

The Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) Funded Place

Neuroscience Trials Australia has partnered with the University of Melbourne and the NH&MRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Neurosciences to provide financial support for a clinical research professional to undertake the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) in 2008.

The Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) place funded by Neuroscience Trials Australia will assist early-career clinical researchers, including medical specialty trainees from across the neurosciences, clinical trial nurses and coordinators, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and other clinical professionals to fulfil their personal and professional potential.

About the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience)

The Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) has been designed to give a better understanding of the essential components and features of successful research. This includes a multi-disciplinary team approach to research for better prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and functional outcome of neurological diseases. The course brings together medical, allied health, nursing, researchers and other clinical professionals. Course participants will develop an understanding of the breadth of clinical neuroscience research. They will gain a better understanding of the different types of research carried out in neuroscience and an appreciation of the pertinent research questions. Through interactive, practical and team work, course participants will develop essential research skills including critical appraisal of research literature, advanced searching of electronic databases, referencing management, presentations and research proposal writing. They will gain the confidence to design and conduct their own clinical research projects. Through networking with multi-disciplinary expert researchers and their peers, course participants will be able to establish successful multi-disciplinary collaborations to conduct innovative research.

Over half of the experts will represent the new Florey Neuroscience Institutes including the Brain Research Institute, the Howard Florey Institute and the National Stroke Research Institute. The balance will come from The University of Melbourne's Epilepsy Research Centre, Centre for Neuroscience, Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre and Departments of Medicine Austin Health/Northern Health and Royal Melbourne Hospital, Rehabilitation Sciences Research Centre at Royal Talbot, Austin Hospital's Departments of Neurology and Nuclear Medicine/Centre for PET, and other leading institutions.

Venue

Neuroscience Seminar Room, Neurosciences Building at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital.

Dates

Part One: 3, 4, 6 & 7 March 2008 (optional half-day on March 5th)

Part Two: 10, 11, 12 & 13 June 2008

Further information

Potential applicants are encouraged to visit the website at www.soe.unimelb.edu.au/neuroscience for more information.

School of Enterprise, the University of Melbourne

The School of Enterprise is a wholly-owned company and is an academic school of the University of Melbourne. It was established in 1998 and has been a vehicle to develop and deliver demand driven customised corporate award and non award education programs. It is one of the means by which the intellectual capital of the University of Melbourne is leveraged and made more accessible to corporate and government sectors.

About the NTA Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) Funding Support

The Neuroscience Trials Australia funded place in the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) is to support the development of our national clinical research capabilities across the neurosciences. The financial support available will meet the full cost of course fees for the Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) for one participant. The cost per participant is normally \$4,200. In addition, Neuroscience Trials Australia will cover reasonable travel costs from interstate or a country location to Melbourne, as well as accommodation costs (at a designated hotel) for the successful applicant.

Applications

There is one place available in 2008 for full financial support from Neuroscience Trials Australia. Neuroscience Trials Australia would like to open applications to any medical specialty trainee from across the neurosciences, clinical trial nurse or coordinator, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or other clinical research professional. Applicants from regional and rural areas as well as interstate are encouraged to apply.

Financial Support Administration

Financial support for applicants will be administered on behalf of Neuroscience Trials Australia by the University of Melbourne, through the School of Enterprise.

Following an offer of funding support by Neuroscience Trials Australia and completion of the University enrolment forms, successful applicants will be sent an offer of a place on the course by the School of Enterprise. After they have formally accepted an offer of a place they will be provided with a statement of enrolment showing that they have a balance of zero fees owing.

Recognition of Neuroscience Trials Australia Support

Appropriate recognition for the assistance of financial support is expected, and Neuroscience Trials Australia would request that successful applicants acknowledge the financial support provided through participation in the development of case studies or short articles that can be published by Neuroscience Trials Australia, detailing their experience on the course and the contribution it has made to their professional career.

About Neuroscience Trials Australia

Endorsed by the Australian and New Zealand Association of Neurologists (ANZAN), NTA brings together, supports and promotes neuroscience clinical investigators and in doing so, aims to assist in the translation of quality research into clinical practice, and ultimately better health outcomes for the general public. NTA supports the existing and emerging neuroscience clinical trial networks and facilitates interactions with the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries both nationally and internationally. This includes promoting the collective capabilities of Australian neuroscience investigators with the aim to attract more and earlier phase studies to our region.

www.neurotrialsaustralia.com/home

NH&MRC Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Neurosciences

Established in 1998, the Centre is at the forefront of multi-disciplinary clinical research into Stroke, Epilepsy and other neurological disorders in Australia and has international recognition in these specific areas. The Centre aims to train and educate early career researchers to reach their full potential and to conduct clinical neuroscience research of the highest quality to support better prevention, diagnosis, treatment and quality of life for patients with neurological conditions. The Centre broadly influences change of practice based on research and best evidence, as well as health care in the community through its multiple partnerships with relevant organisations, research and education. For further information visit www.ccre.neurosciences.unimelb.edu.au

Eligibility

Medical specialty trainees from across the neurosciences, clinical trial nurses or coordinators, physiotherapists, occupational therapists or other clinical research professionals are eligible to apply for the Neuroscience Trials Australia Specialist Certificate in Clinical Research (Neuroscience) funded place. (Available to Australian citizens and permanent residents only)

Entry Requirements

Applicants must demonstrate the following requirements at the time of their application:

- Demonstrated fit with the Neuroscience Trials Australia criteria for financial support. This includes being in one of the target categories (neuroscience medical specialist in training, research nurse or study coordinator, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or other clinical research professional) and being able to immediately apply the skills and knowledge from the course in the workplace.
- Meet the University of Melbourne entry requirements for participation in this course (appropriate undergraduate degree plus one year relevant work experience).
- Have made prior arrangements with their employer to attend all components of coursework.
- Australian citizen or permanent resident.

Students who have currently enrolled to attend the award course are also eligible to apply.

Note: offers of financial support from Neuroscience Trials Australia are conditional upon applicants providing documentation that confirms their eligibility (such as evidence of citizenship, undergraduate training, work experience etc.) in meeting the stated entry requirements of the University of Melbourne.

Applications and Selection

Applicants should make their application for funding support via letter, structured in the format of the following template, which provides details of the following:

Funding Support Requirements	Comments
Applicant works in the key areas targeted by Neuroscience Trials Australia.	Target includes neuroscience medical specialty trainee, research nurse, study coordinator, physiotherapist, occupational therapist or other clinical trial/research professional and also encourages applicants from interstate and rural/regional locations.
Be in a position that will allow them to apply the skills and knowledge gained during the course to their current workplace.	Preference will be given to applicants who can take the skills and knowledge from the course and apply them immediately in a clinical neuroscience research context.
The applicant meets the University of Melbourne entry requirements of the course	An appropriate undergraduate degree (health, medical, science, allied health from a recognised institution) plus one year relevant work experience. This should be outlined in the applicant letter, with documented evidence being required with a formal University enrolment if the applicant is offered funding support by NTA.
Employer supports and commits to releasing applicant for all the days of the coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part 1: March 3rd to 7th 2008 (incl. optional half-day on March 5th 2008). ▪ Part 2: June 10th to 13th 2008.
Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident	A statement to this effect needs to be provided - documentation verifying is required with a formal enrolment should the applicant be advised they have been selected
Be prepared to complete the formal award course enrolment paperwork and provide supporting documentation required to formally enrol at the University of Melbourne.	The formal award course enrolment forms can be sourced from www.soe.unimelb.edu.au/neuroscience , click <i>Entry Requirements</i> and then click <i>Student Services application forms</i> .
Have support from the workplace to attend the training	This includes having permission to take the necessary time off work and possibly also study leave to complete the components of assessment for the course.
Recognition of NTA support	A brief outline of how and to whom the applicant would be able to acknowledge funding support from NTA

Submission of Applications

Applications should be submitted electronically to:
 Peter Keller at Neuroscience Trials Australia – pkeller@neurotrialsaustralia.com

The closing date and time for applications is (5:00pm AEST), Friday February 8th 2008. The successful applicant will be notified by Friday 15 February 2008.