Podiatrists are health practitioners who diagnose and treat a wide range of foot and related lower limb conditions. Podiatrists analyse the way people walk or run and correct foot and lower limb problems that can sometimes cause pain elsewhere in the body, such as the knees. Podiatrists can improve foot and lower limb function in many ways, including the use of specialised shoe inserts called orthotic devices to correct alignment and assist with walking difficulties. Podiatrists may use physical therapy techniques to assist with rehabilitation of sports injuries or correct some foot problems such as nail problems, using minor surgical techniques. Podiatrists also work alongside other health professionals to deliver the best overall care for a patient with chronic disease such as diabetes or rheumatoid arthritis.

Why choose this course?

Employment opportunities for podiatrists are excellent. This course was Queensland’s first degree in podiatry and offers opportunities for hands-on learning that are unique to QUT.

During this course, you will complete more than 1,000 hours of clinical placement. At our on-campus podiatry clinic you will treat real patients under the supervision of registered podiatrists. You will provide specialist services in all aspects of professional practice including podiatric surgery and physical therapy. Commonly, patients present with conditions that include heel pain, running injuries, footwear problems and corrections, skin problems, and tendon and joint injuries.

Professional experience is also offered at external facilities where you can participate in biomechanics/musculoskeletal clinics, sports clinics, diabetes foot complication clinics, paediatric clinics and general podiatry clinics. You will also have the opportunity to participate in events that focus on prevention and treatment within the wider community.

Integral to the practice of podiatry is an understanding of human anatomy, biomolecular science, pharmacology, dermatology, and clinical medicine and surgery. This theoretical knowledge is supported with extensive professional placement to prepare you for transition into the workforce.

Jason McLellan
Make a difference

‘The thing I enjoy most about my job is the day-to-day contact that I have with families and being able to make a difference in a child’s life. There’s no real way to describe the feeling that emanates when a child looks you in the eye and thanks you for helping them. I’m very, very lucky working as a paediatric podiatrist; my job satisfaction is very, very high every single day. And even in those children with chronic illness we’re still able to thankfully make a difference to their wellbeing and quality of life every single day.’
Subject prerequisites

- Chemistry
- Maths B

You must have achieved this study at a level comparable to Australian Year 12 or in recognised post-secondary studies.

Minimum English requirements

Students must meet the English proficiency requirements.

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<th>IELTS (International English Language Testing System)</th>
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Honours pathway

At the end of the second year of study in this course you will have the option to apply for the Bachelor of Podiatry (Honours). This allows you to complete an honours research project that extends your knowledge of the professional field, offering a competitive advantage in your career. Entry to the program is competitive, based on grade point average. On entry to the course you will retain all of the credit you have successfully completed in the Bachelor of Podiatry and will complete a further two years of full-time study.

Careers and outcomes

Podiatrists often work with other health professionals in hospitals, establish a private practice or train as a podiatric surgeon. Other careers include paediatric podiatry, sports podiatry, high-risk podiatry, community health or research.

Professional recognition

This course is seeking reaccreditation with the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council during 2019. Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Podiatry Board of Australia, and membership of the Australian Podiatry Association and Sports Medicine Australia.

With additional postgraduate training, podiatrists can apply to the Podiatry Board of Australia and seek authorisation to prescribe scheduled medicines.

Additional fees

Additional costs

There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. Some of these requirements have associated costs. Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.

Student registration

QUT automatically registers students enrolled in this course with the Podiatry Board of Australia in accordance with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009. Details about student registration are available from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency at www.ahpra.gov.au

Course requirements

There are requirements that you will need to meet as a student in this course. You will need to identify these requirements and ensure you allow sufficient time to meet them. Some of these requirements have associated costs.

Blue card: You must undergo a criminal history check for working with children and be issued with a suitability card (blue card) before commencing clinical placement/practicum in an organisation where they may work with children or young people.

The processing of your application may take several months so you must submit your blue card application to HiQ as early as possible to ensure you have your card before you begin any unit that requires contact with children. There is no charge for student blue cards. Students who already have a blue card must register it with QUT.

Information is available from the Additional course requirements and costs website.