Bachelor of Nursing programme

La Trobe University is an internationally recognised university with a strong research and teaching focus. It has over 100 partner universities and student exchange networks across more than 30 countries. The School of Nursing and Midwifery of La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia, in cooperation with The School of Continuing and Professional Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong is offering a Bachelor of Nursing course for registered nurses in Hong Kong.

The Bachelor of Nursing programme enables registered nurses with a hospital certificate or diploma qualification in nursing to expand their professional education in the discipline, to a bachelor degree.

The programme consists of six subjects chosen specifically for their relevance to the nursing profession and the healthcare context of nursing practice in Hong Kong. Programme content is up-to-date and evidence-based and students will expand their knowledge within the discipline of nursing and apply this to their nursing practice.

The programme introduces students to concepts of how to evaluate new knowledge to ensure their practice meets best practice standards and provides the opportunity to develop theoretical knowledge and practical skills that are readily transferable into the healthcare environment. Three main topic areas are threaded within the curriculum: clinical practice; leadership and management and education.

Graduates of the programme will have a strong academic basis for further study. They will be eligible to apply for entry into postgraduate studies including up to Masters level.

The Bachelor of Nursing programme is offered in Hong Kong in collaboration with the School of Continuing & Professional Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

This six subject program is equivalent to one year full time study and can be completed in part time mode over approximately eighteen months, in three semesters.

Students will receive twenty hours of face to face teaching with La Trobe University Academic staff for each of the six subjects. Study guides, required readings and learning activities will be provided by La Trobe University. Students will also receive ongoing support from both the School of Continuing and Professional Studies of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and La Trobe University via an on-line Learning Management System, throughout the course.

This course is an exempted course under the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Ordinance Cap. 493 of Hong Kong.

Degree award

The course is equivalent to the Bachelor of Nursing degree course conducted by La Trobe University in Australia and students who successfully complete the course will receive the same award.

Admission requirements

Applicants shall hold a current, valid registration with the Nursing Council of Hong Kong upon commencement of the course.

English language requirement

Applicants shall hold English language proficiency equivalent to TOEFL iBT 80 overall with a minimum score of 17 in each section or IELTS 6.5 with no individual band less than 6.0 or equivalent.

La Trobe University has offered a nursing conversion program in Hong Kong since 1992 and many of its graduates are now working at senior positions in the health services industry in Hong Kong and overseas.

Course aims

The broad educational aims of the programme are to prepare graduates who:

- Are committed to evidence-based practice;
- Understand the principles and practices of management, leadership, supervision, teaching and delegation;
- Are reflective and practice within acknowledged legal, ethical and organisational frameworks;
- Have a commitment to life-long learning, critical thinking and continuing professional and personal development;
- Are able to make ethical and socially responsible decisions that are sensitive to the needs of patients or clients.

Curriculum

- Clinical Assessment and Decision Making
- Research in Clinical Practice
- Medication Management in Nursing
- Managing Chronic Health Conditions
- Law Ethics and Nursing Accountability
- Critical Analysis of Nursing Practice

Assessment scheme

The programme uses both formative and summative assessment methods. Subjects are assessed by either assignment and/or written examination. Assessments are submitted to the University for marking.

Course fees

Payment is due six weeks before the commencement of each semester. The fee covers course notes, readings, handouts, face to face teaching sessions, student fee and assessment fees. The course fee for the 2011 intake is HK$68,500 for 6 subjects (HK$22,833 per semester).

Financial assistance

Students may apply for financial assistance through the Government’s Non-means Tested Loan Scheme (NLTS). Details of NLTS can be obtained from the website of the Student Financial Assistance Agency (SFAA) at www.sfaa.gov.hk.

Registration fee

All applications should be accompanied by 1 passport sized photograph plus a non-refundable registration fee of HK$200 by crossed cheque or bank draft payable to ‘The Chinese University of Hong Kong’. The Application fee is not refundable.
Application procedures
The application form should be submitted with the following:
1. Certificates and transcripts of all relevant academic qualifications;
2. Proof of recent English Language proficiency (for those with pre-registration nursing education in a language other than English);
3. A Hong Kong identity card or relevant identification document;
4. A non-refundable application fee of HK$300 by crossed cheque or bank draft made payable to ‘The Chinese University of Hong Kong’;

Please send your completed application form and all associated documentation to:
School of Continuing and Professional Studies, CUHK
1/F Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road Central
Hong Kong (Bachelor of Nursing)

Withdrawal
No refund will be made for accepted applicants.

Subject outlines, content and learning objectives
Semester One: Clinical Assessment and Decision Making

Subject description:
In this subject the focus will shift from assessment of the well individual to assessment of risk factors and pathophysiological conditions in an every changing health care context. Illnesses identified as health priorities in Hong Kong will provide a context for consideration of a number of clinical assessment and decision making models and the application of such knowledge and skills, including diagnostic tests and techniques.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
Clinical assessment and decision making involves the assessment of patients in order to determine the best course of action. This facilitates the delivery of care by enabling the diagnosis of actual and potential nurse sensitive and collaborative health problems, and the evaluation of an individual’s response to therapy.

Research in Clinical Practice

Subject description:
This subject addresses the principle that contemporary professional nursing requires that practice is informed by the best available evidence in the delivery of patient care, in the administration of nursing services and in the education of nurses. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop the research literacy necessary for critical consumerism in the context of evidence-based practice and beginning skills in application of the research process.

All elements of the research process are examined and students are introduced to the major research methods and basic strategies for collecting, analysing and presenting quantitative and qualitative data.

Ethical standards and issues of credibility in research inquiry are examined. The application of research to nursing practice and strategies for promoting research utilisation are explored. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the research process through developing a proposal for a minor research study.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
This subject provides the student with the opportunity to further their independent critical thinking skills, intellectual development, and continuing personal development. This learning will promote a commitment to research and evidence based practice.

Semester Two: Medication Management in Nursing

Subject description:
In this subject students will develop knowledge of safe and ethical practice in medication administration. The students are introduced to the general principles of Quality Use of Medications and pharmacology, including how drugs are prescribed, administered, act in the body, and how the body affects drugs. Commonly used drug groups will be discussed and linked with appropriate pathophysiology.

Information will be provided to the students on pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles essential for clinical practice.

Emphasis will be placed on the role responsibilities of registered nurses for medication administration. The students are introduced to the general principles of quality use of medications and pharmacology, including how drugs are prescribed, administered, act in the body, and how the body affects drugs. Commonly used drug groups will be discussed and linked with appropriate pathophysiology.

Emphasis will be placed on the role responsibilities of registered nurses for medication administration. The students are introduced to the general principles of Quality Use of Medications and pharmacology, including how drugs are prescribed, administered, act in the body, and how the body affects drugs. Commonly used drug groups will be discussed and linked with appropriate pathophysiology.

Ethical standards and issues of credibility in research inquiry are examined. The application of research to nursing practice and strategies for promoting research utilisation are explored. Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the research process through developing a proposal for a minor research study.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
This subject relates to the course philosophy and aims by enhancing the registered nurses awareness of the many issues around safe and effect drug administration.

Managing Chronic Health Conditions

Subject description:
Chronic health conditions are generally defined as those lasting more than 6 months, non-communicable, and involving some functional impairment or disability. In this subject students will explore the effects of these conditions on the individual, family and carer.

They will study a range of chronic health conditions, their significance as a major contributor to morbidity and mortality in Hong Kong, and the multidimensional approach required in managing such conditions. They will examine the role of nurses in delivering care that emphasises the primary health principle of empowering individuals to manage their own health.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
This subject relates to the course philosophy in that it aims to enhance the quality of health experienced by enhancing the ability of registered nurses to care for patient with chronic conditions in an every changing health care context.
Semester Three: Critical Analysis of Nursing Practice

Subject description:
In this subject students have the opportunity to explore contemporary issues arising from nursing practice and its context, identify the implications of these issues for nursing education, analyse current nursing therapeutic regimens, and explore options for effecting improvement in quality nursing practice.

Issues will be analysed within theoretical frameworks drawn from psychology, sociology and nursing. The subject has a modular structure allowing a choice of topics in different learning contexts.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
This subject reflects the course philosophy in that it aims to enhance the quality of health experienced by individuals, families, communities and societies by developing the professional aspects of nursing reflecting the belief of the Division that the unique role of nursing is professional caring.

This subject is predicated on technical, practical and emancipatory knowledge and is designed to assist students to develop self reflection and independence in their own learning styles. It emphasises critical appraisal, reflection and problem-solving processes.

Law Ethics and Nursing Accountability

Subject description:
In this subject students will be assisted to examine the legal, ethical and accountability issues which impact on the practice of nursing. Individual rights of the nurse and the patient will be emphasised. Current models for ethical decision making are explored and applied in the analysis of selected ethical problems in nursing practice.

The students are encouraged to examine and clarify personal and professional values and beliefs and develop a reflective approach to their practice.

Relationship to the philosophy of the course and aims:
A reflective approach to practice and the ability to analyse contemporary issues and make ethical decisions are integral to the development of the nurse professional. Nursing takes place in the health care arena of society. As such the common societal laws and morals govern it.

Ethics, legal and professional codes of practice act as a societal safeguard and inform the decisions made in nursing practice. How nursing knowledge may both evolve from practice and be used to guide their own practice.

For more information

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12 Harcourt Road Central
Hong Kong

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Fax: 3110 0611
Email: ssc-health@cut.hk
Web: www.scs.cuhk.edu.hk

Enrolment centres

1/F Bank of America Tower
12 Harcourt Road Central
Hong Kong

or

1/F Oriental Centre
67 Chatham Road South
Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon

or

4/F Tower A
90A Shantung Street
Mongkok, Kowloon

For more information

latrobe.edu.au/nursing

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This is to acknowledge the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong for granting the permission to use the photo images.

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This course is an exempted course governed by the Non-local Higher and Professional Education (Regulation) Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (Reference No: 41628). It is a matter of discretion for individual employers to recognise any qualification to which this course may lead.