



2015 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Master of Nursing (Child, Family & Community Nursing) (Course Code: HMN)

1. What course do I undertake to gain recognition as a Maternal and Child Health nurse?

This course leads to qualification to practice as a Maternal and Child Health Nurse. (The role is also known as Child and Family Health Nurse in some states).

Postgraduate course details are available on the La Trobe University website - <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/nursing/postgraduate>

2. What if I don't want to do a Masters?

While you enrol in the Master of Nursing (Child, Family and Community), you have the option to exit early from the degree with a Postgraduate Diploma after completing six subjects or 120 credit points.

The Master of Nursing course requires you to undertake eight subjects and gain 180 credit points.

3. Must I be a registered nurse and midwife to undertake the course?

Yes, you must be registered as both a nurse and a midwife with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA). This course is not appropriate if you are a general nurse only or a Midwife only.

4. Is the course full-time or part-time?

The course can be taken on either a full or part-time basis. If you wish to complete the postgraduate diploma in 18 months you MUST discuss your subject selection with the course coordinator. It is possible to complete in this time frame, but there are some subject limitations.

5. What will my enrolment look like if I undertake the course in part-time mode?

If you choose to study part-time we suggest the following subjects in Year 1 and 2 and 3. Most students undertake the course part time.



Faculty of Health Sciences

Semester 1
Semester 2

Year 1	NSM4FCF (30 credit points)	NSM4FPB (30 credit points)
Year 2	NSM5APA (15 credit points) NSM5RFN (15 credit points)	NSM5APB (15 credit points) NSM5CPR (15 credit points) <i>Exit with Postgraduate Diploma</i>
Year 3	NSM5ISU (30 credit points)	NSM5CLP (30 credit points) <i>Exit with Masters Degree</i>

Subjects are listed in the University postgraduate handbook and are available on the La Trobe University website.

What will my enrolment look like if I undertake the course in full-time mode?

	Semester 1	Semester 2
Year 1	NSM4FCF (30 credit points) NSM5APA (15 credit points) NSM5RFN (15 credit points)	NSM4FPB (30 credit points) NSM5APB (15 credit points) NSM5CPR (15 credit points) <i>Exit with Postgraduate Diploma</i>
Year 2	NSM5ISU (30 credit points)	NSM5CLP (30 credit points) <i>Exit with Masters Degree</i>

6. I was previously a Maternal and Child Health Nurse but my qualifications have lapsed. Do you have a re-entry or refresher course for me?

Re-entry Program in Maternal and Child Health Nursing

Yes, the re-entry course is for former Maternal and Child Health nurses whose MCH qualification has lapsed and who seek to return to practice. You must have current registration as both a midwife and a nurse with the NMBA. Successful completion of the program demonstrates the professional development required to practice in maternal and child health.

Refresher Program in Maternal and Child Health Nursing

This program is for nurses who have current registration as a nurse, midwife and maternal and child health nurse. It is suitable for Maternal and Child Health Nurses who would like to refresh their clinical skills.

7. What subjects will I undertake in the Re-entry or Refresher program?

Following discussion with the course coordinator, your learning requirements will be evaluated and you will be advised to enrol in either one or two 30 credit point subjects, which include clinical practicum. Midyear intake is not available for these programs.

8. Essential skills for Maternal Child Health studies

As the course is delivered predominantly online, internet access and basic computer skills are essential. You will be accessing and searching for information online, attaching documents and using word processing software (such as Word). You will be required to access the La Trobe University systems via internet including Learning Management System (LMS) and the online library. Some tutorials will be delivered in the live online format via your home computer through

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Faculty of Health Sciences

the LMS site. To interact online you will need to have a microphone and speaker connected to your computer. For an example of the type of skills needed, explore the Maternal and Child Health Libguide <http://latrobe.libguides.com/maternalchildhealth>.

9. What is the cost of the course?

In 2015 there will be Full Fee places (students pay the full cost of the course) and you can apply for FEE-HELP (Deferred payment of tuition fees) available for eligible Australian citizens. <http://studyassist.gov.au/sites/studyassist/help-payingmyfees/fee-help/pages/fee-help->

10. Scholarships?

A number of scholarships are available through some municipal councils and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to support postgraduate study in maternal and child health nursing. Details can be found on the following website (link on the right):

<http://www.mav.asn.au/policy-services/social-community/children-families/maternal-child-health/Pages/default.aspx>

11. Must I have practised as a midwife?

In normal circumstances, we require a year's post-registration practice in midwifery.

12. Must I have practised as a nurse?

In normal circumstances, we require a year's post-registration practice in nursing.

13. When does the course start?

If you are a successful applicant, you will receive more detailed course information when you are sent a letter of acceptance into the course. If you enrol in the first semester clinical unit, you will be required to attend a workshop two weeks *prior to* starting Semester 1 (more information below). In 2015 Semester 1 begins on Monday 2 March (Week 1).

14. How long do I have to finish?

You can do the complete Master's course over two or three years. The length of study will depend on whether you choose to exit with a postgraduate diploma (1 year full time) or Masters Degree (1.5 years full time). Although the final subjects for the Masters Degree are usually taken in sequence, you may complete the Masters Degree in 18 months, with the approval of the course coordinator.

15. What is the teaching format?

The course is all offered by flexible-mode. This means all students receive an on-line subject guide containing all the lecture notes so you do not need to attend the University weekly for lectures. You are, however, required to attend the workshops prior to the start of semester (see below).

Subject guides walk you through the concepts and readings, making links through activities to the practice setting. Readings associated with each subject guide are also



Faculty of Health Sciences

available electronically. All subjects are enhanced by an online learning component via a program called LMS.

If you are able to attend on-campus, there are on-campus seminar/tutorials for two of the subjects. These tutorials are optional but highly recommended. Some tutorial sessions will be available to access online.

An indication of the workload and classes is provided below:

- There are 3 full days of compulsory face to face classes commencing 16th February, 2015 unless otherwise advised. A similar number of compulsory workshops will run in July 2015 the week before the start of semester 2, 2015.
- Approximately 4 optional tutorials through the semester on campus 4 classes by 3 hours.
- Full-time weekly workload approximately 12 hours of online content
- Part-time weekly workload approximately 4 hours of online content
- Additional work involves assignments and self-directed research.

16. How often do I need to attend the Bundoora location?

You must attend the Bundoora location for the compulsory workshops associated with the *Foundations of Child Family and Community* (NSM4FCF) and *Foundations of Practice B* (NSM4FPB) subjects.

Each workshop is held over three consecutive days. The first workshop is normally held two weeks *prior to* the start of Semester 1 (mid Feb), and the second workshop is usually held one week *prior to* the start of Semester 2 (mid July).

17. Can I do clinical practicum locally?

Usually all clinical practicum, except for the residential early parenting centre placement, can be done in your local area, although this is dependent on placement availability. Most practicum is undertaken in Maternal and Child Health (MCH) centres managed by Local Government. You can nominate your preference for where you undertake MCH practicum. You will receive instructions and packages to take to the agencies where you wish to do your practicum when you are enrolled in the subject. You do not need to arrange this practicum prior to course commencement, although you are encouraged to make yourself known to the MCH coordinator of your municipality.

18. Must I do the practicum as a block?

Clinical practicum is undertaken in a variety of agencies, not just MCH centres and is usually undertaken as intermittent days throughout the semester, following negotiation with the agency. The exception to this is a five-day block placement undertaken in a residential early parenting centre. The Early Parenting Centre placement may include weekend and evening shifts (depending on the agency). It is preferred that your placement in the Universal MCH service consists of full days and finishes with a block of placement in your last semester.



19. How much clinical do I need to do?

The course requires completion of four clinical subjects, each with 76 hours of clinical practicum, a total of 304 hours practicum for the course.

If you undertake your course part-time, this means undertaking an average of one day a week practicum for 10 of the 13 weeks of semester. If you undertake the course full time, this means undertaking an average of two days a week practicum for 10 of the 13 weeks of semester. Your clinical experience should not commence until you have undertaken appropriate theory components for each subject (around week 4 – mid March).

Re-entry students undertake two clinical subjects, each with up to 120 hours of clinical practicum, a total of 240 hours for the program. Refresher students undertake one clinical subject, with a total of 120 clinical hours for the program.

20. How is clinical placement arranged?

You are not required to be employed in MCH practice. Clinical placement in the MCH service will be arranged by the University through negotiation with yourself and local government agencies. Although every effort will be made to secure your preferred location, you may be required to travel outside your local area for placement.

Clinical placement outside the MCH service is arranged by the student with the guidance of the subject coordinator and clinical placements team.

21. How do I apply for the 2015 Intake

Local applicants apply directly to La Trobe University.

Applications open each year in September. Refer to the Supplementary Form.

Applicants are required to:

- **APPLY ONLINE** via www.latrobe.edu.au/study/apply
- **UPLOAD** the 2015 Supplementary Information Form PLUS your supporting documentation.
- The Supplementary Form for 2015 is attached and will be available from **Find A Course** at <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/nursing/postgraduate> Scroll down to open the Master of Nursing course and go to the section 'How to Apply' to retrieve the Supplementary form.



22. When do applications close?

Applications for semester 1, 2015 close Friday 28th November 2014.

23. Who do I contact if I have more queries?

If you still have queries about the course, you may contact the Child, Family and Community nursing stream coordinator or the student services officer:

Stream Coordinator

Deb Akers/Lael Ridgway

☎ (03) 9479 5930

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✉ d.akers@latrobe.edu.au

✉ l.ridgway@latrobe.edu.au

Student Services

Postgraduate Student Services Officer

Health Sciences, La Trobe University, Melbourne VIC

☎ (03) 9479 5815 ✉ health@latrobe.edu.au