Graduate Diploma in Cardiac Ultrasound (PH75)

Year offered: 2011
Admissions: Yes
Course duration (part-time): 4 semesters (2 years)
(External only)
Domestic Fees (indicative): 2011: Full fee tuition $7,375 (indicative) per semester (Please refer to Domestic Fees note below)
International Fees (indicative): 2011: $11,350 (indicative) per semester
Total credit points: 96
Standard credit points per full-time semester: 48
Standard credit points per part-time semester: 24
Course coordinator: Bonita Anderson
Campus: External

Course Design
Stage 1—Graduate Diploma in Cardiac Ultrasound (PH75) takes two years of part-time study to complete. Students must be employed in a suitable clinical practice with access to clinical cardiac ultrasound experience for the course duration. Students outside Brisbane may complete the formal classroom component in an intensive one-week block.

Professional Recognition
This course is accredited with the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry (ASAR).

International Student Entry
These courses are not available to student visa holders. International students on a work visa of 2 years or more including study rights in Australia are eligible to apply for this course.

NB: New Zealand citizens may apply for entry into this course as domestic students.

Domestic Fees:
Please note that the Domestic Fees quoted above are based on full-time studies. This course is a part-time course. For Domestic postgraduate tuition fees please refer to this web site to view the costs of individual units: student.qut.edu.au/fees-and-finances/study-costs/fee-schedule/table-b-domestic-postgraduate-tuition-fee/

Limits on grades of 3
A new policy concerning grades of 3 came into effect from 1 January 2009 (QUT MOPP C/5.2). With effect from this date grades of 3 are no longer considered a conceded or low pass but are classified as a fail grade. Any grades of 3 awarded prior to 1 January 2009 retain the conceded pass status and will be counted for graduation purposes up to the maximum number of grades of 3 permitted for your course. Grades of 3 incurred in units that commence after 1 January 2009 will not count towards your degree. Further information is available on the Student Services website.

Further Information
For further Information about this course, please contact:
Bonita Anderson
Phone: +61 7 3138 2585
Email: b.anderson@qut.edu.au

Course structure

Year 1, Semester 1
PCN155  Cardiac Ultrasound 1
PCN162  Principles of Medical Ultrasound
PCN497-1  Clinical Attachment 4

Year 1, Semester 2
PCN259  Cardiac Ultrasound 2
PCN497-2  Clinical Attachment 4

Year 2, Semester 1
PCN218  Research Methodology and Professional Studies
PCN359  Cardiac Ultrasound 3
PCN597-1  Clinical Attachment 5

Year 2, Semester 2
PCN459  Advanced Cardiac Ultrasound
PCN597-2  Clinical Attachment 5

NOTES: The PCN497 and PCN597 clinical attachment units are 2 semester units.
Domestic students in the Graduate Diploma in Cardiac Ultrasound (PH75) will be invited, on successful completion of 96 credit points, to continue with studies in the Master of Cardiac Ultrasound (PH85).

Potential Careers:
Sonographer.

UNIT SYNOPSES
PCN155 CARDIAC ULTRASOUND 1
A comprehensive understanding of two-dimensional echocardiography and M-mode (motion mode) echocardiography is essential for professionals working in this field. This includes a detailed understanding of cardiac anatomy and physiology as well as a basic understanding of the embryological development of the human heart. Topics include embryological development of the human heart, detailed anatomy of the adult human heart, physiology of the adult human heart, basic cardiac pharmacology, basic electrocardiograph (ECG) patterns, the routine adult two-dimensional and M-mode echocardiographic examination of the adult heart (including standard two-dimensional and M-mode measurements and calculations).
Corequisites: PCN497-1  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week (internet)  Campus: Internet and Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

PCN162 PRINCIPLES OF MEDICAL ULTRASOUND
This unit is designed to provide students with a thorough understanding of the physical processes involved in producing an ultrasound image, the features of ultrasound equipment and the role and responsibilities of the sonographer in producing a diagnostic examination. Topics include general scanning principles and considerations, care of equipment, physics of ultrasound, ultrasound equipment features, image production and processing, artefacts, image recording methods, quality control, biological hazards and safety issues, principles of Doppler ultrasound, care of the patient and communication issues.
Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

PCN218 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
In the rapidly changing technological environment of medical physics and medical ultrasound it is essential that students develop basic research skills, data interpretation skills and written communication skills. Topics include the research process, data collection and analysis techniques, and writing and evaluating research reports. Students also require knowledge of the professional, basic management, legal and ethical issues involved in their particular speciality area. Topics include the role and purpose of professional bodies, professional communication, legal and ethical issues, and basic professional management techniques and issues.
Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week  Campus: Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2

PCN259 CARDIAC ULTRASOUND 2
The field of medical ultrasound is scientifically based, in an environment that is rapidly changing and undergoing considerable technological advancement. Cardiac ultrasound (echocardiography) is a highly specialised technique for the assessment of the human heart. This unit extends and builds on the content of PCN155 by introducing the principles and clinical applications of Doppler Echocardiography in the assessment of the adult heart as well as basic haemodynamic principles and calculations. In addition, this unit also covers the applications of cardiac ultrasound in the assessment of ischaemic heart disease and cardiomyopathies in the adult patient.
Prerequisites: PCN155  Corequisites: PCN497-2  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week (internet)  Campus: Internet and Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

PCN359 CARDIAC ULTRASOUND 3
Cardiac ultrasound (echocardiography) is a highly specialised technique for the assessment of the human heart. This unit extends and builds on the content of PCN155 and PCN259 by introducing concepts and techniques of the more complex haemodynamic calculations and by discussing the applications of these techniques to cardiac valvular disease, diseases of the aorta and hypertensive heart disease in the adult patient.
Prerequisites: PCN259 and PCN497-2  Corequisites: PCN597-1  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week (internet)  Campus: Internet and Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-1

PCN459 ADVANCED CARDIAC ULTRASOUND
This unit extends and builds on the content of units PCN259 and PCN359 by introducing more advanced applications of echocardiography. In particular, this unit covers the role of echocardiography in the assessment of complex cardiac diseases such as diastolic dysfunction, pericardial disease, cardiac masses, systemic diseases with cardiac involvement and congenital heart defects. An understanding of other diagnostic imaging methods of the heart is important complementary nature of diagnostic testing. The aim of the unit is to provide students with a detailed understanding of advanced applications of echocardiographic techniques, a sound knowledge of new and evolving echocardiographic techniques and an appreciation of the role of other diagnostic imaging tests in cardiac assessment.
Prerequisites: PCN359 and PCN497-2  Corequisites: PCN597-2  Credit points: 12  Contact hours: 3 per week (internet)  Campus: Internet and Gardens Point  Teaching period: 2011 SEM-2

PCN497 CLINICAL ATTACHMENT 4
This unit is an essential component of the course as it allows the student to be involved in extensive clinical experience that is complementary to all other units in the
course. This unit builds on skills, knowledge and abilities gained in the unit PCN497-1. In this unit, basic skills are refined and expanded, and advanced echocardiographic skills are developed through employment and training in a QUT approved clinical department. The aim of the unit is to provide students with the opportunity to develop basic, practical echocardiographic skills in an approved clinical environment, under the direction of a suitably qualified clinical supervisor. (12 credit points achieved at completion of PCN497-1 and PCN497-2.) [Designated unit]

**Prerequisites:** PCN155 and PCN497-1  
**Corequisites:**  
PCN259  
**Credit points:** 6  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week (internet)  
**Campus:** Internet and Gardens Point  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-2

**PCN497 CLINICAL ATTACHMENT 4**

The field of medical ultrasound is scientifically based, in an environment that is rapidly changing and undergoing considerable technological advancement. Cardiac ultrasound (echocardiography) is a highly specialised technique for the assessment of the human heart. This unit is an essential component of the course as it allows the student to be involved in extensive clinical experience that is complementary to all other units in the course. In this unit, basic echocardiographic skills are developed through employment and training in a QUT approved clinical department. Clinical skills are developed and evaluated by QUT approved clinical supervisors, in consultation with QUT academic staff. (12 credit points achieved at completion of PCN497-1 and PCN497-2.) [Designated unit]

**Prerequisites:** PCN155  
**Corequisites:**  
PCN259  
**Credit points:** 6  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week (internet)  
**Campus:** Internet and Gardens Point  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1

**PCN597 CLINICAL ATTACHMENT 5**

Cardiac ultrasound (echocardiography) is a highly specialised technique for the assessment of the human heart. This unit is an essential component of the course as it allows the student to be involved in extensive clinical experience that is complementary to all other units in the course. This unit builds on skills, knowledge and abilities gained in the unit PCN497. In this unit, basic skills are refined and expanded, and advanced echocardiographic skills are developed through employment and training in a QUT approved clinical department. The aim of the unit is to provide students with the opportunity to further develop and expand basic, practical echocardiographic skills and to gain experience in advanced techniques in an approved clinical environment, under the direction of a suitably qualified clinical supervisor. [Designated unit]

**Prerequisites:** PCN359 and PCN497-2 and PCN597-1  
**Corequisites:** PCN459  
**Credit points:** 6  
**Contact hours:** 3 per week (internet)  
**Campus:** Gardens Point  
**Teaching period:** 2011 SEM-1 and 2011 SEM-2