Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities

Are you an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?
Are you passionate about the health of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people?
Have you worked for at least two years in your community?
Do you wish you had a University qualification?
YES? This course just might suit you.

Students undertaking the Specialist Certificate in Empowering Health in Aboriginal Communities will gain advanced understanding of how both Aboriginal and Western knowledges can be applied to the field of health in rural Aboriginal communities as well as academic, community development and project management skills. The course introduces students to health-related knowledges from biomedical, critical social science and Aboriginal perspectives. The course aims to empower Aboriginal health professionals and allow students to study and work in their communities for the development of both.

How does the course run?
This is a part-time course consisting of two subjects taken over one year. The course is run in a way that enables you to continue to work in your regular job, provided you can attend the compulsory intensive study week (in Shepparton) early in each semester. After the study week each semester, the student group will meet weekly for a tutorial, either on campus or via ZOOM, and you will read articles and write assignments in your own time.

We provide individual support to help you complete the course throughout the year.

For more information, visit [http://go.unimelb.edu.au/s54r](http://go.unimelb.edu.au/s54r)
What are the study dates and when are the compulsory study weeks that I need to attend?

In 2022, the compulsory Intensive Study weeks will be:

Monday 28 February - Friday 4 March 2022
Monday 25 July - Friday 29 July 2022

In your first semester (28 February - 29 May) you will complete the subject Utilising Knowledge in Aboriginal Health (RURA90008) go.unimelb.edu.au/h9bi.

In your second semester (25 July - 23 October) you will complete Health Projects in Aboriginal Settings (RURA90009) go.unimelb.edu.au/f9bi. In this subject you will work on a project in your community or workplace.

What is the support offered?

After the study week each semester, the student group will meet weekly for a tutorial via ZOOM, and you will read articles and write assignments in your own time.

In addition, support will be given to assist you to:

- Apply and enroll for the courses
- Access any financial/scholarship opportunities
- Develop the skills you need to complete the required work.

Can I keep working?

The course is run over one year, in a way that enables you to continue to work in your regular job, provided you can attend the compulsory intensive study week (in Shepparton) for the first week of each semester.

What does it cost?

Each subject costs $2152 – however you can apply for Fee Help – so the Government pays for you, and you pay it back in small amounts through your tax, when you are at a certain income level. You may also be eligible for scholarships and bursaries that are available or your employer may provide fee support.

Am I eligible?

This course takes into account your work experience. To undertake the course you need to have two years work experience in a field related to Aboriginal health or community development or a bachelor degree (Indigenous applicants only).

Non-Indigenous applicants need to have a relationship with an Aboriginal Community, including some work experience in Aboriginal Health and Community Development; plus - an undergraduate degree, or at least seven years’ work experience altogether.

What happens once I’ve completed this?

Once you graduate you will be able to continue your studies in the Graduate Certificate in Aboriginal Health in Rural Communities – another two subjects (from the Master of Public Health course) over one year. These subjects can then be counted towards a Master of Public Health for those wishing to undertake more study.

These subjects may also be counted towards other Post Graduate studies at any University and will certainly assist with your being accepted into relevant courses.

I’m interested!

To find out more please contact one of our team to talk about this in more detail. They will be able to provide assistance with the application and enrolment process and to help you start planning to do the course.

You can find more information at: study.unimelb.edu.au/how-to-apply

The last date you can enrol for 2022 is 28 February 2022 but we recommend you do this much earlier as it takes time and you need to provide documents.

Further information or to apply

Department of Rural Health

E: aboriginal-health@unimelb.edu.au

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(Artwork: Rebecca Atkinson, Empowering our People 2019 © Rebecca Atkinson)