Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner)

Enrolment Pack 2015

School of Nursing and Midwifery

University of Newcastle
## Contents

- Welcome
- Entry to the Nurse Practitioner Program
- How to apply for the M MHN (NP) Program
- Program Structure
- Numbers of Courses in Each Teaching Period
- Trimester dates for 2015
- Academic Credit
- Students New to Online University Study
- Orientation Workshop
- Residential School (part of NURS6620)
- Clinical Supervision and Competency Assessment
- Embedded Clinical Practice
- Scholarships
- Admission Criteria
- Enrolment Pattern for MMHN (NP) Students
- Clinical Supervisor Nomination Form
- Clinical Supervision
- Supervision Meetings
- Support of Clinical Supervisors
- Letter of Support
- Template for Letter of Support
- Evidence of Advanced Practice
- Checklist
Intending students please note:

This program of study is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council and approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia for registered nurses seeking to apply for endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner

Dear Intending Student,

Congratulations on considering the University of Newcastle to undertake the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program. This document provides you with advice about the program and the application process.

Entry to the Nurse Practitioner Program

The Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) has been designed to ensure that upon completion you will have met the educational requirements for endorsement through Pathway 1.

‘A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who is educated and endorsed to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role. The nurse practitioner role includes assessment and management using nursing knowledge and skills. The role may include, but is not limited to, the direct referral of patients to other health care professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations. The role is grounded in the nursing profession’s values, knowledge, theories and practice, and provides innovative and flexible health care delivery that complements other health care providers’ (Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC), 2006).

You are encouraged to read extensively around the Nurse Practitioner (NP) role in order to understand the rigour required in this program. Theoretical knowledge and skills learned from the coursework combine with the further development of clinical knowledge and skills to ensure readiness for NP practice. Entry to the program requires you to supply evidence of advanced practice knowledge and skills within an area of specialty clinical practice within nursing in order for your application to be considered. Before proceeding with the application process, please ensure that you understand the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) requirements for registered nurses seeking endorsement as a NP.

The following web-links direct you to relevant documents:

- Interim Guideline for Endorsement as a Nurse Practitioner (1) – NMBA

- Nurse Practitioner Standards for Practice (Effective 1st January 2014)

How to apply for the M MHN (NP) Program

Applications are accepted via UAC: [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) or GradSchool Please call the staff at Gradschool on 1800 882 121 for assistance or go to [www.gradschool.edu.au](http://www.gradschool.edu.au)
Program Structure

http://www.newcastle.edu.au/program/12244.html

The Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program is a 120-unit Masters degree, 90 units of which are core courses (mandatory) and 30 units of directed courses (there is a list of courses that you can choose from for these 30 units). The program is offered online with a three-day on-campus orientation workshop and an on-campus residential school of five days. Further details of the orientation workshop and residential school are provided in this letter.

In order for you to understand University of Newcastle language in relation to a study program we talk about a COURSE being one block of study – 10 or 20 units (or a subject) and a PROGRAM being a collection of courses leading to the degree. All courses are available once per year and are usually offered in the same trimester each year. Please also note that this program is run on a trimester basis, i.e. three formal study periods per year (in contrast to the standard format for many universities of two semesters per year).

A copy of the Pattern of Enrolment is included in this application pack. Although this is the recommended pattern of enrolment, you may choose to enrol in one course at a time and take a longer period of time to complete the program.

Numbers of Courses in Each Teaching Period

Please note that the MN (NP) is primarily delivered in three teaching periods a year, called trimesters. Each course is designed to involve you in course related learning activity for 10 hours per week. The normal part time load is two courses per teaching period (trimester). That is 20 hours per week minimum including reading, literature searching, assignment writing and engagement in direct teaching-learning activities.

Trimester dates for 2015

These are available at: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/dates/academic/trimester/2015.html

Academic Credit

You are strongly advised to seek credit for prior studies at the time of application for entry into the program as the outcome of your application for credit could affect your pattern of enrolment and you may also spend time and money on courses which you do not need to undertake.

To apply for credit go to: http://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/learning/enrolment-and-course-information/credit-transfer-and-cross-institutional-enrolment

In order for your credit application to be assessed, you are required to provide a certified copy of your Academic Transcript/s as well as course descriptions of previous postgraduate study. To be awarded specified credit, you must demonstrate that the course you have completed is at least 80% equivalent to the course offered at this University.

Students New to Online University Study

To successfully undertake this program access to a computer with high-speed broadband or wireless internet is required for at least 20 hours per week. All courses in the MMHN (NP) program are delivered online via Blackboard or blended with some face-to-face workshops. All courses require active participation in the online Blackboard discussion forums, blogs and journals. Once you have enrolled in a course, your textbooks will be posted by mail, all other course materials are available online through BlackBoard (the University of Newcastle Learning Management System). To avoid late delivery of textbooks, please ensure you complete your enrolment for each trimester as far in advance as possible.
If you have not previously studied online, you should take the time to review the information available at http://www.newcastle.edu.au/unit/centre-for-teaching-and-learning/uonline/blackboard-for-students.html. These resources, developed by the University of Newcastle Centre for Teaching and Learning, provide an introduction on how to get the most out of Blackboard.

Successful completion of an Academic Integrity Module (AIM) is mandatory in your first trimester of study. The information provided in this module will ensure that you are familiar with the correct method of referencing and the University’s policy on Plagiarism.

The University offers a range of student support services and please make use of these to assist you in your learning. http://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support.

If you require assistance to strengthen your skills in academic writing or if you have personal or financial issues you would like assistance with please access Student Support Services for assistance.

**Orientation Workshop**

You are required to begin the program in Trimester 1 when a two-day orientation workshop and a half-day Academic Skills and EndNote workshop is scheduled (in the week prior to the trimester commencing) for all new students to ensure that you are adequately prepared to meet both the academic and clinical requirements of the program. Students who are unfamiliar with this university or online learning will find this doubly beneficial and the networking with academic staff and other students is designed to also reduce feelings of isolation often experienced by students who study on-line.

**Residential School (part of NURS6620)**

All students are required to attend a five-day residential school at Callaghan Campus. This is a compulsory component of the course so please plan now to attend. Accommodation is not provided by the University and you are encouraged to plan ahead to get the best deals in local motels. Sharing apartments with other students seems to be a popular option which keeps the costs down.

**Clinical Supervision and Competency Assessment**

Details of the requirements for supervision are on the front page of the Clinical Supervisor Nomination form. You are required to have **a minimum of two clinical supervisors**. Your primary clinical supervisor should be an authorised Nurse Practitioner or Senior Nurse Consultant (in the event that this is not possible, the person engaged is required to have a master’s degree or equivalent within the area of practice). Your second clinical supervisor should be a Medical Practitioner who is an expert in an element of the student’s chosen area of practice (eg, a General Practitioner, Staff Specialist or Visiting Medical Officer). Clinical supervision is of equal importance to the academic work that constitutes the MMHN (NP). Choose your supervisors carefully and make the most of the opportunities available to you in your workplace. **You are required to provide evidence of fulfilling a minimum number of hours of supervision** in each of the core courses. The two supervisors will assess your clinical competency at the end of these core courses. Please note that you may have a larger and more diverse multi-disciplinary team supporting you but you are only required to have two approved supervisors as indicated above.

**Embedded Clinical Practice**

You are required to complete a minimum of 658 hours of embedded clinical practice. The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council (ANMC) Standards for the Accreditation of Nurse Practitioners (2009) describes the requirement for clinical practice as supernumerary professional experience undertaken in a clinical environment that enables you to receive the level of clinical supervision necessary to develop the skills and knowledge utilisation consistent with that required of the nurse practitioner role. This clinical practice is generally undertaken within your place of work. While you are not specifically required to undertake student placements in alternative environments, if your current workplace does not enable you to receive the exposure to the diversity or specialist clinical supervision necessary, you may choose in consultation with your employer to undertake a secondment to a different area of the health service.
**Workplace Support for Enrolment in the MMHN (NP)**
To be accepted into this program you need to provide evidence that the Director of Nursing in your Area Health Service (AHS) and your Head of Department are supportive of you undertaking this study program. The forms required for completion are included in this application pack. Upon acceptance into the MMHN (NP) your employer is required to complete a Memorandum of Understanding with the University if your employing organisation does not already a MOU in place with UoN.

**Scholarships**
A range of scholarships are available to assist with the costs involved in post-graduate study. For information about possible scholarships please check the following:

The New South Wales Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

There are a wide-range of other scholarships available and you are encouraged to research the options relevant to your particular location and area of clinical practice.

Once you have been accepted into the program, it is vital that you make contact with the program convenor to discuss your choice of directed courses and any variation from the recommended enrolment pattern.

Ms Lorna Maclellan  
RN, SCM, GCertCritCare, GCertPTT, MN, MNP  
Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program Convenor
Admission Criteria

Admission criteria for this program are consistent with those outlined by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation guidelines. Your application requires you to demonstrate that you meet each of the following criteria.

1. Current registration as a nurse in Australia

2. Completed Bachelor of Nursing degree (or equivalent)

3. Evidence of 5 years full time (or equivalent part time) experience as a registered nurse, minimum of 3 years full time (or equivalent part time) of speciality nursing experience, and minimum 1 year full time (or equivalent part time) experience at an advanced practice level in a specialist area of nursing as recognised by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia [http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au).

4. Nomination of two clinical supervisors to be approved by the Program Convenor:
   i. An authorised Nurse Practitioner or Senior Nurse Consultant (e.g., Clinical Nurse Consultant or Nurse Educator).
   ii. A Medical Practitioner who is an expert in an element of the student’s chosen area of practice (e.g., a General Practitioner, Staff Specialist or Visiting Medical Officer).

5. Confirmed workplace support to complete all professional experience requirements of the course, including a minimum of 658 hours of embedded clinical practice in a specialist area of nursing. A template letter of support from your Director of Nursing and Head of Department is attached. Please note your employer is also required to provide corroborating evidence of how all professional experience requirements including role development support will be met.

6. English language skills commensurate with requirements of registration as a nurse (IELTS).

7. Active member of a professional nursing organisation(s) (e.g., Royal College of Nursing Australia, College of Emergency Nursing, Australian College of Mental Health Nurses) and/or the applicant’s speciality nursing organisation

8. Demonstrated contribution to the ongoing development of the profession.

9. Access to a computer with high speed broadband or wireless access to the internet for a minimum of 20 hours per week.
## Enrolment Pattern for MMHN (NP) Students


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core or Directed</th>
<th>Recommended Enrolment</th>
<th>Pre/Co Requisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1: Trimester 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Orientation Workshop – 2 days</td>
<td>Mandatory attendance On-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>PUBH6210 Qualitative Methods in Health Research (10 units) [alternative option BIOS6910 Biostatics A]</td>
<td>Co-requisite – AIM &amp; Orientation workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed</td>
<td>NURS6095 Mental Health Nursing in Community Settings (10 units)</td>
<td>Co-requisite – AIM &amp; Orientation workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Integrity module (AIM) On-line</td>
<td>Must complete by the end of the first trimester of study. Only required to complete once.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1: Trimester 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed</td>
<td>NURS6035 Therapeutic Engagement &amp; Psychosocial Interventions (10 units)</td>
<td>Required to attend 2-day face-to-face workshop on campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Students who have completed a Grad. Certificate in Mental Health Nursing where the content of this award is suitable for direct credit for the above directed courses may enter the program at this point with 30 units of credit. NB: Students will still be required to attend the 2-day orientation workshop and complete the AIM. They will be required to undertake PUBH6210 in the 1st Trimester of Year 2 in place of the directed course option.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURS6061 Contemporary Mental Health Nursing (10 units)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 1: Trimester 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURS6620 Biophysical Processes &amp; Health Assessment (20 units)</td>
<td>Pre-requisite PUBH6210 Mandatory attendance at 5-day workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2: Trimester 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed</td>
<td>NURS6055 Mental Health Nursing in Acute Care (10 units)</td>
<td>Co-requisite – AIM &amp; Orientation workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURS6623 Leadership &amp; Management in Practice (10 units)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2: Trimester 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>PHAR6701 Introduction to Pharmacotherapeutics &amp; Prescribing for Advanced Nursing Practice (10 units)</td>
<td>Pre-requisite: PUBH6120 and NURS6620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURS6621 Contract Learning A (Guidelines for Clinical Practice) (10 units)</td>
<td>Pre-requisite: NURS6620 Pre or Co-requisite: PHAR6701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 2: Trimester 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>PHAR6702 Integrated Pharmacotherapeutics for Clinical Practice (10 units)</td>
<td>Pre-requisite: PHAR6701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>NURS6622 Contract Learning B (Case Study &amp; Clinical Vivas) (10 units)</td>
<td>Pre or Co-requisite: NURS6621 &amp; PHAR6702</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clinical Supervisor Nomination Form

Clinical Supervision

The nursing literature acknowledges the benefits of supervision for nurses of all positions and levels of experience. The idea of clinical supervision has been widely accepted as an important role in the professional development of the Nurse Practitioner. The one-to-one relationship encourages the student to further develop their clinical knowledge and skills by reflecting on their practice, thus strengthening competence and capability and promoting self-confidence and independence.

The role of the clinical supervisor is to assist students in their clinical pursuits in the workplace. The supervisor will provide clinical teaching and supervision and the opportunity for reflection on practice. This strategy ensures patient/family safety while enabling the student to extend their skills and engage in experiential clinical learning opportunities. The supervision process allows the student to critically reflect on his/her clinical practice and debrief in a safe and supportive environment.

Students in the Nurse Practitioner program are required to engage a small multi-disciplinary team of supervisors from their clinical field to provide ongoing professional support and clinical supervision throughout the program. They should be senior members of staff who are able to teach/challenge/discuss clinical issues with the student. They would possibly be the person/s that the student (as an expert nurse) would refer his/her clients to if further assessment or treatment was required.

Students are required to nominate a minimum of two clinical supervisors with their application. These two clinical supervisors should be:

- **An authorised Nurse Practitioner or Senior Nurse Consultant** (eg, Clinical Nurse Consultant or Nurse Educator). If the nursing supervisor is not an authorised NP, the person engaged is required to have a master’s degree or equivalent within the area of practice;
- **A Medical Practitioner** who is an expert in an element of the student’s chosen area of practice (eg, a General Practitioner, Staff Specialist or Visiting Medical Officer). If it is not possible to nominate a medical supervisor then the reasons should be explained in the application letter.

The clinical supervisor/s should be colleagues of the student and be available to provide a minimum of one hour per week in focused supervision throughout the period of time in which the student is undertaking the core courses in the program (PUBH6210, NURS60611, NURS6620, NURS6621, NURS6622, NURS6623, PHAR 6701, PHAR6702). Clinical supervisors are also required to be readily available on the rostered shift each week when the student is undertaking the embedded clinical practice required for the program. Regular communication with the supervisor will include face to face, telephone and video conferencing depending upon the student’s clinical environment/location. The two primary supervisors will be required to assess the student’s competency on completion of each of the courses listed above using the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Council (ANMC) Nurse Practitioner Standards. They may also be invited to participate in the student’s final clinical viva examination.
Pharmacy supervisor: A supervisor from this area is a requirement in the two Pharmacotherapeutics courses: PHAR6701 Introduction to Pharmacotherapeutics and Prescribing for Advanced Nursing Practice and PHAR6702 Integrated Pharmacotherapeutics for Clinical Practice. This supervisor does not need to be nominated in initial application, but will need to be identified prior to enrolment in PHAR6701. This supervisor may be a ward or retail pharmacist (or equivalent) with clinical expertise in pharmacy/pharmacology. During these courses, the supervisor will engage in discussions with the students and assess his/her knowledge of the therapies involved in treating clients from the student’s area of practice. Although the supervising relationship may extend past the completion of the Pharmacology courses, this supervisor will not be required to contribute to the student’s regular clinical assessments.

Additional supervisors and mentors may be valued colleagues from the allied health professions who are working closely with the student e.g. Medical Imaging Consultant, Psychologist, or other, if appropriate to the specialty area of clinical practice. These supervisors will not be required to assess the student’s clinical competency.

Supervision Meetings

Primary clinical supervisors must be prepared to be available to support the student on a regular basis over the length of their program of study. In addition to being readily available during the weekly rostered embedded clinical practice, it is recommended that the students meet with at least one supervisor each week whilst undertaking the clinical component of the program. The student must be well prepared for the meetings and the supervisor facilitates discussion and feedback. The student will need to make notes for further reflection on the key issues discussed. These notes will also inform the development of the clinical portfolio required for this program. Meetings should last for approximately one hour.

The student in collaboration with his/her clinical supervisor will:

- use their personal and professional experience to identify their own learning needs;
- develop strategies to meet these learning needs;
- undertake self-directed learning;
- accept responsibility and accountability for their own actions;
- reflect on their own professional development and self-evaluate their performance; and
- be prepared to accept both positive and challenging feedback.

Support of Clinical Supervisors

The students and supervisors will be provided with an information package about clinical supervision requirements for the M MHN (NP). This has been prepared by the Program Convenor to assist the supervisors in their endeavour to provide high quality clinical supervision to our students. The contact details of the program convenor are provided and the supervisor should not hesitate if there are any issues which require clarification or discussion.
Please copy this form and submit with a copy of the Clinical Supervisor’s curriculum vitae for each person nominated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Number:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: B/H A/H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of work:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY THE CLINICAL SUPERVISOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postal Address:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone: B/H A/H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of work:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have reviewed with the student the program requirements and the clinical supervision needed to enable successful completion of the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have provided a complete curriculum vitae outlining my clinical experience and skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I agree to provide Clinical Supervision for the above student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature: Date:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 January 2015

Dear colleagues,

Re: Letter of Support from Head of Department and Employer

The University of Newcastle requires the applicant to provide a letter of support from his/her Head of Department (e.g. Director of Emergency, Director of Psychiatry) and their employer (e.g. Director of Nursing) to state that they are willing to support the student to further develop their clinical knowledge and skills throughout the program and to provide corroborating evidence of how all professional experience requirements including role development support will be met. This support may include placement in other clinical locations for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the program. Upon acceptance into the program, a memorandum of understanding between the University of Newcastle and the participating health organisation outlining arrangements for professional practice experience (i.e. embedded clinical practice), including indemnification will need to be completed.

- The Program involves the successful completion of 120 units of study along with a minimum of 658 hours of embedded clinical practice. The clinical practice component requires the student to spend a minimum of one day per week in all core courses and two days per week during NURS6620 Biophysical Processes and Health Assessment in rostered embedded clinical practice (A minimum of one rostered shift per week throughout the entirety of the program). PLEASE NOTE: ANMAC describes this as ‘supernumerary professional experience practice’. Students are able to undertake their rostered shifts in the usual workplace provided the clinical environment provides opportunities to practice clinical activities consistent with the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner, including: comprehensive patient assessment, consultation with and referral of patients to other health professionals, requesting diagnostic tests, prescribing, negotiating and implementing specific interventions, relevant to the students’ specialty field of practice.
• Students are required to nominate two clinical supervisors who are experts in their specialty area of practice - one supervisor should be a nurse practitioner in the student’s specialty area of practice (if a nurse practitioner is not available, then a medical practitioner who is an expert in the student’s specialty area of practice and the other supervisor should be a senior nurse clinician or director, nurse educator or nurse specialist in the specific specialty). Clinical supervisors need to be readily available when the student is undertaking the rostered embedded clinical practice. The student will also be required to spend a minimum of one hour per week with either supervisor during the core courses in the program in focused clinical supervision (see information regarding clinical supervision in this application pack).

Please provide this letter of support as per the template that follows and complete the form on the following page. This provides the university with the required information regarding the suitability of the applicant’s place of employment to provide an environment which will encourage and support their theoretical and clinical learning.

Thank you for agreeing to support your staff member as they embark on this program of study. We look forward to a collegial relationship between the university and your healthcare facility with the aim of providing optimum support to the student.

If there are any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Lorna Maclellan
RN, SCM, GCertCritCare, GCertPTT, MN, MNP

Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) Program Convenor
Phone: (02) 4349 4536 Fax: (02) 4349 4538
Email: lorna.maclellan@newcastle.edu.au
Template for Letter of Support

Date:

Dear Program Convenor – Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner),

Re: Letter of Support from Head of Department and Employer

The following member of our staff has applied for a place in the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at The University of Newcastle.

APPLICANT’S FULL NAME: _____________________________________________

APPLICANT’S POSITION:

MANAGER’S NAME:

MANAGER’S POSITION:

NAME OF EMPLOYING INSTITUTION:

EMPLOYMENT ADDRESS:

We understand that the student requires the following to complete the clinical experience requirements of the program:

• A work environment that enables a minimum of 658 hours of embedded clinical practice (A minimum of one rostered shift per week throughout the entirety of the program). PLEASE NOTE: ANMAC describes this as ‘supernumerary professional experience practice’. Students are able to undertake their rostered shifts provided the clinical environment provides opportunities to practice clinical activities consistent with the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner, including: comprehensive patient assessment, consultation with and referral of patients to other health professionals, requesting diagnostic tests, prescribing, negotiating and implementing specific interventions, relevant to the students’ specialty field of practice

• The student will have ready access to members of their clinical support team during weekly rostered supernumerary professional practice days

• Arrangements are in place to ensure adequate supervision and evaluation of the student’s clinical performance while engaged in the weekly rostered supernumerary professional experience practice days

• Assistance with the choice of a minimum of two clinical supervisors who are experts in their specialty area of practice - one supervisor should be a nurse practitioner or nursing expert in the student’s specialty area of practice and the other supervisor should be a medical practitioner who is also an expert in the student’s specialty area of practice.

• A minimum of one hour per week with either supervisor during the core courses in the program providing the opportunity for development of learning goals, ongoing review of progress and reflection on practice.

We understand that upon acceptance into the program, a memorandum of understanding between the University of Newcastle and the participating health organisation outlining arrangements for professional practice experience (i.e. embedded clinical practice), including indemnification will need to be completed.
NB: The employing organisation is not obliged to ensure a nurse practitioner position upon the applicant’s completion of the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner). The employer is only asked to provide the support required to enable the applicant to complete the clinical experience component of the program within the workplace.

As the Head of Department, I agree to fully support our staff member

..................................................................................to meet the above requirements of the program.

Please print your name:

Designation:

Health Practitioner Registration Number:

Healthcare Facility:

Signature: Date:

As Director of Nursing / Employment, I agree to fully support our staff member

..................................................................................to meet the above requirements of the program.

Please print your name:

Designation:

Health Practitioner Registration Number:

Healthcare Facility:

Signature: Date:
To ensure the student access to an environment that enables the program requirements to be met, the employer and/or Head of Department is requested to provide the following information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context of Practice</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type of Practice setting (healthcare agency)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Practice Setting (urban, rural, remote)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All requirements for employment by the employer have been met. e.g. Police checks,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vaccination requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of Clients (health status, age)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Focus of nursing activities (health promotion, therapeutic management)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the clinical environment provide opportunities to practice clinical activities</td>
<td>Comprehensive patient assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>consistent with the scope of practice of the nurse practitioner?</td>
<td>Consultation with and referral of patients to other health professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requesting diagnostic tests and prescribing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negotiating and implementing specific interventions (relevant to the student’s specialty field of practice)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context of Practice</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What arrangements are in place to ensure adequate supervision and evaluation of the student’s clinical performance while engaged in weekly rostered supernumerary professional experience practice days?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there ready access to clinical supervisors and support team during weekly rostered supernumerary professional practice days?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formalised organisational support to assist role development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Options for secondment to other agencies to strengthen skill development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Head of Department/Employer

Designation:

Health Practitioner Registration Number:

Healthcare Facility:

Signature:                                                                 Date:
Evidence of Advanced Practice

Applicants to the Master of Mental Health Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) program at the University of Newcastle must demonstrate at least three years fulltime-equivalent (FTE) experience as a registered nurse in a clinical area, including at least one year FTE experience at an advanced practice level in the relevant clinical area of practice. In addition, applicants must currently be working at least 0.6 FTE at an advanced practice nursing level while enrolled in the course, with at least 50% of their time spent in direct client care.

Definition of advanced practice:

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA, 2013, p.5) defines:

Advanced nursing practice (ANP): as ‘a continuum along which nurses develop their professional knowledge, clinical reasoning and judgement, skills and behaviours to higher levels of capability (that is recognisable). Nurses practising at an advanced level incorporate professional leadership, education and research into their clinically based practice. Their practice is effective and safe. They work within a generalist or specialist context and they are responsible and accountable in managing people who have complex health care requirements.

Advanced nursing practice is a level of practice and not a role. It is acknowledged that advanced nursing practice is individually attributed within a regulated nursing scope (enrolled nurse, registered nurse or nurse practitioner)\(^1\)

Applicant Instructions

This form should be completed by a senior nurse, nurse manager or delegate who can testify to the applicant’s level of practice. Sections 1 and 2 must be completed. Verification must include handwritten signatures on this form. Please forward the completed Evidence of Advanced Practice with your application.

I, ______________________________________, verify that _________________________________ (Print first and last name) (Student’s first and last name)

Has worked as an RN at an advanced practice level _________________________________ (Organisation/facility name)

From ________________ to _______________ in a full time/part time position. (circle one)

Where part time. (date)

This required the applicant to work ____________ hours per week, which is approximately a total of _______ years/months of advanced practice. (circle one)

In regard to the applicant’s current practice responsibilities, I confirm that at least 50% or more of their current nursing role involves direct client care. YES NO.

Signature: ____________________________________________  Date: _______________________

I verify that the above applicant has demonstrated knowledge and skills at an advanced practice level as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evidence/Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Uses best available evidence, observations and experience to plan, conduct and evaluate practice in ways which incorporate complexity and/or a multiplicity of elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Uses health and/or nursing models as a basis for practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manages outcomes in complex clinical situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Anticipates and meets the needs of individuals and groups with complex conditions and/or in high risk situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Integrates and evaluates knowledge and resources from different disciplines and health care teams to effectively meet the health care needs of individuals and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Seeks out and integrates evidence from a range of sources to improve health care outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Safely interprets and modifies guidelines and practice to meet the health care needs of individuals and groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Leads and guides the nursing team to promote optimum standards of care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Shares information and resources to initiate improvements and/or innovation in nursing practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Fosters and initiates research based nursing practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Acts as a mentor and role model for nurses and other health professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Contributes to development of nursing knowledge, standards and resources through active participation at the broader professional level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Facilitates education of individuals and groups, student, nurses and other members of the health care team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Acts as a resource for other nurses and members of the health care team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Provides nursing as a resource to others through their capacity to practice outside single contexts and episodes of practice</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature: ________________________________ Date: ________________

Please provide your contact details below:
Name: __________________________________________________________________________
Organisation/Facility: _______________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Postcode: ________________________________________________________________
My daytime phone number is: ________________________________________________________
My email address is: ________________________________________________________________

2 Adapted from Australian Nursing Federation, Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse, 2005
Checklist

Please make sure that you submit the following:

1. On-line application

2. The following documentation needs to be provided in hard copy as a complete package:
   - A covering letter outlining how you meet the entry requirements for the program
   - Table of Contents listing all documents included in your application
   - A comprehensive CV that demonstrates how you meet the admission criteria and provides clear evidence of your advanced practice – this needs to include your current role description
   - Completed form providing evidence of advanced practice and confirmation that you currently have access to sufficient direct client care to meet the clinical requirements for the program
   - Two completed clinical supervisor nomination forms
   - A completed letter of support and accompanying information from the Head of Department and Employer in your current workplace
   - If you are seeking credit for studies already completed – a completed application for credit with supporting documentation

**NB: Make sure you have all of the above information complete before sending your application.**