



Curtin University



2019 POSTGRADUATE
COURSE GUIDE

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

COURSEWORK AND RESEARCH DEGREES

Make tomorrow better.



healthsciences.curtin.edu.au



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AT CURTIN



For almost 50 years Curtin has taught occupational therapy to local and international students.

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

FACILITIES

Our learning and research facilities have been specifically designed to enhance the study experience of the next generation of Curtin occupational therapy students.

These include an impressive AUD\$9 million two-storey building featuring innovative 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: curtin.edu/ot-sw-sp-facilities



"I completed a human life sciences degree in South Africa, majoring in physiology and psychology, but I wanted to have some kind of specialisation to help forward my career. I chose Curtin for my postgraduate study as it is renowned for providing practical degrees and its health sciences faculty is internationally recognised.

Through this course I gained work as a mentor for two Curtin students with autism. Studying occupational therapy helps with my mentoring as it allows me to put the theories I have learned in class into application."

Fiona Brooke
Master of Occupational Therapy



Ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide in the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2017.



#3 in the Asia Pacific in the Nature Index 2016 Rising Stars supplement.



An international university, with campuses in Dubai, Malaysia, Singapore and Western Australia.

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 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 potentially 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 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. 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

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.

In 2017, there were 18,755 registered occupational therapists across Australia.

More than 95 per cent of occupational therapists is female, and 62.1 per cent of occupational therapists work full time.

Average weekly hours for full-time workers are 33.6 (compared to 40 for all occupations in Australia).

The average age of those in the profession is 35 years (compared to 40 years for all occupations in Australia).

Text taken from occupationaltherapyboard.gov.au; joboutlook.gov.au

Disclaimer

Information in this publication is correct as at December 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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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.

Some lectures in this course may be attended by both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

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

ADMISSION CRITERIA

A bachelor degree or equivalent, preferably in a health related discipline with a course weighted 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

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 recognised by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists.

Graduates using 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:

- Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Occupational Therapy.

OUR KEY RESEARCH THEME

Our key research theme is social inclusion, which reflects our commitment to promoting the inclusion and participation of vulnerable individuals, families and communities in order to achieve better health outcomes, social justice and quality of life.

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

1. Autism.
2. Participation and rehabilitation.
3. Social policy and practice.
4. Research on teaching and learning.

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY

Every week, 11 Australian babies are born with cerebral palsy, and there is no known cure. Cerebral palsy is a physical disorder caused by a combination of events that can occur during, before or after birth and lead to an injury in the baby's developing brain.

While there is no known cure, two positive aspects of cerebral palsy are known: the brain injury is non-degenerative, and early intervention can improve the long-term outcomes of children.

Professor Catherine Elliott, Chair of Allied Health at Curtin, is a researcher in the area of neurological impairment. Her expertise in interventions for babies and children with cerebral palsy is contributing to an international step-change in its diagnosis and treatment.

Professor Elliott is one of 10 Chief Investigators on the Australasian Cerebral Palsy Clinical Trials Network – a five-year national Centre of Research Excellence project. Two of the project's key aims are to develop tools for earlier detection of cerebral palsy, and fast-track children to clinical trials of new 'neuroprotectants'.

"Timely intervention can deliver better lifelong health outcomes for those born with cerebral palsy, but these have often been delayed due to the lack of early diagnosis," explains Professor Elliott.

"Neuroplasticity is the key. If we diagnose early, we can apply interventions that exploit the young brain's immense plasticity."

Currently, clinical practice diagnoses cerebral palsy at about 20 months of age. However, the project has produced a new diagnostic tool, called the General Movements Assessment, which can be conducted on babies only 12 weeks old and, according to the data, is 98 per cent accurate.

The project will also trial several novel neuroprotectants – medications that may protect neural function and reduce gross and fine motor impairment. The hope is that by the time the project finishes in 2020, one or two neuroprotectants will be implemented and the rate of cerebral palsy will be in marked decline.

"Our aim is for all children to have timely, evidence-based treatment to reduce the impact of the disability, to have a 'better life' culminating in full inclusion," says Professor Elliott.





FEE INFORMATION

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 information on the cost and services covered by the SSAF, visit fees.curtin.edu.au/amenities.cfm

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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.

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.

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.

INDICATIVE ESSENTIAL INCIDENTAL FEES

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

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. For more information, please consult the Australian Tax Office at ato.gov.au

Some individual units may have optional fees for course materials and other course-related items.

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.



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
- 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 curtin.edu/int-apply

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

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

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

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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