Master of Applied Science (Chinese Herbal Medicine)

This program offers a pathway for all primary health care practitioners and science graduates (clinical diagnosis is required) to qualify for Chinese herbal medicine practice.

This is the only accredited master’s degree in Chinese herbal medicine in Australia and structured for health professionals who want to incorporate herbal medicine into their treatment approach.

You’ll study the theory and practice of Chinese herbal medicine, medicinal chemistry, botany, pharmacology and toxicology and clinical practice as well as the interaction of herbs and drugs. 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 10 years ago, RMIT’s teaching staff are industry experts.

Learning and teaching

This is a workshop-based program combined with self-directed study.

Workshops are run to provide you with a firm theoretical basis, and clinical practice is incorporated to enhance skills and learning. The program emphasises skills to address real patients in clinical settings.

There are four workshops in each year of the program. Each workshop runs for five days.

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 Chinese herbal medicine. This may involve independent practice, employment in a multi-discipline healthcare clinic, teaching and/or research.

Professional recognition

The Master of Applied Science (Chinese herbal medicine) is approved by the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia.

Graduates of this program will be 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 Natural Therapists Association (ANTA)
- Federation of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd (FCMA)
- Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association (AACMA)

Program structure

The Master of Applied Science (Chinese Herbal Medicine) consists of 144 credit points.

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

Clinical studies focus on using Chinese herbal medicine for a variety of clinical conditions and specialist areas including:

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

The Australian healthcare system, professional issues, research and pharmacology and toxicology are also covered.

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 Chinese medicine practitioner with a minimum of five years’ experience to supervise clinical practice.

www.rmit.edu.au/programs/mc138
Master of Applied Science (Chinese Herbal Medicine)

Program structure (continued)

If you’re based in Melbourne you can access RMIT’s Health Sciences Clinic for observation or practice.

Interstate students can choose an AHPRA-registered Chinese medicine 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.

Year 2

Chinese Materia Medica and Formule 1
This course will identify a number of individual Chinese herbs that are part of the Chinese Materia Medica and introduce some of the key formulae (prescriptions of combinations of herbs) used in Chinese medicine. You will also be introduced to the botanical classification of plants commonly used in Chinese herbal medicine preparations.

Year 3

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 4
You will undertake clinical placement under the supervision of a registered, RMIT-approved Chinese herbal medicine practitioner. 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 Chinese herbal medicines.

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 in health sciences that satisfies the following prerequisites:
– cell biology (bioscience)
– human physiology
– human anatomy (full body)
– pathology
– immunology
– microbiology
– clinical practice
– diagnosis in Western medicine

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.

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.

Fees shown above apply to 2017 only and are based on an annual full-time study load of 96 credit points unless otherwise noted. A proportionate fee applies for more or less than the full-time study load. Tuition fees are adjusted on an annual basis and these fees should only be used as a guide.

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