
PHYSIOTHERAPY BRIDGING COURSE 2012

OVERVIEW

The HEAL¹ Physiotherapy Bridging Course has been designed specifically to help overseas trained physiotherapists prepare for their Australian Physiotherapy Council (APC) Written Assessment. However, the program will also benefit people preparing for the APC Clinical Assessment.

The course is not designed to provide participants with detailed knowledge in the foundation sciences (anatomy, physiology, biomechanics, principles of exercise, physics, psychology and relevant pharmacology). It is designed to enable the participants to gain an understanding of how their basic physiotherapy knowledge needs to be applied in the Australian health workforce and provide focused preparation for the APC examinations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PHYSIOTHERAPY BRIDGING COURSE

The learning objectives for the Physiotherapy Bridging Course are:

- Familiarisation with and preparation for the APC Stage 2 - Written Assessment.
- Understand the problem-solving and decision-making that is required for the safe and effective practice of physiotherapy in Australia.
- Use clinical reasoning to assess clients; and develop, implement and evaluate appropriate physiotherapy interventions.
- Apply an evidence based approach to your practice.
- Understand what it means to be a first contact practitioner in Australia.

STRUCTURE OF THE BRIDGING COURSE

The APC Stage 2 - Written Assessment assesses each candidate's potential capacity for the problem-solving and decision-making that is required for the safe and effective practice of physiotherapy in Australia. Therefore this course focuses on explaining how to apply your knowledge of the foundation sciences to specific clinical situations safely and effectively in the Australian context.

The Australian Standards for Physiotherapy² provide the basis of this bridging course. Concentrating on key Standards, participants will work through case studies in the same areas of physiotherapy that the APC Written Assessment questions are derived from - ie:

- Paediatric physiotherapy
- Gerontological physiotherapy
- Growth and development

¹ Health Education Australia Ltd (HEAL) is a not-for-profit registered company which was established in 2010 as a subsidiary company of Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation (VMPF). HEAL was established as a vehicle for providing quality health education throughout Australia.

² http://www.physiocouncil.com.au/file_folder/AustralianStandardsforPhysiotherapySummary

- Neurological physiotherapy
- Musculoskeletal physiotherapy
- Research / Evidence
- Electrotherapy and
- Professional issues in physiotherapy practice in Australia

PROGRAM

This is a 4½ day bridging course program and is scheduled to take into account the APC Examination timetable. Full day sessions will take place on consecutive weekends. A 3 hour review session will be scheduled as close to the APC Examination day as practical. For ease the review session will include a telephone link-up for interstate participants.

The session on the first Saturday of the course will explain:

- how to prepare for the APC Written Assessment and what the APC is seeking to assess, and
- the Australian Physiotherapy Standards and their importance in the APC Written Assessment.

The following 3 sessions (first Sunday, second Saturday and second Sunday) will be facilitated by experienced physiotherapy tutors in each of the following areas of physiotherapy using case studies, multiple choice questions and other education strategies; across a range of ages (ie paediatric to gerontology) and settings (ie hospital, private practice)

- Musculoskeletal
- Cardio-respiratory
- Neurological

Applicants please note:

Whilst the APC has provided access to the same resources for this bridging program as the candidates receive; and is supportive of the concept of the program, the APC does not endorse or approve this bridging program. The APC is an assessing authority only and as such it is inappropriate to endorse or approve the content of any education program.

THE TUTORS

Lead tutors for the course are:

Belinda Cary -

- Belinda is the Physiotherapy Manager at St Vincent's Health in Melbourne and the Associate Clinical Dean for the St Vincent's University of Melbourne Clinical School. Belinda completed her undergraduate physiotherapy degree at the University of Melbourne in 1994 and has since worked in a variety of clinical settings, including acute, subacute, and ambulatory care, in Australia and the UK, as well as volunteer work as a physiotherapist in Vietnam. In recent years she has held senior musculoskeletal physiotherapy positions at the Royal Melbourne and Austin Hospitals and has been involved in the implementation and evaluation of advanced scope physiotherapy clinics within these hospital settings. She completed a Masters of Public Health in 2004 and a Clinical Masters in Physiotherapy in

2008. Belinda is an active member of the Australian Physiotherapy Association. She has been a Victorian Branch Councillor since February 2005 and in 2011 will take on the role of vice president of the Victorian Branch.

Con Marangoudakis – Musculoskeletal

- Con graduated from Latrobe University in 1997 and completed a post graduate in Sports Physiotherapy in 2003. He has previously worked as grade 2 Hand Therapist at Dandenong Hospital in joint hand therapy unit with Physio/OT and working directly for Mr Stephen Tham (orthopaedic and upper limb surgeon). Con has also worked as Senior musculoskeletal Physiotherapist for the Australian Defence Force both in Darwin and in Melbourne and spent time in East Timor. Con was also principal physiotherapist of Domain Health Sports and Spinal Clinic in South Melbourne for three years managing a multidisciplinary team of physios/myotherapists/personal trainers and specialising in pilates and rehabilitation.

Cindy Joffe – Cardio-respiratory

- Currently working at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne. Cindy studied and trained in the United Kingdom. She has been working in Australia since 2007 and undertook the APC exams in order to gain registration. Cindy has been working in cardiorespiratory positions since 2003 and finished her Masters in 2005. She has extensive ICU, respiratory, NIV and general medical ward experience.

Amy Gillon - Neurology

- Amy Gillon is a titled APA Neurological Physiotherapist who graduated from La Trobe University in 1997. She completed her Masters of Neurological Physiotherapy in 2005 at The University of Melbourne. She has worked in both the private and public hospital settings in inpatient and outpatient neurological rehabilitation. She has also tutored undergraduate students in Neurological Physiotherapy at The University of Melbourne. She currently works part time as a neurological private practitioner at the practice Neuro-solutions working with a diverse client load including ABI, stroke and MS. She has an interest in research and has published an intervention study for hemiplegic shoulders in the UK journal 'Clinical Rehabilitation.' She has also been involved in research with MS patients and strength training through her role as a research co-ordinator at La Trobe University.

ELIGIBILITY

All overseas trained physiotherapists are invited to apply; however, priority will be given to people who have a place in the APC Written Assessment which follows the bridging course.

VENUE

Aikenhead Building,

27 Victoria Parade, St Vincent's Hospital,, Fitzroy, Victoria.

From 10:00am to 4:00pm each day. Please arrive at 9:45 on 5 February 2011 for registration.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation and catering are not included in the course fee.

Interstate and overseas participants can choose from a number of accommodation options close to St Vincent's hospital. An accommodation listing is available on request.

FEE

\$1,650.00(incl GST). A certificate of attendance will be provided at the completion of the bridging program.

HEALTH EDUCATION AUSTRALIA LIMITED (HEAL)

Health Education Australia (HEAL) is a not-for-profit registered company which was established in 2010 as a subsidiary company of the Victorian Medical Postgraduate Foundation (VMPF). HEAL was established as a vehicle for providing quality health education throughout Australia.

VMPF'S HISTORY

Over the past 90 years the VMPF has been involved in a wide range of educational activities for the medical and allied health professions throughout Victoria. Its role was quite diverse before many specialist colleges were established and over time has evolved to identify and pick-up areas of medical education that are not covered by a specific college or which cross several college boundaries. Throughout the VMPF's existence it has always maintained a multi-disciplinary focus to provide interaction and networking of all health specialties.