Graduate Certificate in Nursing

QUT’s School of Nursing has an established reputation as a provider of postgraduate programs that recognise and respond to priorities in clinical nursing practice and prepare professionals for specialist and leadership positions.

In consultation with industry partners, the school has reviewed its postgraduate programs to continue alignment with industry’s need for graduates who demonstrate nursing leadership and advanced practice skills.

The comprehensive content emphasises clinical leadership in specialist nursing, improvement in practice and service delivery, and the socio-political aspects of contemporary nursing practice.

The Graduate Certificate in Nursing offers a short, focused program of study for professionals looking to upgrade their qualifications. You will opt to major in one study area, or may choose to complete the program with no major and select electives from a wide list that includes education, healthy ageing, research, dementia, and management in health.

Flexible delivery

Our programs offer students a supportive, flexible learning environment that integrates online technologies and promotes a socially collaborative community.

This course is delivered in part-time mode. External students are supported with an extensive learning package of electronic resources.

Entry requirements

Academic entry requirements

Registration as a nurse with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Study area requirements

In some study areas, applicants will need to comply with certain clinical requirements.

You will be asked to confirm that you have specific professional experience prior to enrolling in units that require workplace-based clinical practice. You will also need to

Carly Furler

Graduate success

‘The course content is current and it really reflects the health priorities of today. Nursing studies in leadership and management have really opened up my opportunities for future jobs and my clinical practice. QUT made it really easy for me to study.’

Accurate as at 22/07/2019. For the latest information see: https://www.qut.edu.au/courses/graduate-certificate-in-nursing
Graduate Certificate in Nursing

maintain access to the relevant practice setting for the duration of the course. If you do not confirm your professional experience or maintain access to a relevant practice setting, you will not be able to complete the clinical assessment components required to complete units in the study area.

Please refer to study area information in the 'Units' tab for specific details.

Course structure
The Graduate Certificate allows students to complete four core units from their selected area of nursing practice. The following study areas are offered:

- acute care nursing
- cancer nursing
- emergency nursing
- intensive care nursing
- paediatric, child and youth health nursing
- chronic health care nursing
- health professional education
- gastroenterology nursing

Alternatively, students may choose to select units from across the specialities or electives.

Acute Care Nursing
Students complete studies in advanced health assessment and nursing practice, issues and trends in acute care nursing, and critically analyse the advanced concepts that underpin this specialist area. Students will initiate plans of care to address common needs/problems experienced by acute patients.

You must be currently working at least 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) in a setting where acutely ill patients are encountered. Examples include, but are not limited to, acute medical-surgical, rehabilitation, orthopaedic, community and residential, general practice, renal and chronic care settings.

Cancer Nursing
Students develop competency in the practice of cancer nursing, examine major issues and trends in cancer nursing scholarship and practice, plan appropriate strategies/intervention for client care and develop an understanding of research applied to cancer nursing practice.

You must be currently working at least 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) in a setting where care is delivered to cancer patients. Examples include medical and radiation oncology, haematology, medical-surgical, community and aged care residential settings.

Emergency Nursing
Students explore the key issues, trends, and challenges in emergency nursing scholarship and develop an understanding of research applied to emergency nursing practice. Students develop skills in patient assessment, planning, and implementation of health care in the emergency area.

You must:
- be currently working at least 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) in an emergency setting
- have a minimum of three months FTE (full-time equivalent) experience in an emergency setting.

Intensive Care Nursing
Students explore the theoretical, conceptual and practical knowledge required to provide effective nursing care for diverse and complex critically ill patients in the intensive care unit, an increasingly complex technological environment.

You must:
- be currently working at least 0.5 FTE in a level II (two) or III (three) intensive care unit, as defined by the College of Intensive Care Medicine of Australia and New Zealand (CICM), Minimum Standards for Intensive Care Units; or as accredited by the CICM for training in intensive care medicine
- have a minimum of three months FTE (full-time equivalent) experience in an intensive care unit as defined above.

Paediatric, Child and Youth Health Nursing
This program is designed for nurses working in acute or community settings to develop competency in the practice of paediatric nursing or child and youth health nursing. Students will examine major issues and trends in nursing scholarship and practice, and develop an understanding of research in this area.

This study area requires you to undertake clinical practice in a paediatric, child and youth health nursing setting. Examples include acute paediatric or community health settings. If you wish to focus on issues relating to acute child and family health, you must be currently working at least 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) in an acute paediatric setting.

Chronic health care nursing
This course draws on expertise from a number of health disciplines and meets the needs of nurses who want to gain specific skills for more advanced practice opportunities, especially those working with patients who may have a range of chronic health conditions.

It also focuses on prevention and promotion of health to prevent or delay the onset of chronic health conditions.

Health Professional Education
Students critically examine contemporary educational theories and explore the principles of learning and teaching underpinning best practice.

This option has no additional professional experience requirements.

Gastroenterology nursing
Students develop advanced knowledge and skills in the practice of gastroenterology nursing. Students plan appropriate strategies and intervention for patient care and develop an understanding of research applied to gastroenterology nursing practice.

You must be currently working at least 0.5 FTE (full-time equivalent) and have a minimum of three months FTE in a setting where care is delivered to gastroenterology patients. Examples include gastroenterology wards or day clinics, endoscopy units/clinic, medical wards caring for gastroenterology patients.

NO major option
Students complete two core units and choose two additional units from a list of electives covering more than one study area.

This option has no additional professional experience requirements.

Fees
HECS-HELP
You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your course fees, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the HECS-HELP information.

Student Services and Amenities Fee
You’ll need to pay the student services and amenities fee as part of your course costs. You may be eligible for SA-HELP, a loan scheme to help you pay your student services and amenities fee, if you are an Australian citizen or hold an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. For other conditions read the SA-HELP
Scholarships
You can apply for scholarships to help you with study and living costs.
  ● Equity scholarships scheme

Course articulation
The Graduate Certificate in Nursing fully articulates with the Master of Advanced Practice Nursing.