semester.

If you study online, you will complete the same coursework and assessments as students who study on campus.

*International students studying in Australia on a student visa must study full-time and on campus.

APPLYING AS A DOMESTIC STUDENT
You are a domestic applicant if:
• you are an Australian citizen, Australian dual citizen or New Zealand citizen, or
• you are a permanent resident of Australia, or
• you hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
The admission criteria of all Curtin postgraduate courses include English language proficiency. Some courses have specific and higher English requirements than others.
curtin.edu/english-proficiency

CURTIN ENGLISH
Completing a program at our Curtin English language centre will help you meet the English language proficiency. If you receive an offer to study at Curtin but don’t meet the English requirement, you may qualify for a free 10-week program. english.curtin.edu.au

PREVIOUS LEARNING
You may have undertaken previous study or work experience that matches the knowledge required for some of your Curtin course units. If so, we encourage you to also apply for credit for recognised learning (CRL), which exempts you from having to study certain course units. Getting CRL means you could finish your degree sooner.
curtin.edu/pg-crl

APPLYING AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
You are an international applicant if:
• you are not a citizen of Australia and New Zealand, or
• you are not a permanent resident of Australia, or
• you are required to hold a student visa to study in Australia.
curtin.edu/int-apply

Previous Learning
You may have undertaken previous study or work experience that matches the knowledge required for some of your Curtin course units. If so, we encourage you to also apply for credit for recognised learning (CRL), which exempts you from having to study certain course units. Getting CRL means you could finish your degree sooner.
curtin.edu/pg-crl

Course content
Note that some course units are common to undergraduate and postgraduate courses and classes may therefore include undergraduate and postgraduate attendees.