Why choose this course?
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 recently reviewed its postgraduate programs to ensure continued alignment with industry's need for graduates who demonstrate nursing leadership and advanced practice skills.

The comprehensive content incorporates change management theory, research and project implementation capability, leadership skills and knowledge for the improvement of practice and service delivery, and the socio-political aspects of contemporary nursing practice.

You will opt to major in one study area and will select a dissertation or project pathway. You may also choose to complete the program with no major and select electives from a wide list that includes the science of pharmacology, health statistics, dementia, and quality management in health.

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

This course is delivered in full-time and part-time study mode. You may choose to complete the course online (external) or on campus. External students are supported with an extensive learning package of electronic resources.

Entry requirements
Academic entry requirements
A completed recognised bachelor degree (or higher award) in nursing.

Additional entry requirements
You must be registered as a nurse with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

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.’
Course structure
This course offers a variety of career pathways for nurses working in diverse settings and provides opportunities for in-depth study for advanced competence in selected areas of nursing practice.

Students in the masters program complete a specialised study area or no specialisation. You will have the option to study either the Project Stream or the Dissertation Stream. The Project Stream is recommended for nurses wishing to pursue a career as Nurse Unit Managers, Clinical Nurse Consultants, Directors of Nursing or Clinical Nurse Educators. The Dissertation Stream is recommended for nurses wishing to pursue a career as Nurse Researchers, Nurse Academics or progress onto a PhD.

Additional electives are available to students undertaking the Project Stream.

Study areas
The following study areas are offered to domestic students:

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

Alternatively, students may choose to select units from across the specialisations 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.

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.

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.

Health professional education
Students critically examine contemporary educational theories and explore the principles of learning and teaching underpinning best practice. Students implement and evaluate learning and teaching activities in diverse settings and critically reflect on the effectiveness of a learning program including assessment review.

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 core units and choose additional units from a list of electives covering more than one study area (two electives for the thesis strand and four electives for the project strand).

This option has no additional professional experience requirements.
Master of Advanced Practice Nursing

Careers and outcomes
The Master of Advanced Practice Nursing prepares you for leadership roles in specialist areas of health care. Graduates will demonstrate leadership of teams, autonomy, expert judgement, and the agility to improve healthcare outcomes and service delivery models.

Fees
FEE-HELP
You may be eligible for FEE-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 FEE-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 information.