Bachelor of Health Science/Bachelor of Applied Science (Chinese medicine)

The program integrates Chinese medicine’s principles, diagnosis and treatment (such as acupuncture, herbal medicine and other therapeutic approaches) with western medical sciences and diagnosis.

You will gain theoretical knowledge, practical skills, clinical experience and recognised qualifications in Chinese medicine.

The emphasis is on the integration of Chinese and western medicines, working together with the health community to provide the public with the best possible treatment. Advanced clinical training is provided in Australia and China to broaden your clinical experience.

RMIT consulted government agencies, industries and professional associations extensively to develop its Chinese medicine programs since their inception in 1993. RMIT program development is done in consultation with the University’s Chinese Medicine Program Advisory Committee and major professional associations.

Industry connections

You will develop important diagnosis, communication and herbal dispensing skills by undertaking clinical observation and supervised clinical practice at the RMIT Health sciences clinic at University Hill, Bundoora and community clinics from the second semester of your first year.

The RMIT Health sciences clinic offers quality acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine services for health promotion, rehabilitation and treatment for conditions such as the common cold, hay fever, arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome and problem periods.

You will also undertake a one-semester clinical internship at a well-known teaching hospital in China.

Career outlook

Chinese medicine has been regulated in Victoria since 2000 and nationally since July 2012. Employment opportunities are expected to increase with the national mandatory registration.

Chinese medicine, including acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine, is one of the most commonly used complementary therapies.

Graduates will be able to practise acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine at an internationally-accepted level.

You could go on into:
- independent practice
- work in a multidisciplinary healthcare clinic as a registered Chinese medicine practitioner
- academia
- industry and/or government in a health and medical research position.

Professional recognition

This double degree is accredited by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

It is also recognised by the following major Chinese medicine associations in Australia:
- Australian Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine Association Ltd
- Australian Natural Therapists Association
- Federation of Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd (FCMA).

International opportunities

During the final year you’ll embark on a supervised clinical internship in China to experience first-hand the modern practice of Chinese medicine in a public hospital.

The Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine is one of China’s busiest, and the visit is the perfect way to round out your studies.

You will hone your skills by seeing approximately 30 patients a day for one semester.

Your rounds will take you across various departments, exposing you to around 2,000 patients and a wide range of clinical conditions.

Consultations incorporate Chinese and western medicine and treatment.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/bp278
Program structure

Your studies begin with the basics of cell biology and Chinese medicine principles. Anatomy, physiology, immunology and pathology follow, so you understand the body’s normal and abnormal states.

You will accurately locate and needle acupuncture points. You will learn herbal medicine formulations in detail and understand the different clinical conditions that acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine can treat.

You will learn about both western and Chinese diagnosis and then apply this knowledge treating patients at the on-campus clinic.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Compulsory courses</th>
<th>University elective</th>
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<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Chinese Medicine Theory 1</td>
<td>Biology of the Cell</td>
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<td>Chinese Medicine Theory 2</td>
<td>Human Physiology 2: Body Systems</td>
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<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Chinese Materia Medica and Formulae 1</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
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<td>Dermatology and Chinese External Medicine</td>
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<td>Gynaecology in Chinese Medicine</td>
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<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Clinical Chinese Medicine 3</td>
<td>Classic Literature in Chinese Medicine</td>
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Entrance requirements

Successful completion of an Australian Year 12 senior secondary certificate of education or equivalent.

Prerequisites

Current Year 12 prerequisites units 3 and 4 – a study score of at least 25 in any English (except EAL) or at least 30 in English (EAL).

Additional information

Non-Year 12 applicants may submit additional information if they would like it to be considered. For semester 1 intake, this can be completed through the VTAC Personal Statement online. For semester 2 intake, this can be completed through the personal statement in the Apply Direct application.

Working With Children Check: Students must hold a valid Working With Children Check prior to undertaking the clinical components of this program.

Police Check: Students must present evidence of a successful National Police Records Check prior to undertaking the clinical components of this program.