

## **Master of Nurse Practitioner (MNP) Program – Information for applicants**

### **Background**

The Master of Nurse Practitioner is an online, 120-credit-point degree intended to be completed part-time over two years. Students wishing to undertake a reduced academic workload can complete the course over three years (i.e., completing 15 credit points per semester over the first two years, followed by a clinical internship in the third year). The course is designed for flexible part-time learning and can be adapted to meet the needs of students as they work simultaneously in demanding clinical environments.

The course allows students to develop extended knowledge and advanced clinical practice skills to prepare for an advanced practice role as a nurse practitioner in specialty practice. It teaches professional leadership in contemporary clinical and professional nursing in line with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice (2021). The course allows nurse practitioner graduates to gain a legally and industry-recognised qualification that places them at the most advanced level of clinical nursing achievable within any specialty nursing area.

The Master of Nurse Practitioner is an ANMAC-accredited course.

### **Course Entry Requirements**

To be eligible for entry to this course, you must demonstrate:

1. Current Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) registration (RN Div 1) with no conditions or undertakings.
2. At least five years of full-time equivalent nursing experience post-registration.
3. Graduate Diploma in a nursing specialty (or equivalent).
4. At least two years of full-time equivalent experience in an advanced practice nursing (APN) role within the last six years (approximately 2000 hours), with demonstrated competence across APN practice domains (leadership, education, research, health systems support).
5. Current and enduring employment in an area of specialty nursing practice (minimum 0.5 FTE with a suggested maximum 0.8 FTE) (year 1 of study).
6. Confirmation of work-based clinical placement support to undertake 300 hours of supernumerary, supervised Integrated Professional Practice (IPP) during the clinical internship (year 2 of study).
7. Evidence of appropriate clinical supervision (supervision Team).

### **Advanced Practice Nursing (APN)**

Advanced practice in nursing is defined by practice level, not job title or remuneration. APN includes expertise, critical thinking, complex decision-making, and autonomous, evidence-based, safe practice in generalist and specialist contexts.

To demonstrate an appropriate level of APN experience, you must satisfy the following requirements:

- Completion of [The Australian Advanced Practice Nursing Self-Appraisal Tool: The ADVANCE Tool](#), with sign-off and comments from a manager or supervisor.
- A curriculum vitae/resume detailing APN experience (clearly articulating the advanced nature of the relevant nursing roles and approximate hours worked in each APN role).

### Specialty Practice Requirements – Work-Based Practice

You must be employed in an APN role (in their specialty area of practice) for at least 240 hours during the *first year of study* (recommended clinical practice load is 0.5 FTE). You must secure 300 hours of supervised, supernumerary Integrated Professional Practice (IPP) during your second year of study as part of your educational preparation for NP endorsement. IPP combines academic preparation with clinical learning in direct patient care settings. It supports NP students in developing clinical practice skills essential for the NP role.

#### IPP Requirements

ANMAC standards require a minimum of 300 hours of supervised, supernumerary IPP as part of the educational preparation towards NP endorsement.

To be eligible for course entry, you must show evidence that they have secured:

- 300 hours of IPP (relevant to the second year of study), and
- Clinical Supervision by appropriately credentialed clinical experts in the area of chosen specialty practice (see below for further detail)

Appropriate organisational oversight is required to undertake IPP. You must provide a **Confirmation of work-based clinical placement support** for each placement they undertake, signed by an authorised representative within the host organisation (e.g. Director of Nursing or Chief Nursing Officer) and the student.

#### Supervised, Supernumerary IPP

Nurse practitioner students can obtain supernumerary integrated professional practice in one, or a combination of three ways:

1. Scheduled and supervised practice in the clinical setting where the student is employed, but not rostered to their usual duties (i.e., clinical practice hours without a patient load).
2. Unscheduled, opportunistic, and supervised practice in the clinical setting where they are employed and counted in the roster (i.e., taking opportunities as they arise, without compromising usual care).
3. Supervised practice in a clinical setting where they are not employed (i.e., seeking clinical exposure outside of paid hours).

For more detailed information, refer to the [ANMAC Explanatory Note: Interpretation and explanation of supernumerary integrated professional practice for nurse practitioner students](#)

#### Supervision Requirements

Students need a Supervising Team comprising at least a primary and secondary supervisor. The primary supervisor must have:

- At least two years of post-qualification experience (for Consultant/Physician/GP/Surgeon), or post-endorsement experience (for NP).
- Expertise in the student's specialty field.

We strongly encourage you to connect with an experienced Nurse Practitioner supervisor, even if this means seeking support outside their identified specialty area of practice or organisation.

### Selecting a Clinical Supervisor

To meet the intended learning outcomes of Clinical Internship subjects, students should select clinical supervisors who will support and work closely with them to achieve objectives.

Clinical supervisors should meet the following criteria:

- Current registration with AHPRA as a nurse practitioner (minimum 2 years experience), or a registered medical practitioner
- Qualification that is higher than or equal to a Master's degree
- Relevant and up-to-date clinical experience in the specialty area of practice
- Practice privileges in the clinical organisation/area of practice (at least one supervisor)
- Demonstrated clinical education and mentoring experience/skills
- Commitment to the ongoing development and education of the NP student

### Supervising Team Commitment

The NP student's Primary Supervisor provides two years of mentorship and supervision, including:

- **Direct supervision** for activities outside the student's usual scope of practice.
- **Indirect supervision** for activities within the RN scope of practice.

The Supervising Team are asked to support and facilitate learning activities, help the student define their scope of practice, and commit to:

- Initial review and approval of clinical learning objectives.
- Fortnightly meetings (x 6) that include review and validation of logged hours and activities, review of student case study and written feedback.
- Formative (week 6) and summative (week 12) appraisals of student performance.
- Contribute to Expert Panels (viva voce) at the end of each semester

### Course Structure

The course is delivered online over two years, part-time. Students wishing to undertake a reduced academic workload can complete the course over three years (i.e., completing 15 credit points per semester over the first two years, followed by a clinical internship in the third year).

#### Year 1 subjects

- *NSM5ACE – Advanced Clinical Evidence for Nursing Practice (15 CP)*
- *NSM5ACN – Advanced Clinical Nursing Practice (15 CP)*
- *NSM5TMA – Therapeutic Medication Management A (15 CP)*
- *NSM5TMB – Therapeutic Medication Management B (15 CP)*

#### Year 2 Clinical Internship subjects

- *NSM5CIA – Clinical Internship for Nurse Practitioners A (30 CP)*
- *NSM5CIB – Clinical Internship for Nurse Practitioners B (30 CP)*

### **Advanced Standing / Credit / Recognition of Prior Learning**

Advanced standing is rarely awarded due to the course's focus on NP preparation. Occasionally, equivalence is granted for a comprehensive research subject completed as part of a master's degree. Applicants should refer to the LTU Admissions Policy for Credit and Advanced Standing.

### **Useful Links and Resources**

- [The Australian Advanced Nursing Practice Self-Appraisal Tool: The ADVANCE tool](#)
- [Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia - Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice](#)
- [NMBA Registration Standard: Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Guidelines: For Nurses applying for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [NMBA Registration Standard: English Language Skills](#)
- [ANMAC Explanatory Note: Interpretation and explanation of supernumerary integrated professional practice for nurse practitioner students](#)
- [The Nurse Practitioner Clinical Learning and Teaching Framework Toolkit](#)
- [ANMAC Nurse Practitioner Accreditation Standard 2015](#)

## Application Checklist

Ensure the following certified documents are included with your application:

- Proof of identity (e.g., driver's license or passport).
- Proof of Australian residency
- Current AHPRA Registration Certificate (Division 1 RN with no limitations).
- Academic transcripts (Postgraduate Diploma or equivalent).
- Current Police Check (fit2work or equivalent).
- Working with Children Check.

The following additional information must also be demonstrated within your application:

- Evidence of employment in a specialty area of advanced nursing practice (minimum 0.5 FTE).
- Evidence of Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) experience (completed Advanced Practice Nursing self-appraisal toolkit (ADVANCE), with sign-off by a manager or supervisor).
- Curriculum vitae/resume detailing APN experience (2000 hours minimum).
- Completion of [The Australian Advanced Practice Nursing Self-Appraisal Tool: The ADVANCE Tool](#), with sign-off and comments from a manager or supervisor.
- Integrated Professional Practice (IPP) agreement (i.e., the LTU **Confirmation of work-based clinical placement support** document, signed by the Director of Nursing/delegate)
- Curriculum vitae (resumes) of your Supervising Team.
- Cover letter demonstrating your understanding of the NP role and APN in Australia.

## Immunisation Requirements

*LTU ensures immunisation requirements are met for all students undertaking IPP during the clinical internship (even if they are undertaking IPP within their usual place of employment). Students must provide an Immunisation and Health Record Form and/or evidence of exemption upon enrolment.*

- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (dTpa)
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Tuberculosis (Quantiferon Gold or Mantoux Test)
- COVID-19 (3 vaccinations)