Master of Applied Science (Acupuncture)

If you’re a healthcare practitioner, this program offers you a unique opportunity for clinical education that integrates Chinese acupuncture with modern neurophysiology and evidence-based medicine.

RMIT’s program is the first and only accredited master's degree in acupuncture in Australia and is structured specifically for health professionals who want to incorporate acupuncture into their treatment approach.

The program incorporates Western medicine diagnosis with Chinese medicine theory. A strong focus on evidence-based medicine is combined with the philosophical and cultural aspects of Chinese medicine.

Extensive clinical observation and practice is part of the program, with students having access to RMIT’s Health Sciences Clinic.

Developed more than 20 years ago to meet the increasing demand for qualified acupuncturists, RMIT’s teaching staff are industry experts.

Industry connections
RMIT University is committed to providing you with an education that strongly links formal learning with professional or vocational practice.

RMIT has strong links with Chinese medicine professional bodies in Australia and internationally, and has national and international teaching and research partners.

Career outlook
The combination of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, clinical experience and recognised qualifications prepares you for a career in acupuncture, which may involve independent practice, employment in a multi-discipline healthcare clinic, teaching and/or research.

Professional recognition
The Master of Applied Science (Acupuncture) is approved by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Graduates are eligible to apply for registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Registration is subject to meeting mandatory requirements including English language standards. With registration, graduates can begin practising in Australia.

The program is also recognised by:

– Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA)
– Australian Natural Therapists Association (ANTA)
– Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd (FCMA)

Program structure
The Master of Applied Science (Acupuncture) consists of 144 credit points.

The program incorporates Chinese medicine philosophy in the first year and clinical studies in the final two years.

Clinical studies focus on using acupuncture and acupuncture-related modalities, including cupping, moxibustion, tuina, electroacupuncture, scalp acupuncture and ear acupuncture for a variety of clinical conditions and specialty areas such as:

– internal medicine
– paediatrics
– gynaecology
– traumatology/musculoskeletal
– dermatology
– ENT/ophthalmology
– external conditions

The Australian healthcare system, professional issues, research and acupuncture neurophysiology are also covered.
Program structure (continued)

You’ll need to complete 468 hours of clinical practice as part of the program; 234 clinical hours are spread over three clinical courses and an additional 234 hours of supervised practice are required.

Prior to commencing clinical practice, you must pass the clinical entrance exam.

You must be supervised by an AHPRA-registered acupuncturist with a minimum of five years’ experience to supervise clinical practice.

If you’re based in Melbourne you can access RMIT’s Health Sciences Clinic for observation or practice. Interstate students can choose a AHPRA-registered practitioner to supervise clinical practice. A list of previous practitioners who have supervised students throughout Australia is available.

Year 1

Chinese Medicine Theory 1
You will learn the history and development of Chinese medicine and the philosophies and fundamental principles that guide the practice of Chinese medicine.

Professional Issues and Australian Health Care System
You’ll gain an overview of the healthcare system in Australia and how it compares with major healthcare systems around the world.

Chinese Medicine Theory 2
In this course you’ll cover diagnostic techniques, differential diagnostic methods and skills for analysing and writing up a case record from a Chinese medicine perspective.

Acupuncture Theory and Practice 1
You will develop fundamental knowledge for subsequent acupuncture and clinical courses. You will develop your knowledge and skills in the basic theory of the meridian system and acupuncture points.

Year 2

Acupuncture Theory and Practice 2
You will learn to formulate and modify an acupuncture prescription based on an understanding of the indications and contraindications of acupuncture points. You will also have the ability to prepare and perform acupuncture treatment procedures safely and effectively.

Acupuncture Neurophysiology and Techniques
This course will develop your skills in the different forms of acupuncture treatment including filiform needle, electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture and cutaneous needles. Cupping, tuina and moxibustion will also be covered during supervised practical classes.

Clinical Chinese Medicine 1
You’ll study internal medicine and paediatrics.

Clinical Chinese Medicine 2
You’ll study gynaecology and traumatology, and undertake clinical placements consisting of observation and treatment of patients under supervision.

Clinical Chinese Medicine 3
This course will examine diseases in the areas of dermatology, external medicine, ear, nose, throat and the eye. It includes a clinical placement.

Supervised Clinical Practice 3
You will undertake clinical placement under the supervision of a registered, RMIT-approved acupuncturist. You will integrate and apply the knowledge and skills gained from earlier courses and your clinical practice will be underpinned by an evidence-based approach.

Research Project
You will undertake a research project to critically analyse literature on the efficacy and safety of Chinese medicine practice with a focus on acupuncture.

Additional information

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.

First Aid: Students must have a first aid certificate prior to undertaking the clinical components of this program.

How to apply

Direct to RMIT University: rmit.edu.au/programs/apply/direct

Application dates Semester 1, 2017
– Applications open 14 August 2016
– Timely applications close 10 November 2016.

Late applications will continue to be accepted after this date if places are still available.

Entry requirements

An Australian bachelor’s degree or equivalent in health sciences that satisfies the following prerequisites or equivalent:
– cell biology (biosciences)
– human physiology
– human anatomy (full body)
– pathology
– immunology
– microbiology
– clinical practice
– diagnosis in Western medicine

Year 2

Acupuncture Theory and Practice 2
You will learn to formulate and modify an acupuncture prescription based on an understanding of the indications and contraindications of acupuncture points. You will also have the ability to prepare and perform acupuncture treatment procedures safely and effectively.

Acupuncture Neurophysiology and Techniques
This course will develop your skills in the different forms of acupuncture treatment including filiform needle, electroacupuncture, laser acupuncture and cutaneous needles. Cupping, tuina and moxibustion will also be covered during supervised practical classes.

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– microbiology
– clinical practice
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Fees

2017 indicative fees
Full-fee: AU$11,520 per annum

How much you’ll pay will depend on whether you’re offered a Commonwealth supported place or a full-fee place. Entry for this program is only through full-fee. Government financial assistance is available to eligible students regardless of the type of place you enrol in.

Additional information

For more information and to learn how to calculate your exact tuition fees see: rmit.edu.au/programs/fees/postgraduate

This information is designed for Australian and New Zealand citizens and permanent residents of Australia.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this publication is accurate and current at the date of printing. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the RMIT University website before lodging your application. Visit www.rmit.edu.au