

Curtin University of Technology

Postgraduate Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Courses

Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy (Manipulative Therapy)

This postgraduate course has been developed to promote the development of clinical skills and clinical reasoning in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. The course includes related biomedical content in anatomy, pathology and pain physiology which supports this area of clinical practice. The course consists of 4 units of 25 credits each. Three units are available in a flexible mode of delivery so that students can complete their studies at home. The units are supported by full access to library and other electronic resources.

The clinical skills unit, Musculoskeletal Science 751 can be completed on-campus in Perth. Alternatively, students who complete the Certificate in Manual Therapy offered by Manual Concepts will receive 25 credits 'recognition of prior learning' for that unit, towards the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy. The units of the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy (Manipulative Therapy) are as follows:

Unit	Credits
Anatomy & Pathology 651	25
Evidence Based Practice 750	25
Management of Pain Disorders 652	25
Musculoskeletal Science 751	25

Unit Syllabus

Anatomy & Pathology 651

This unit covers aspects of structural and applied anatomy and pathology of the vertebral column and peripheral regions, relevant to musculoskeletal physiotherapy. The content includes responses to injury in musculoskeletal structures, healing and repair processes and how these may be influenced by physical treatment. Pathology, clinical features and diagnostic methods related to disorders commonly presenting in musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice, are also covered in the unit.

Evidence Based Practice 750

The philosophy of evidence-based practice is examined in detail with examples from sources such as the physiotherapy evidence database (PEDRO) and Cochrane Collaboratoin databases. Necessary practical skills are developed in identifying, acquiring, evaluating and using evidence. Clinical decision-making skills are developed through the appropriate use of statistical analysis which includes examination of various forms of statistical testing. Case presentations are used to integrate student learning.

Management of Pain Disorders 652

This unit reviews peripheral and central pain mechanisms and physiological principles, including the physiology of acute and chronic pain. Pain inhibitory mechanisms are reviewed with reference to physiotherapy practice. Biopsychosocial models of pain and implications for pain management, including cognitive and behavioural approaches are included in the unit. The unit also reviews assessment and management strategies for patients with chronic pain disorders, along with referral pathways and interdisciplinary management of this patient group.

Musculoskeletal Science 751

This unit integrates the theory and application of clinical reasoning with the most current evidence-based practice. Emphasis is given to the development of neuromusculoskeletal assessment skills at an advanced level, diagnosis for spinal and some peripheral disorders, and an overview of related methods of treatment with emphasis on manual therapy, exercise and self management. The unit is presented with reference to contemporary best practice for musculoskeletal disorders.

** Note: Students who have completed the Certificate in Manual Therapy with Manual Concepts can get 'recognition of prior learning' for this unit.*

Master of Clinical Physiotherapy (Manipulative Therapy)

Starting in 2010, this course replaces the Master of Manipulative Therapy. This is a dynamic course, based on contemporary best practice. It provides an opportunity for physiotherapists currently working in musculoskeletal physiotherapy to develop their standard of practice both academically and clinically. This course focuses on the integration of evidence-based practice and current concepts in clinical practice relevant to musculoskeletal physiotherapy. The course develops a clinical reasoning framework for clinical examination, diagnosis and management of spinal and peripheral region disorders. It is designed to enhance knowledge, skill and clinical competencies in clinical practice, and issues related to musculoskeletal disorders.

Students who complete the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy (Manipulative Therapy) will be eligible for 100 credits of recognition of prior learning towards this degree and may be able to complete the Masters degree in one semester of full time study. Students must study in Perth in order to complete the final semester of the degree. To be eligible for entry into this course, applicants must have two years of clinical experience in musculoskeletal physiotherapy, hold a 4 year physiotherapy degree or equivalent and meet the English language requirements of the University.

Course Structure

Semester I	Credits	Semester II	Credits
Evidence Based Practice 750	25	Physiotherapy Project 652	25
Anatomy & Pathology 651	25	Physiotherapy Clinics 752	25
Musculoskeletal Science 751	25	Musculoskeletal Science 752	25
Physiotherapy Project 651	12.5	Management of Pain Disorders 652	25
Physiotherapy Clinics 751	12.5		

Unit Syllabus

Note: Units which are also part of the Graduate Certificate in Clinical Physiotherapy (Manipulative Therapy) are described above.

Physiotherapy Project 651

This unit requires the development of an individual or group project relevant to a specific area of physiotherapy practice. A proposal and review of relevant literature is conducted under supervision and in consultation with the unit co-ordinator.

Physiotherapy Clinics 751

Supervised clinical practice with an emphasis on development of advanced diagnostic and patient management skills in a specific area of physiotherapy practice. The unit promotes the development of an evidence based approach to physiotherapy practice through the synthesis of clinical experience and knowledge of current evidence.

Musculoskeletal Science 752

The unit promotes further development of advanced diagnostic and treatment skills in musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice. This includes refinement of advanced manual therapy skills including manipulation, management of spinal motor control disorders, and management of peripheral region disorders. Development of patient education and self management programs at an advanced level are included in the unit.

Physiotherapy Project 652

The unit requires completion of an individual or group project relevant to a specific area of physiotherapy practice. The project developed in Physiotherapy Project 651 is completed under supervision and in consultation with the unit co-ordinator.

Physiotherapy Clinics 752

Supervised clinical practice with an emphasis on development of advanced competencies in a specific area of physiotherapy practice. Emphasis on advanced skills in patient communication, physical examination, interpretation of clinical information, and development and implementation of evidence based physiotherapy treatment plans. Evaluation of response to treatment and modification of treatment at an advanced level.

Inquiries:

Australian & New Zealand Applicants
 Faculty of Health Sciences Student Services
 Email: futurestudents@health.curtin.edu.au
 Application forms:
<http://futurestudents.curtin.edu.au/postgraduate/courseworkforms.cfm>

International Applicants
 Curtin University International Office
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