

Postgraduate Information Evenings 2020 – *Nursing and Midwifery Transcript*

[Western] Alex Chen: Thank you everyone for coming this evening for our post graduate Nursing and Midwifery information session.

Before we get started, I will just go through the acknowledgement of country. With respect for Aboriginal cultural protocol and out of recognition that some of our campuses occupy the traditional lands, Western Sydney University acknowledges the Darug, Eora, Dharawal and Wiradjuri peoples, and thanks them for their support of its work in their lands of Greater Western Sydney and beyond.

This zoom presentation and the zoom breakout links will be recorded. Participation is optional, so if you're not participating, you won't be recorded. But if you do participate, it will be recorded by our events team. If you have any questions about the recordings, feel free to contact our events team by email via the email address on screen.

My name is Alex Chen, from the Contact Service Centre, and I'm joined here with Professor Deborah Hatcher, who is the Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

In this presentation, we'll be covering our Postgraduate study courses and options, Western Sydney University and our Covid-19 response, the application process, where you can hear about how to apply as a domestic or international student, our higher degree research options, and also understanding our fee structure. We will also be having a Q&A at the very end, where you will get an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We will have individual breakout sessions with academics, where you can speak one on one and ask any questions.

I'll now hand over to Professor Deborah Hatcher.

Deborah Hatcher: Good evening, everyone. And welcome to the Postgraduate Information Session for Nursing and Midwifery.

As Alex has said, I am Professor Deborah Hatcher, Dean of the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The School is very proud to support the career development of nurses and midwives across Greater Western Sydney and beyond. And we do this through our world class research. Whether you're looking to specialize in mental health, child and family health, midwifery, clinical leadership or develop your research skills, we have a course that's right for you I am sure.

In 2019, the national graduate outcomes survey found that graduates who have a Western post-graduate nursing or midwifery qualification, had the highest percentage of full-time employment at 98.2%. Our students had an earning salary of \$87,000. Our staff are highly experienced, and bring years of clinical practice, research skill and academic knowledge to provide you with an evidence-based approach to learning. Our school offers a range Postgraduate courses tailored to industry needs and demands and it's very important that we meet your needs. We offer a flexible mode of delivery through a mix of face to face, blended fully online courses, which allows you to plan your commitments and suit your study needs. We partner with organizations like Karitane, the Australian respiratory counsel, and the Australian College of Nursing, which ensures that our courses are clinically current and relevant to industry needs. Each of our courses, meet the Australian Nurse and Midwifery Accreditation Council standards and lead to professional registration and clinical practice. Our courses are mapped to those standards.

What I like about our postgraduate offerings in 2021, is our very new Master of Aging, Wellbeing, and Sustainability. We're really pleased to have this course on offer the first time in 2021. It's a unique course and it's developed in collaboration with professionals across a range of disciplines, including health, city planning, business, policy making, and quality management. The course has been purposely designed to prepare practitioners and professionals involved in planning and the provision of services to aged communities.

Some schools ranked in the top 100 QS ranking for nursing in the world for the last four years in a row. What does that mean, and how is that relevant to you? In short, it's recognition of the high quality of our student experience, the way we design and deliver our courses, and the world class research we produce. We're providing a hallmark education. It means you'll be taught by academics who are considered by colleagues in Australia and around the globe, to have a world standard in teaching and research.

I know committing to further studies is a huge decision and not made in isolation from your commitments to family, work, and other personal commitments. I encourage you to speak with our academic course advisors in the upcoming breakout sessions to find out which course is right for you. I hope you enjoyed the session and I look forward to meeting you.

[Western] Alex Chen: Thank you Deborah, now we will discuss Western Sydney University's response to Covid-19. We have moved our university predominantly to an online platform. This means that all classes have currently moved online, as well as majority of student services. Student Central and wellbeing services have also moved online with live chat and phone call communication, and. There will be some classes that are delivered on campus, but that will be dependent on the requirements for the units, and they'll be delivered through restricted numbers to allow for social distancing.

Now for study assistance for students. Western Sydney University is committed to supporting our students to ensure that you can continue learning during the current pandemic and there are also academic support services available. We have established a corona virus support line, which is a dedicated phone number you can call Monday to Friday, 9 to 5. The corona virus support line has provided a trusted platform for students seeking the best advice possible. We also have the student hardship fund. This fund is to assist students through the provision of grocery vouchers, loan laptops, and financial support, and its centralized application process has allowed for the maximum five-day turnaround to assist students experiencing hardship

Now, to discuss our application process. Domestic students can apply directly online with us and it's free of charge. Just head to our website and start the application. All our nursing postgraduate courses can be applied for directly online. For international students, there are two ways you can apply: you can apply using our direct online portal link; or you could apply through an agent.

We will be covering the specific closing date, as application dates vary between courses. When you go into your breakout sessions, they will be able to tell you the exact closing dates for your course.

Now to discuss Higher Degree Research opportunities. Higher Degree Research covers: Master of Research; Master of Philosophy; the Doctor of Philosophy; Doctor of Arts, Doctor of Education; and Doctor of Cultural Research. These opportunities are handled by our Graduate Research School. If you're interested in these courses, feel free to attend our Graduate Research School, or High Degree Research webinar tomorrow at 6pm. The link will be posted in the chat for you.

Now understanding fees. For domestic fees, we have what are called Commonwealth Supported Places, which are government subsidised and the remaining tuition fee can be deferred by eligible domestic students. We also have Fee-Help for eligible domestic students. Most of the postgraduate nursing and midwifery courses are Commonwealth Supported. International fees can be found on our international website. When international students get an offer to study with us, the offer letter will specify the exact fee amounts. There will also be additional costs associated with study, such as the Student Services Amenity Fees (SSAF), which is a small amount that is paid each year, which goes towards funding the support services that are that are available for students. These services are free to use. Other costs can include textbooks, class equipment, and living expenses.

Thank you everyone for attending.