

Working and Studying at NorthWestern Mental Health

Graduate Diploma/Master of Advanced Nursing Practice – Mental Health

in collaboration with

The Royal Children's Hospital Mental Health Service

Award:

The course leads to a Graduate Diploma/Master of Advanced in Nursing Practice with a specialisation in mental health.

Duration:

The Graduate Diploma/ Master of Advanced Nursing Practice-Mental Health courses are delivered via distance education/online or on-campus with a clinical practice component. The courses are one year duration full time or two years' duration part time.

Capacity:

NorthWestern Mental Health provides approximately 50 training lines inclusive of Graduate and Postgraduate nurses across the whole of the service. The actual number in each program is dependent upon relative demand and the available vacancy each year for each program.

Actual available places may vary without notice and appointment to a Postgraduate position is subject to selection processes. (see "Application Process" on p.3)

Credits:

The majority of postgraduate nurses are eligible for some subject credits as a result of completing Graduate year programs in Victorian mental health services that are recognised by tertiary institutions. Therefore postgraduate nurses at NorthWestern Mental Health (NWMH) usually undertake 75 credit points throughout their study.

Employment:

Participants are required to be employed in a Mental Health Service and to provide evidence of support for their enrolment and course participation from their employer using the 'Confirmation of Employment and Clinical Support form', in order to undertake and be assessed for the clinical practicum of Foundations subject/s. For successful applicants, NWMH will sign these and forward to the University on your behalf once you have enrolled to the University.

NWMH provides the choice of rotations over a 12-month contract to facilitate the clinical skill development required for the qualification. Employment is full-time, but may, in exceptional circumstance, be negotiated down to a minimum of 0.8 part-time. This is subject to approval by the Coordinator of the Postgraduate Nurse Program, NorthWestern Mental Health (note: Part-time employment may limit the availability of some clinical areas). In some cases, a student may complete the course without rotating out of a clinical area for example, a permanent employee of NWMH undertaking the course. Rotations are negotiated with the Graduate and Postgraduate Nursing Coordinator.

NB: Postgraduates may be allocated to a unit in excess of current establishment and may from time to time be required to move to another unit at short notice for the purpose of filling unplanned shift vacancy in a unit/team in the health service.

Melbourne Health Values:

The five values developed by Melbourne Health staff, promoting our vision "First in Care, Research and Learning" are: **Respect, Caring, Unity, Integrity and Excellence** Melbourne Health is a world class centre for clinical care, education and research. Our vision is to develop a culture that is equally strong in embracing a

passion for caring and working together to achieve the extraordinary.

Leave:

• Annual Leave and Accrued Days Off (ADOs)

Postgraduate nurses undertaking the course are employed full time 40 hours per week and six (6) weeks annual leave whilst on a seven day roster. Postgraduate Nurses working within some Community positions will work Mon-Friday and eligible for five (5) weeks annual leave. Leave is allocated to be taken as it accrues within each rotation at the discretion of the unit manager and in consultation with the Postgraduate nurse. Paid leave may be arranged for a period in advance of the student accruing leave credits in order to assist with managing rostering requirements.

Postgraduates employed full time are eligible for ADO's and are encouraged to plan these to help facilitate attendance at University during the two semester periods.

• Sick Leave/Personal Leave

If you are unable to attend work or University due to illness, please inform your Unit Manager or the person in charge as soon as possible, as your absence will require a replacement. For absence from University please inform the Postgraduate Nurse Coordinator as well as the Unit Manager or person in charge.

A medical certificate or statutory declaration must be supplied for payroll purposes.

• Study obligations

In 2017, NWMH Postgraduate nurses may choose to attend either online/distance learning or traditional on-campus learning programs. Both methods of learning provide quality educational programs with the main difference being the content delivery method. Whichever you choose is your decision, based on your preferred adult learning style.

Distance learning programs deliver course materials via webinars, live streaming lectures, asynchronous lectures, PowerPoint presentations and content management systems. Group discussions and communication between faculty and students transpire by means of email, message boards and chat rooms. While traditional on-campus programs may require students to own their own computer and software, distance learning programs require a great deal more technology. Students need to have daily access to email and the Internet, various software programs, and in some cases hardware, such as a web camera or a headset.

Traditional learning programs utilize the long-established technique of on-campus classroom meetings for delivering course information and facilitating student conversation and debate. Students meet at an assigned time and place to partake in class lectures, labs, study groups and exams. Traditional learning environments are more structured than distance learning programs and provide face-to-face contact with fellow students and lecturers.

Postgraduates (employed fulltime) are eligible for study leave of 4 hrs per week in each 12 week semester to undertake the course. It is important to be aware that you will need to attend some of your university requirements in your own time as study leave is granted as per award and employment contracts do not equate to the overall number of study leave hours/days required. There are provisions for additional professional development leave under the Psychiatric Services Enterprise Agreement for eligible staff. These may be used to cover some of your attendance needs.

Postgraduates employed full time are eligible for one Accrued Day Off (ADO) ADO in a 28 day cycle. You are encouraged to plan these to help facilitate attendance at University during the two semester periods. ADO's must not be accrued and must be taken during your current rotation. A suggested study/roster guide will be emailed to all successful applicants prior to commencement of study.

As part of your responsibilities as a Melbourne Health employee, I encourage you to read the attached document that clearly outlines your code of conduct whilst engaging in further study.

Codes of Conduct are about ensuring that decisions and actions are in the best interests of the organisation's vision and goals. It involves applying ethical and professional standards of conduct regardless of the situation or whom one is dealing with, taking accountability where appropriate.

<http://intranet.mh.org.au/secure/downloadfile.asp?fileid=1564971>

Financial Support:

The full fee paying course cost is approximately \$16,500 (for 100 credit points). The actual cost for students admitted with subject credit is pro rata this amount. There are a range of scholarships and funding schemes that can assist the student. These include:

- **Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP)**

These are a number of study places funded out of Commonwealth funding directly to the University that reduce the course cost to the student. Applicants need not apply for these specifically, as they are allocated by the University according to the number of places funded and on the merit of individual applications. You will be required to pay a student contribution; the amount determined each year by the Australian Government and the subjects in which you enroll. The exact cost of your student contribution depends on the subjects you take, not the overall course you are studying.

These places significantly reduce the overall course cost - to \$5,868 in 2015 for 100 credit points, the cost is less for students with course credits.

- **Department of Health Scholarships**

In addition, postgraduate scholarships are available through Department of Health (DoH) for up to \$3,000 toward the cost of the course. These are subject to DoH review but will be open for application in late Jan early February 2016. Students apply to DoH via NWMH. Information and applications will be forward to you by NWMH.

- **Commonwealth Mental Health Postgraduate Scholarships**

Administered by Australian College of Nurses the Nursing and Allied Health Scholarship and Support scheme: Postgraduate is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Health and Ageing. These scholarships are available to a limited number of applicants (preference is given to rural and indigenous nurses). The scheme provides financial assistance in the form of a scholarship worth up to a total of \$15,000 per year for up to two years full time study or \$7,500 per year for up to four years part time study. Scholarship funding is awarded based on the normal duration of a course.

Applications are made directly to Australian College of Nurses and are usually offered in August/September prior to Semester 1 for the upcoming calendar year and February/March prior to Semester 2 for mid-year applicants. Application information can be found at: http://www.acn.edu.au/nahsss_pg

Please note carefully that scholarship eligibility is calculated on study load in EACH Semester. Any study load less than 75% in either semester is considered part-time. If you are granted a scholarship and have subject credit, you may wish to consider ensuring your enrolment load is a minimum 75% for each semester to be eligible for the full scholarship rather than part scholarship.

For clarification of your eligibility under this scheme please contact RCNA email: scholarships@rcna.org.au or freecall 1800 117 262

- **NorthWestern Mental Health**

NWMH may consider financial support to students experiencing significant financial burden relating to study fees who can demonstrate that they have applied for the above scholarship schemes, and have been unsuccessful in attaining any of the above scholarships or supported places. The amount of support if any will be dependent upon available funds and demand. Contact the Postgraduate Nursing Coordinator.

Specialist Course Overview:

(Adapted from University of Melbourne, School of Health Sciences – Department of Nursing)

The Graduate Diploma/Master of Advanced Nursing Practice Mental Health provides you with the opportunity to extend your nursing knowledge in an area of specialty nursing and to develop a level of clinical competence consistent with proficient specialty practice. You will develop a depth and complexity of knowledge that enhances your specialty nursing practice in a variety of contexts and nursing roles.

Enrolment in the course is dependent on meeting the registration and clinical experience requirements outlined in the Admission Requirements section online. You must also have the support of your employer 'Northwestern Mental Health' to facilitate completion of specialty clinical competencies.

- **Objectives**

Upon completion of Postgraduate study you will have:

- the ability to apply theoretical knowledge to understand the practice of providing holistic nursing care to individuals experiencing a complex range of disturbances to health and wellbeing that require complex specialty nursing interventions
- an understanding of the professional issues impacting upon specialty nursing and the wider nursing profession
- a beginning understanding of the international context and sensitivities of the specialty area
- a capacity to engage where appropriate with issues in contemporary society that impact on and are impacted by specialty nursing practice
- an appreciation of the ways in which evidence based practice guides specialty practice and how specialty knowledge equips you to offer leadership in the specialty area
- an appreciation of the design, conduct and reporting of research as it relates to the development of evidence based practice
- a capacity to articulate knowledge and understanding of specialty practice in oral and written presentations
- a capacity to manage competing demands on time, including self-directed project work
- demonstrated clinical competencies in a workplace, assessed by clinical experts at a proficient level as benchmarked against Australian specialty practice competencies

- **Course Structure**

The Graduate Diploma/Master of Advanced Nursing Practice- Mental Health is comprised of 100 credit points of coursework subjects. You will complete a mandated evidence-based subject and a range of clinical and theory coursework subjects contributing to the award.

Students may take up to 12.5 points of approved subjects from other disciplines.

- **Time Commitment**

In most cases, students attend university one day per week or a part there of or equivalent, depending on subject load. University attendance is mandatory as per course requirements and your employment contract with North-Western Mental Health. On-campus classes scheduling is available on-line.

Some study is undertaken in a study block format. Details will be available from the School. You will be required to undertake personal study, complete assignments, prepare for examinations and review your clinical practice in addition to attending classes in your own time

- **Mental Health Nursing Subjects**

RMIT

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/gd158

Melbourne University

http://nursing.unimelb.edu.au/future_students/specialty_and_advanced_practice/pdnp

**NWMH Graduate Nurses successfully completing the Graduate Nurse Program receive credit for the subject
Other applicants may also receive recognition of prior learning upon application. E.g, previous postgraduate study, work experience etc.

Application Process: Applications for North Western Mental Health Postgraduate positions will be advertised on Mercury E-Recruit from Monday 3rd October until Friday 11th November (position number 30966).

Please note interviews will be held on 21st & 22nd November 2016

Applications for Semester 1 2017 entry into Graduate Diploma & Masters courses are now open. Submission for 2017 Semester 1 entry applications close 2nd December 2016; however due to the limited number of Commonwealth Supported Places we HIGHLY RECOMMEND that you apply early.

Please note that offers are made on a rolling basis and students should expect confirmation on the outcomes of their application approximately 2 weeks after submission. In programs that have Commonwealth Supported Places available these will be allocated as offers are made.

Please note the Postgraduate Nursing Co-ordinator will sign the Confirmation of Employment and Clinical Support Form and forward this to the University on your behalf.

Contacts:

University of Melbourne:

Specific queries regarding the course can be directed to the Department of Nursing

Tel: +61 3 8344 4171

Web: http://nursing.unimelb.edu.au/future_students/specialty_and_advanced_practice/pdnp

RMIT University

Specific queries regarding the course can be directed to Associate Professor Phil Maude

Health Sciences Email: phillip.maude@rmit.edu.au or 9925 7447

NorthWestern Mental Health:

Inquiries about employment and placement at NWMH can be directed to Katherine Fairest or Rebekah Padovan at gppn@mh.org.au or Tel: 8387 2730.