



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF NURSING SCIENCE IN PERIOPERATIVE CARE

Austin Health offers employment for the clinical component of this course of study in perioperative nursing for Registered Div 1 Nurses, in collaboration with:

- La Trobe University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia. Ph 9479 3583.

Austin Health is able to offer specialised medical services in acute care and rehabilitation from three campuses:

Austin Hospital - Heidelberg
Repatriation Heidelberg - Heidelberg West
Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Hospital - Kew.

Austin Health as it exists today is a world-class medical facility which offers excellent patient care services and is renowned for its commitment to education and research.

THEORETICAL PROGRAMME

The University conducts the theoretical programme over the academic year at the Austin Hospital and the Alfred Hospital. For further information regarding course content, University application procedures and University pre-requisites, please contact La Trobe University.

CLINICAL COMPONENT

The clinical component of the course is undertaken at Austin Health, where emphasis is placed upon assisting the student to develop skills and expertise in the area of perioperative nursing. The aim is for clinical experience to enhance the theoretical component of the course and thus facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competence by the participant.

EMPLOYMENT BY AUSTIN HEALTH

Clinical experience is gained while undertaking full time employment working four days per week. In selected cases course students with previous operating room experience (after consideration by the selection panel) may work part time. Up to four hours paid study leave

per week is available during the university semesters for full time staff (pro rata for part time staff). Employment commences in February and extends over fifty-two weeks until February of the following year. At the completion of the twelve month programme ongoing employment at Austin Health is available. Four weeks annual leave is scheduled into the programme, and is required to be taken at the specified time.

CLINICAL SUPPORT

Participants have the support of the Perioperative and Perianaesthesia Course Coordinators, Clinical Support Nurses, and OR nursing staff to assist in the development of skills and acquisition of clinical competence. A clinical workbook is provided for students to document their clinical progress and to act as a tool for enhancement of clinical knowledge.

CLINICAL ROTATIONS

The Course Coordinator compiles a rotation planner prior to commencement of the course, which is distributed to all participants and all units that appear on the planner. This ensures that participants are taught in all areas relevant to perioperative nursing.

Students spend most of the course working in the perioperative nursing roles in the operating suites of the Austin and Heidelberg Repatriation Hospitals.

Students will also experience:

- 1 week in endoscopy
- 1 week in pre-op assessment /pre-admission clinic and day of surgery admissions
- 4 weeks in PACU (recovery room) nursing
- 4 weeks in Anaesthesia nursing
- 2 days at the Mercy Hospital for Women

Throughout perioperative rotations, experience can be gained in the specialties of:

Thoracic surgery	Gynaecological surgery
Neurosurgery	Plastic surgery
Vascular surgery	Biliary surgery
Orthopaedic surgery	General surgery
Urological surgery	Emergency surgery
ENT surgery	Paediatric surgery
Ophthalmic surgery	

Students are rostered onto a variety of shifts, including days and evenings. Some 'on-call' and weekend work is also required, however this is rostered later in the course, once students have worked within the unit for a few months.

CLINICAL ASSESSMENTS

Students are assessed to ensure clinical competence in this specialty area of nursing. The University and Austin Health set clinical assessments that students are required to achieve. Areas that are assessed include: performance in the roles of instrument nurse and circulating

nurse, basic life support, advanced cardiac life support, anaesthesia nursing and post-anaesthesia nursing.

MEDICAL LIBRARY

Austin Health has a very well equipped Health Services Library available during the hours of 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Internet and CINAHL are available.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

The prospective student needs to meet the following criteria for employment to be considered:

- Division 1 registration with the Nurses Board of Victoria.
- At least one year of experience in an acute nursing setting as Registered Nurse (Div. 1). Perioperative experience not essential but is an advantage.
- Successfully meet the University pre-requisite criteria.

Generally advertisements for positions are placed in the Saturday employment section of a Melbourne newspaper of choice in August.

The perioperative course coordinator may be contacted on Ph(03) 9496 5000 and pager 1062, or extension 4753

Email: periop.cned@austin.org.au with any further queries.

Applications should include a letter of interest, a curriculum vita, and the names of three professional referees and should be directed to: -

Perioperative Course Co-ordinator
Clinical Nursing Education Department
Level 4 Austin Tower
Austin Health
PO Box 5555
Heidelberg
Vic 3084