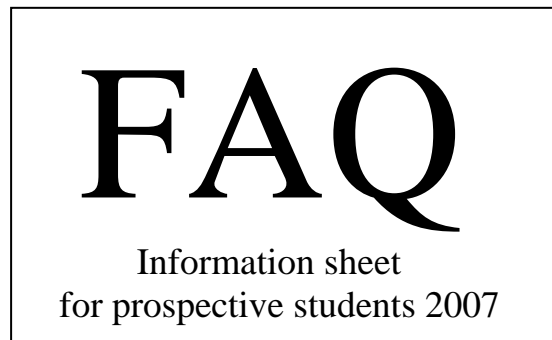


# GRADUATE DIPLOMA and MASTERS OF ART THERAPY

## Art Therapy Placement Program



### ***What is the Art Therapy Placement Program?***

The art therapy clinical placement is an integral component of both the Graduate Diploma and Masters of Art Therapy years. Placement comprises a unit of study at the university as well as the practical experience in the field. This unit is offered to provide students with university-based art therapy supervision during their placement. Like all units the Placement course has formal objectives and assessment tasks.

### ***Placements provide students with the opportunity to:***

- Develop art therapy clinical skills with specific populations.
- Develop personal capacities appropriate to the role of art therapist.
- Observe and participate in a variety of mental health, general medical, educational and other human services systems and cultures.
- Develop a professional clinical skill base with experience in multidisciplinary teams and the generic functions of professional practice such as report writing, case presentations and clinical review.

### ***When are placements scheduled?***

Students are required to complete a total of 800 hours of placement during the two years of study; 200 hours in the Graduate Diploma and 600 hours in the Masters year.

Students need to be on placement for two days per week in order to complete the required hours. These days are additional to the times students are at university for other units.

Placement starts in the Graduate Diploma year after Semester one.

### ***What hours will I work?***

Usually students attend placement on a full time basis on those two days in keeping with the working hours of the staff of the placement agency. Occasionally these hours vary due to the work norms of the placement setting. Students who have part-time work need to make alternative arrangements which accommodate the placement requirements.

***Where are the placements?***

Placements take place in Victoria with most in the Melbourne metropolitan area. We also have developed placement arrangements with various health providers in rural cities such as Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Ararat. We have a network of placement arrangements in public and private hospital, community health, mental health, educational and related settings. These placement settings have been considered suitable due to their interest in and commitment to art therapy practice although it may still be a new discipline within that setting.

***Am I supervised on site at placement?***

Students receive on site supervision whilst on placement. Each placement setting has committed a supervisor to the student on placement. Some settings have art therapists who are qualified to undertake this supervision. In others another clinical or allied health professional who has relevant experience fills this role. This supervision is regular and provides the student with an anchor as well as a mentor role during the placement period.

***How do I find a placement?***

The University has developed a range of placement settings for art therapy students. The art therapy placement co-ordinator negotiates placements with these agencies on your behalf. You will be able to indicate your particular interests and placement preferences. The university considers various factors in making the final decision on where a student is placed. In each case however you will be required to attend an interview with the placement supervisor to finalize the arrangement.

***How will I know what to do?***

You will attend placement briefing sessions during semester one of your art therapy studies. We also provide you with a information package detailing the objectives of placement. University staff have regular contact with placement supervisors and visit placement sites during the year.

***Are police checks required?***

An increasing number of health care agencies are requiring students to obtain a police check prior to commencing placements. On receipt of the statement staff of the placement agency will decide whether the placement can proceed. Students who are refused placement at an agency because of their police record may find that their course progression is delayed. University staff will authorize a reduced 'volunteer' rate (the 2005 fee was \$13.00). Students are required to meet the cost of the police check.

***Do I need to have immunizations for placement?***

The Faculty of Health Sciences recommends that students are immunised for a selection of infectious diseases. Arrangements will be made at the commencement of first semester for immunisations at the Bundoora campus. Students who decide to update their immunisations are responsible for meeting the cost of this service. Details will be provided at enrolment.

***If you have any queries about placements, please contact Juliet Walsh, Art Therapy Placement Co-ordinator, by phone (03 9479 2914 ) or email: [j.walsh@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:j.walsh@latrobe.edu.au)***