INTRODUCTION

The Curtin Careers Centre, working closely with employers and the university community, sources, develops and delivers career development programs and resources. The purpose of these professional and personal development learning opportunities is to facilitate successful career transitions; especially study to employment and further study and to enhance students’ ability to develop lifelong skills in managing their careers. The Careers Centre also provides accurate, current authoritative labour market and graduate recruitment information focusing on society’s needs and aspirations.

The Careers Centre team has written a series of occupation career booklets to enable tertiary students to consider their chosen field in more depth including information on the current labour market, associated professional associations, pertinent job seeking avenues and samples of relevant and related positions.

Whilst students are actively seeking information about a particular field they need also be aware of recruitment and selection methods and the need to develop strategies to be competitive in their field at graduate entry level.

Self-assessment is an essential component of job seeking i.e. a student needs to be fully aware of their interests, skills, attributes and capabilities to be able to convey this on paper (job application documents) and in person (networking/interviewing/promotion).

The purpose of this occupational booklet is twofold. It will assist students to develop knowledge of trends in employment and current opportunities and to identify existing skills and attributes required to successfully pursue a career in this field.

A student may not be aware that whilst using this resource that they are involved in Career Development Learning (CDL). CDL assists students to develop Self Awareness, to Identify Opportunities, to learn how to Make Decisions, to Manage Transition from university and incorporate Lifelong Learning.

This involves Curtin students working with the Curtin Careers Centre towards the attainment of required skills and knowledge at a tertiary level to successfully manage the changing contexts of life; incorporating:

- Personal Management
- Learning and Work Exploration
- Career Building

The Careers Centre hopes you find this a useful resource.

Contacting the Careers Centre...

Feel free to visit us at Building 303
Email us at careers@curtin.edu.au
Give us a call on (08) 9266 7802
Or check out our website at www.careers.curtin.edu.au

Stay connected to the Careers Centre with Jobs and Events Connect. Access new jobs posted daily, workshop information, special events and employer presentations.

Explore • Connect • Grow
A CHOSEN CAREER IN PHYSIOTHERAPY

Physiotherapists are primary care practitioners who assess, treat and prevent disorders in human movement caused by lifestyle, injury and disease (My Future, 2010).

Physiotherapists may perform the following tasks:

- Assess the physical condition of patients to diagnose problems and plan appropriate treatment
- Use a range of techniques to strengthen and stretch muscles and joints to improve patient mobility and facilitate a return to normal function (such as massage, hydrotherapy, breathing and relaxation techniques)
- Perform spinal and peripheral joint mobilization and manipulation
- Use equipment such as heat packs, exercise equipment, ice packs, ultrasound and electrotherapy to ease pain, reduce swelling and improve range of movement
- Re-train patients to walk or to use devices such as walking frames, splints, crutches and wheelchairs
- Educate patients, their families and the community to prevent injury and disability and to lead healthy lifestyles
- Plan and implement community fitness programs
- Maintain patient records.

To be a successful physiotherapist practitioner you are required to possess the personal attributes of: patience, being physically fit and in good health, have a genuine interest in people, problem-solving skills and excellent communication skills (My Future, 2010).

Also see JobOutlook Australia for information on the typical tasks and duties undertaken by Physiotherapists: http://joboutlook.gov.au/Pages/occupation.aspx?search=keyword&code=2525

Orthopaedic Surgery and Physiotherapy on the Spanish Costa del Sol (nd.)
WHAT ELSE HAS MY DEGREE TAUGHT ME?

Not sure of what you are capable of tackling in the workplace with your degree?

Curtin University policy on graduate attributes outlines the graduate attributes that a student is expected to develop while studying at Curtin in conjunction with specialist discipline knowledge. Not sure what that means? Graduate Attributes are the ‘qualities, skills and understandings a university community agrees its students should develop during their time with the institution. These attributes include, but go beyond, the disciplinary expertise or technical knowledge that has traditionally formed the core of most university courses. They are qualities that also prepare graduates as agents for social good in an unknown future” (Bowden et al 2000).

Curtin graduates show evidence that they can:

- Apply discipline knowledge, principles and concepts
- Think critically, creatively and reflectively
- Access, evaluate and synthesise information
- Communicate effectively
- Use technologies appropriately
- Utilise lifelong learning skills
- Recognise and apply international perspectives
- Demonstrate intercultural awareness and understanding
- Apply professional skills

Combine these attributes with existing skills gained from life and work experiences and you will start to form a solid picture of what you are capable of.

If you are having difficulty with outlining your skills or recording your achievements login to Resume Express from the Careers Centre Website: www.careers.curtin.edu.au under the heading Current students, My Employment, Applying for work, Application process. See Module 2: Analyse Your Skills, attend a workshop at the Careers Centre or contact careers@curtin.edu.au to make an appointment to see a Careers Consultant.
WHO IS EMPLOYING IN YOUR FIELD?

Graduates find employment in a variety of settings including: patient care and education in hospitals; community centres; private workplaces; sports clubs; schools; rehabilitation centres; age care facilities; mental health facilities; private practice and consultancy; education and training; Women’s health and in Chronic disease management (Australian Physiotherapy Association, 2010).

Students need to know their field: who is employing, what types of opportunities and positions are available and where, is the industry in an area of growth?

With our aging population, there will be an increased demand for the services of Physiotherapists in aged care.

The growing professionalism in sports participation has contributed to an increased demand for Sports Physiotherapy services (Australian Physiotherapy Association, 2010).

Employers want to know what you have also achieved aside from your degree, how have you added value to your degree?

Have you been involved with student or community groups, are you a member of your professional association, are you working to support your studies in a related or non-related area (transferable skills), what experience have you gained from practical placements, have you documented this experience?

LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

- Very strong employment growth is expected in the next five years to 2014-15.
- Physiotherapy is considered a medium sized occupation (15,800 in November 2009) which has seen a strong increase in the number of professionals employed within this occupation rose in the past five years.
- 64% of Physiotherapists are employed full-time jobs (64 per cent). For full time physiotherapists the average weekly hours are 39.3 (compared to 41.3 for all occupations).
- Unemployment for Physiotherapists is below average.

GAUGING SALARIES

What are you worth? Students often are not sure of merit and awards and, in some cases, what their degree has prepared them for. A good indicator for starting salaries is the WA Department of Health Government pay points for Allied Health positions within the government system (Western Australian Industrial Services Commission, 2008). A Graduate would start on P1.1:

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My Career Salary Information for Physiotherapists:

Payscale Australia for Physiotherapists:
http://www.payscale.com/research/AU/Job=Physiotherapist/Salary

Jobs4Careers:
Compares pay rate for each employer type.
The Australian Physiotherapy Association has fourteen National Groups covering a range of specialisations or fields of practice (Australian Physiotherapy Association, 2010).

**ACUPUNCTURE AND DRY NEEDLING**

Use of a variety of needling skills including: Dry Needling (needling to altered or dysfunctional tissues in order to improve or restore function). Western Acupuncture (Utilisation of meridian points but applies it to ‘western’ reasoning with relevant consideration to neurophysiology and anatomy). Traditional Acupuncture- (Examination of the changes in the tissues through the prism of meridians as well as the status of the fundamental substances of qi, blood and fluids).

**ANIMALS**

Mainly working with horses and dogs, this is a small specialisation within Physiotherapy. It involved the treatment of animals using physiotherapy techniques.

**AQUATIC**

Using Hydrotherapy as part of treatments.

**CARDIO-RESPIRATORY**

Physiotherapy for the management of acute and chronic cardio-respiratory conditions. Work is in a variety of settings: hospitals, rehabilitation units, community health centres, private practice, for both in-patient and out-patient services.

**CONTINENCE AND WOMEN’S HEALTH**

Research and practice of best practice models for the specific needs of the cohort, often in relation to the side and after effects of pregnancy.

**EDUCATORS**

Physiotherapy education in university, research and workplace settings.

**GERONTOLOGY**

Physiotherapy specific for the needs of the older generations and in aged care settings.

**MUSCULO-SKELETAL**

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapists are world-leaders in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of muscle and joint problems, especially low back and neck pain.

**NEUROLOGY**

Physiotherapy related management of with people with neurological conditions such as stoke, acquired brain injuries, spinal cord injury, Parkinson’s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis and Motor Neurone Disease.

**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH/ REHABILITATION**

Implementation of workplace injury prevention management and vocational rehabilitation. May also extend into ergonomics.

**PAEDIATRICS**

Physiotherapy specific services for children tailed to their developmental needs.

**SPORTS**

Diagnosis of sports injuries and effective hands on treatment to assist recovery. Also involved in sports medicine.

Further study may be required to specialise in some of these areas. See the Australian Physiotherapy Association website [http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/index.php/groups/groups](http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/index.php/groups/groups) and investigate the “career pathway” information for each specialisation of interest and where further training and development can be attain in this area.
REGISTRATION AND ADDITIONAL JOB REQUIREMENTS

Currently you must register with the state appropriate Physiotherapy Registration Board in order to practice as a Physiotherapist in Australia. As of July 1, 2010, registration to practice in Australia as a Physiotherapist will be with the national body, the Australian Physiotherapy Association.


In addition you will need to have current criminal screening. This must be no older than four years, and can be a National Police Clearance applied for through a post office, a Working With Children Check applied for through a post office, a Department of Health screening or a Department of Education screening.

The Australian Physiotherapy Council is an independent national body responsible for compliance of high standards within the Physiotherapy profession, for the Australian community (Australian Physiotherapy Council, 2010). The council’s main responsibilities with regard to gaining employment in Australia include:

1) Assessment of overseas physiotherapy qualifications prior to registration to practice in Australia

2) Assessment of overseas and Australian qualified physiotherapists for the purpose of migration to Australia as a physiotherapist under the skilled visa categories.


In creating your own career pathway towards the future, you may have the goal of becoming a specialist physiotherapist.

A Specialist Physiotherapist as a member who is a Fellow of the Australian College of Physiotherapists (Australian Physiotherapist Association, 2010).

Fellowships extend the career paths of physiotherapists and acknowledge the leadership, contribution and expertise in both clinical and research/academic settings and roles. Fellowships can be attained by:

1) Clinical specialisation from which successful candidates are entitled to call themselves a specialist in the relevant area of physiotherapy


World Confederation for Physical Therapists: [http://www.wcpt.org/](http://www.wcpt.org/)

Australian Physiotherapy Association. (2010)
THE JOB SEARCH AND GETTING STARTED

JOB SEARCHING

Set up a Desktop Folder and add a Favorite Internet Explorer folder.

Download jobs of interest for future reference. NOTE: Don’t just save the link as the details will disappear once the position has been filled. Copy the advertisement or any additional files onto Word and keep in your desktop folder; this allows you to keep a track of who is hiring in your field and the types of positions available.

Look at positions available around the country and not just in Perth. This will give an idea of who is recruiting and where and differing salary scales.


Pay scale: http://www.payscale.com (Free Salary Report)

REGISTER WITH WEBSITES FOR SPECIFIC JOB ALERTS

Register with websites for specific job alerts this will ensure that email alerts of appropriate jobs are sent directly to you.

JOE BOARDS

www.seek.com.au

www.careerone.com.au

www.jobs.wa.gov.au

www.careerjet.com.au


Go directly to Recruitment Agency websites e.g. Allied Health, Hays Health Care, Hudson, Kelly Services etc. When conducting a job search via job search engines such as Seek you may see a pattern to the agencies most recruiting in your field. Register with these agencies or contact city branches directly.

Byron Employment website gives a comprehensive list of recruitment agencies in WA and Australia http://employment.byron.com.au/recruiters_western_australia.html


ORGANISATIONS

Check out appropriate organizations/companies in your field and look for Career or Employment pages e.g.

PUBLIC SECTOR HEALTH


QLD Health: www.health.qld.gov.au/


PRIVATE SECTOR HEALTH


St John of God: www.sjog.org.au/ Click onto Careers tab


COMMUNITY, NON-FOR-PROFIT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Therapy Focus: www.therapyfocus.org.au/


Work Focus Australia: http://www.workfocus.com/employment/

Brightwater Care Group: http://www.brightwatergroup.com/employment/introduction.php


GRADUATE AND VACATION PROGRAMS

Graduate programs are available to final year students and, in some cases, recent graduates. Students are invited to apply in their final year of study and applications can be open as early as February/March of each year. Programs can be from one year to three years in duration, dependant on the discipline. Vacation programs are available to penultimate students and can be offered in either Winter or Summer. Winter programs will be approximately four weeks in duration and summer programs can be up to twelve weeks.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A GRADUATE PROGRAM?

Graduate Programs generally offer training and development, job rotation through various departments of the organization, challenging roles, mentoring, and social and networking opportunities.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A VACATION PROGRAM?

Vacation programs offer paid positions and training pertinent to your discipline; the application of theory to the workplace, and may lead to selection onto a Graduate Program. Applications are generally open in Semester I for Winter Vacation Programs and this can tie in with the advertising of the Graduate Programs. Summer programs are often advertised mid-year, June to August.

Not all graduate programs and vacation programs are targeting just Commerce and Engineering penultimate and final year students. Both public and private sector employers target students from all disciplines. Have a look at what they have to offer. See www.graduateopportunities.com.au and www.unimail.com.au for an A-Z listing of employers offering graduate and vacation programs.

Note: You may not wish to apply for a Graduate Program but the position descriptions will give a good indicator of what type of graduate and graduate skills/attributes employers are seeking from prospective candidates. If you believe that you meet this type of criteria, it is likely that you are already in the professional employability stakes.

The application process for graduate opportunities is more involved and can take the format of online application forms – online aptitude testing (both short and long answers perhaps covering problem solving and innovation skills, communication and analytical ability, practical numerical skills, personality testing) – assessment centres (meeting staff and other applicants, working in teams on a case study and presenting findings) – to final panel interview.

General opportunities open to students from all disciplines are found mainly in the public sector. Do a search under ‘Graduate’ or click on any Employment pages. Examples of pertinent programs include:

Dept of Health and Ageing

Dept of Health WA:
www.graduate.health.wa.gov.au

Therapy Focus:

Work Focus Australia:
http://www.workfocus.com/employment/

For a full list of programs see
http://www.graduateopportunities.com/

Review job advertisements and job requirements – the selection criteria
It is extremely important to value add to your degree by seeking out work experience placements or voluntary positions. Firstly, it will add to your existing skills and attributes, two, the experience will assist when you are addressing selection criteria and three, it will provide you with a valuable reference. Seeking out work experience and voluntary placements is just like undertaking an employment search in many ways:

Projects Abroad

Seek Volunteer Program Search:

Conduct a Yellow Pages search for Private Physiotherapy Clinics in your area to approach for work experience opportunities.

Contact the Government Health Service that you are interested in gaining experience with for Community, Hospital and Mental Health based work:

Sports Medicine Australia- Work as a Sports Trainer while studying and work in conjunction with Physiotherapists:

Therapy Focus:

Brightwater Care Group:

Princess Margaret Hospital Clown Doctors:

Go Global- a Curtin University Initiative:
http://ot.curtin.edu.au/go_global/

Mercy Care:

Curtin Volunteers:
http://cv.curtin.edu.au/

AIESEC- Curtin have an AIESEC group:
http://aiesecaustralia.org/

Pedro- The Physiotherapy Evidence Database:

Australian Journal of Physiotherapy:

Scholarships

Joint Academic Scholarship Online Network (JASON):

Lewis Ewart Lewis Scholarship:

Physiotherapy Board of WA Research Funding:

Projects Abroad. (2010).
EXPERIENCED OCCUPATIONAL REHAB CONSULTANT - (VARIED ROLE) You would be employed by a National Occupational Rehabilitation Company and placed as their sole In-House Rehab Manager for a range of industries from Govt to Manufacturing to Industry: These are senior posts and requires experience in RTW Case Mgmnt as well as clinical experience so you need to be able to work autonomously under WorkCover legislation preferably in WA.

THE ROLE:

• Up to 5 days per week roles (Part time, contract or full time welcomed)
• Perth based - some travel needed
• Ergo assessments and equipment provision
• Treatment and clinical skills continued
• Manual handling risk assessments
• Manual handling training
• Work Site Assessment / Task Analysis experience
• Specific undertaking and coordinating health and wellness programs initiatives
• Injury management / case management
• Pay reflective of your experience
• Health and Wellness instruction – although already people in place for this.
• (These are all aspects that can be considered, and training may be possible in some aspects if you tick most but not all boxes for experience)

TO BE SUCCESSFUL YOU WILL HAVE:

• Tertiary quals ie: OT, Physio or EP (EPs should be AAESS accredited)
• 1+ yrs experience in Occ Rehab Case Management
• Strong understanding of WA WorkCover legislations and Comcare legislations
• Strong reasoning and analytical skills
• Proactive drive and initiative to undertake varied projects
• Strong communication skills with strong customer relationship skills to develop positive rapport with multiple parties
• Confidence to demonstrate Health and Wellness exercises to groups of people.
• Strong team player, with ability to work independently when required
• Strong time management and organisational skills
• Ability to work under pressure
• Proven competency in completing a variety of assessments and writing reports
• Experience of working in industrial, manufacturing, government or other areas of industry welcomed.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING TO RELOCATE TO ANOTHER STATE.....WE HAVE A RANGE OF ENTRY LEVEL, SENIOR CONSULTANT & MANAGEMENT ROLES AVAILABLE IN MANY LOCATIONS

To discuss the above role or any of our exciting range of career opportunities throughout Australia, New Zealand, UK, Ireland, Saudi Arabia or the UAE please contact Richard Clough in complete confidence by clicking on the APPLY HERE button below
SOUTH METROPOLITAN AREA HEALTH SERVICE

Department: Metropolitan Health Service
Position: Physiotherapist
Position Number/Pool Ref: RK007715
Location: Rockingham General Hospital, Cooloongup
Classification: HSU Level P1 $51,863 - $72,809 pa

Rockingham General Hospital is currently undergoing significant redevelopment which will see the hospital develop into one of WA’s premier general hospitals with state-of-the-art facilities. We are currently seeking a qualified and motivated person to provide a high standard of physiotherapy service to individuals and/or groups within the Acute Services Program at the Rockingham General Hospital.

In this role, some of the duties the successful candidate will undertake will be to complete assessments of allocated patients as well as plan, implement and evaluate programs in consultation with the patient and/or carer or significant other. You will also advise, instruct and educate patients about self care and home management.

If you are suitably experienced and possess effective interpersonal and communication skills, we encourage you to apply by the following details below.

ESSENTIAL

1. Tertiary qualifications in Physiotherapy, and eligible for registration by the Physiotherapist’s Registration Board of Western Australia.
2. Demonstrated knowledge and skills to assess, plan, implement and evaluate Physiotherapy interventions and programs.
3. Demonstrated experience in general hospital inpatient and outpatient Physiotherapy services.
4. Demonstrated commitment and ability to work independently and as a member of a multidisciplinary health care team.
5. Demonstrated effective interpersonal, oral and written communication skills.
6. Demonstrated effective time and caseload management skills.

DESIRABLE

8. Current knowledge and commitment to Equal Opportunity in all aspects of employment and service delivery.
9. Previous Physiotherapy experience in rehabilitation and aged or community services.
11. Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to Quality Improvement
EXAMPLES OF POSITIONS

PHYSIOTHERAPY RECRUITMENT POOL POSITION

Job Description

In consultation with the Senior Physiotherapist, this position plans, implements and evaluates physiotherapy services and relevant primary health programs across the continuum of care to the communities serviced by the Avon and Central Wheatbelt Primary Health Service.

Section 5 – SELECTION CRITERIA

ESSENTIAL

1. Tertiary Qualifications in Physiotherapy and registration with the Physiotherapists Registration Board of Western Australia.
2. Demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in area of clinical expertise. (Including ability to plan, develop, implement and evaluate therapy programmes at an individual and group level.)
3. Demonstrated effective communication and interpersonal skills.
4. Demonstrated ability to work independently and in a multidisciplinary team.
5. Demonstrated effective organisational and time management skills.
6. Physically able to undertake the duties as outlined.
7. Experience in word processing and databases.
8. Possession of current "C" or "C (a)" Class Drivers Licence.

DESIRABLE

1. Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the WA Health Cultural Respect Implementation Framework.
2. Current knowledge and commitment to Equal Opportunity in all aspects of employment and service delivery.
REFERENCES


Contacting the Careers Centre...

Feel free to visit us at Building 303
Email us at careers@curtin.edu.au
Give us a call on (08) 9266 7802
Or check out our website at www.careers.curtin.edu.au

Stay connected to the Careers Centre with Jobs and Events Connect. Access new jobs posted daily, workshop information, special events and employer presentations.

Explore • Connect • Grow