

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between STEP and Postgraduate studies?

STEP is designed as an introduction to the specialty area or an opportunity to upskill with a foundation level course within your existing ward area

Postgraduate studies lead to a formal qualification and require candidates to have experience in this specialty area prior to undertaking the program

STEP is a Northern Health program run completely within the Health Service. There is no cost associated with STEP programs

Postgraduate Studies are partnered with a university and the clinical component is supported by Northern Health. There is a fee associated with Postgraduate Studies and these are dependant on the university and program undertaken

Postgraduate Programs

What is the academic and clinical structure?

Academic: Usually there is 1- 4 semesters throughout the year commencing in January and in some cases early February.

Academic content and assessment are controlled by the university. For details please see relevant university website

Study days are conducted throughout the year via the university and clinical area dependent on the course, and can be a combined learning model of face to face sessions, online and webinars.

Clinical: Rotations are facilitated by the Clinical Nurse Educators in each area as required to meet clinical hurdle requirements as set by the university.

In which order do I apply to NH and the university?

Applications should be made directly to Northern Health and the relevant University.

You can apply to the university after you have been granted a clinically supported position at Northern Health or at the same time of application.

You must be granted admission to university and be successful with Northern Health.

Acceptance at university does not guarantee acceptance at Northern Health.

What award will I end up with?

On successful completion of your academic and clinical requirements you will be awarded a Graduate Certificate/ Diploma in the area you have studied in.



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What will my employment contract be?

Students are employed on a 1 year contract generally at 0.8 EFT per fortnight at the relevant substantive grade. (please check relevant advertisement)

This may be negotiated, but 0.8 EFT is recommended for a balanced work/study life.

The minimum requirement for postgraduate study from all universities for a clinical graduate certificate is 0.6 EFT.

Your continual employment within the area is dependent on successful completion of all criteria both clinically and academically, as you are employed in the clinical area while undertaking the subjects.

Do I need to certify my documents before I upload them?

No. You will be required to bring the original documents to your interview to verify authenticity. But you will need to upload a current CV and cover letter.

What is the interview process?

You will be notified via email if you have been successful in gaining an interview. Interviews will be held between September 7th – 18th (unless otherwise notified)

The interview may be undertaken via Microsoft Teams or phone. The interview panel will inform you of exact details via email.

Northern Health will conduct a panel interview consisting of a Nurse/ Midwife Unit Manager and a member of the postgraduate education team.

Who should I provide as a referee?

Referees preferably should be NUM, ANUM or CNE level.

You should ask their permission prior to listing them on your CV.

It is most helpful if they have recently worked with you and are aware of the program you are applying for.



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How much does the course cost?

The cost of the graduate certificate depends on the university fees and the model in which you undertake your study.

Scholarships can be a good way in which you support your study and these can be found on the NH intranet, scholarships page.

Some universities offer a Commonwealth Supported Place (CSP). You will need to enquire about this on enrolment to the university. If you have a CSP place this will make you ineligible for some scholarships, so please check carefully if you meet the criteria for scholarship.

Helpful hint

A professional portfolio is a good way to excel within an interview as it will showcase your achievements to the interview panel. More information about how to compile a career portfolio can be found on the internet.

Do you have any further questions?

Please contact the relevant Clinical Nurse Educator (see program tab)

or

Postgraduate Program Coordinator
Nicole Psaila postgraduatenurses@nh.org.au

