

# UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE

## HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES 2016



SPEECH PATHOLOGY  
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

PEDORTHICS  
PODIATRY



**It's all about U**  
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## SCHOOL OF HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES

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The School of Health and Human Sciences produces capable and creative health practitioners and researchers, prepared for work in Australia's growing health and human sciences sector.

The School works with professional associations to design and deliver innovative courses that are industry-relevant, with appropriate accreditation. Emphasis is placed on professional experience, and clinical placements are an integral part of the curriculum, giving students the opportunity to gain experience working in clinical teams in multi-disciplinary settings.

Students access specialty laboratories and advanced facilities for practical training. The University also operates the SCU Health Clinic at the Lismore and Gold Coast campuses, providing health services to students, staff and the general public as well as a facility for students to undertake clinical practice under the supervision of qualified practitioners.

### Studying at SCU

Studying at Southern Cross University involves a range of learning experiences. It can vary based on your course of study, your location and your mode of study.

You may take part in face-to-face lectures, workshops and tutorials, interactive video-conferenced lectures, podcasts, online units and discussion forums using cutting-edge technologies. You can bring your own device onto campus and use SCU's extensive wireless network or access study materials off-campus as long as you have an internet connection.

### Why study with us?

- Degrees accredited with professional and statutory bodies.
- Hands-on experience and technical support in specialist health laboratories and simulated wards.
- Supervised practical placements in clinical settings and professional workplaces.
- Inter-professional learning and practice.
- Access to mobile learning and accommodation facilities to support workplace training.

### Degrees which put you in the workplace

Students studying **podiatry** and **speech pathology** complete professional placements in public hospitals, private practice or community settings. **Occupational therapy** students gain clinical experience in all four years of the course in a range of health care settings. **Pedorthics** students will complete professional placement in various settings throughout the course.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthplacements](http://scu.edu.au/healthplacements)



## BACHELOR OF SPEECH PATHOLOGY

The Bachelor of Speech Pathology prepares students for entry into professional speech pathology practice. Speech pathologists assess and treat communication and swallowing disorders of children and adults exhibiting acquired or congenital disorders of speech, fluency, voice, language or swallowing.

The degree aims to educate students to become knowledgeable, skilled, empathetic, ethical and innovative professionals who are able to provide effective assessment and intervention for people of different ages, who exhibit swallowing and communication disorders.

### Professional recognition

Southern Cross University is undertaking accreditation from Speech Pathology Australia (SPA), the national professional and accrediting body. Subject to this accreditation, students and graduates of the Bachelor of Speech Pathology will be eligible for membership of Speech Pathology Australia. The accreditation process is expected to be completed mid-2016.

### Professional placement

Students will complete approximately 1 000 hours of professional placement in various settings throughout the four years of study. These settings include but are not limited to the SCU Health Clinic on campus, public hospitals, private practice, community health, rehabilitation centres, aged care facilities, schools and rural health locations.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthplacements](http://scu.edu.au/healthplacements)

### Major areas of study

The Bachelor of Speech Pathology enables students to develop an understanding of the theoretical and practical components of speech pathology, with a focus on both general and specialist knowledge and skills. The course shares components with existing SCU degrees such as the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy and the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences.

Arts and science-based units are included in the course. Threaded through the course, are principles of evidence-based practice, cultural competency, multi-modal communication and holistic perspectives of functioning.

The course includes an embedded allied health Honours program for eligible students, which can be studied concurrently during the Bachelor of Speech Pathology degree course.

### Equipment and facilities

Students have access to laboratories, enabling quality learning experiences for anatomy, physiology and neurology, and also clinical learning spaces within on-campus clinics.

Students access the speech language and video laboratory. The facility is sound treated to enable high quality sound transmission and phonetic transcription of speech sounds. It includes computers with state-of-the-art software for students to analyse speech, language, fluency and voice. The video capabilities in the lab provide the opportunity for students to observe qualified clinical speech pathologists in educator roles, other students and themselves working with clients who exhibit a range of communication disorders.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthlabs](http://scu.edu.au/healthlabs)

### Your career

This degree prepares graduates for entry into professional speech pathology practice. Speech pathologists work in community settings such as private practice, health centres, nursing homes and hospitals. There are opportunities to work with interdisciplinary teams in acute or rehabilitation hospitals, in school classroom-based speech pathology intervention (training educators and parents to implement specialist programs), or with other specialists to assess and treat people of any age who have speech, language, language-based literacy, voice, fluency or swallowing difficulties.

### Summary

**Location:** Gold Coast

**Duration:** 4 years full-time or 8 years part-time

**UAC code:** 330168

**QTAC code:** 059861

**Total units:** 32 | **Indicative ATAR:** 79 | **Indicative OP:** 10

**Meredith Gardiner**  
Occupational Therapist  
Queensland Health  
Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

Occupational therapist (OT) Meredith Gardiner was offered a role as a casual occupational therapy assistant just four weeks into the final practical placement of her degree.

Five weeks after she graduated, she began working as an occupational therapist.

“I worked for six months on the general medical unit at Gold Coast University Hospital with patients who had complex co-morbidities. My role was primarily to assess patients’ level of function, cognition and home environment,” Meredith said.

Meredith is now working in rehabilitation at the Carrara Health Centre, which is also under the auspices of Queensland Health.

Meredith chose Southern Cross University because it offers practical placements in each year of the four-year Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, not just at the end.

“I knew if I went on placement I would know pretty quickly if I wanted to become an OT or not,” she said.

“The clinical placements also set me up to get a job with Queensland Health because I knew the systems and processes and I made really good connections.”

Meredith also liked the accessibility of her lecturers. “They were always very approachable and available,” she said.

“My patients are generally older in age. Many are recovering from surgery or orthopaedic conditions, but are not physically ready to go home, while others require geriatric evaluation and assessment to determine if they can return to living at home or require additional support.

“As an OT in this setting, I focus on how patients are able to conduct activities of daily living, like being able to go to the toilet, have a shower, get dressed and make a meal.

“We give them opportunities to practise those skills in a safe environment before going home.”





## BACHELOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Occupational Therapy assists people of all ages to participate in the everyday tasks and activities (occupations) that they need and want to do, whether at home, at work, at school or in the community. Occupational therapists transform and adapt environments, activities, equipment and enhance performance to support and promote meaningful engagement and participation. They may work with individuals, groups, government and non-government organisations, in private practice and communities.

Occupational therapists' work is diverse. As a graduate of the Occupational Therapy degree you could assist a person recovering from a stroke to shower and dress independently; you could develop inclusive playground experiences and environments for children of all abilities; you could recommend workplace changes that would assist an injured worker to return to work; or you could design home modifications or public transport changes that would ensure access for a person using a power wheelchair.

### Professional recognition

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy has received full accreditation from Occupational Therapy Australia and the Occupational Therapy Council, and is approved by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. Graduates of accredited occupational therapy programs are eligible for national registration. Graduates are also eligible for membership of Occupational Therapy Australia.

### Professional placement

Students gain clinical experience in all four years of the course in settings that may include aged care, hospitals, community health, mental health services, primary schools, industrial environments, private practice and a variety of health, education, and disability centres and services.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthplacements](http://scu.edu.au/healthplacements)

### Major areas of study

In order to meet the Australian Competency Standards for Entry-Level Occupational Therapists, this course is structured in accordance with professional body recommendations. All students complete streams in the following areas:

**Professional Areas:** occupational therapy theory and practice; occupational therapy assessments and interventions related to biomechanical, sensorimotor, psychosocial and cognitive performance, activities, engagement and participation at home

at school at work and in the community; occupational transitions across the lifespan; evaluation of occupational therapy programs; health promotion; and professional experience/fieldwork.

**Social Sciences:** psychology and sociology for health sciences; Australian health care system; Indigenous studies; research methods; and complementary medicine.

**Biological Sciences:** anatomy, physiology, kinesiology and neuroscience.

The Bachelor of Occupational Therapy includes an embedded allied health Honours program for eligible students, which can be studied concurrently during the Bachelor degree course.

### Learning experiences and facilities

Students experience a range of teaching approaches including a comprehensive program of community engaged learning, rich and diverse practice based scenarios, embodied learning and the development of reflective and practice based evidence. Learning occurs in a variety of teaching environments on and off campus including daily living, clinical and computer laboratories as well as small and large group learning spaces.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthlabs](http://scu.edu.au/healthlabs)

### Your career

Graduates pursue employment as occupational therapists in diverse fields that may include aged care, hospitals, community health, mental health services, schools, industrial environments, private practice and a variety of health, education and disability centres and services.

### Summary

**Location:** Gold Coast

**Duration:** 4 years full-time or 8 years part-time

**UAC code:** 335168

**QTAC code:** 055961

**Total units:** 32 | **Indicative ATAR:** 72 | **Indicative OP:** 12



## NEW IN 2016

### BACHELOR OF PEDORTHICS

Pedorthics is about keeping people mobile and getting the best performance from their feet, footwear or orthoses. The Bachelor of Pedorthics provides the knowledge and skills required for graduates to become a professional pedorthist.

A pedorthist is a health care professional who specialises in the improvement of human movement, in particular gait and better foot function. Pedorthists conduct comprehensive assessments of clients which may lead to them manufacturing corrective footwear, orthoses or other supportive devices to address conditions which affect the feet and human mobility.

Pedorthics is a growing industry and Southern Cross University is the first to offer a Bachelor qualification in this area.

#### Professional recognition

The University is undertaking accreditation through the Pedorthic Association of Australia. Once accredited, the degree will enable graduates to become members of the Association, to become certified pedorthists, and to practise as professional pedorthists in Australia.

#### Professional placement

During the course, students gain workplace experience to apply their skills and knowledge. They will complete approximately 1 000 hours of professional placement in various settings throughout the three years of study.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthplacements](http://scu.edu.au/healthplacements)

#### Major areas of study

The course develops comprehensive knowledge and associated skills in this new allied health profession. Students are introduced to foot care as a requirement for living independently and being mobile. Studies include learning about health problems associated with feet and footwear design and production.

#### Equipment and facilities

Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, teaching areas and teaching and learning resources including simulation equipment, clinical learning spaces within on-campus clinics, laboratories for anatomy and physiology, movement and biomechanics, orthoses and bracing, and a footwear and orthoses manufacturing facility suitable for footwear science.

#### Your career

Subject to accreditation, graduates will be eligible to become certified pedorthists and appear on the MGF Register (Australian Register of Pedorthists). Pedorthists often work in private practice, allied health practices, and may receive patient referrals from medical professionals.

Typical career examples include:

**Working with adults** – addressing associated pain from foot, knee and back issues to improve the quality of life. Diabetes care – whereby the correction and management of the feet through footwear and orthoses can prevent limb loss.

**Disability health services** – where the correct footwear, orthoses and support is vital to ensure the best outcomes and to minimise deterioration of function and improve comfort.

**Footwear design and manufacture** – for those with an interest in footwear fashion, use your pedorthic know-how to make fashion footwear unique yet comfortable.

**Paediatrics** – giving toddlers and children assistance with correct footwear and orthoses.

**Sporting industry** – where the interaction of footwear and orthoses can assist athletes to perform at their best. Many serious and professional athletes have their orthoses and footwear fine-tuned to their needs.

**International** – studying pedorthics may open employment opportunities overseas as students will be exposed to a range of international contacts.

#### Summary

**Location:** Gold Coast

**Duration:** 3 years full-time or 6 years part-time

**UAC code:** 335065

**QTAC code:** 055561

**Total units:** 24 | **Indicative ATAR and OP:** not available for new course

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## BACHELOR OF PODIATRY

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The Bachelor of Podiatry prepares students for entry into professional podiatry practice. Podiatry is a branch of health care devoted to the study, diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the foot, ankle and lower leg. Within the field of podiatry, practitioners can focus on many different specialty areas, including surgery, sports medicine, biomechanics, geriatrics, paediatrics and primary care.

The degree aims to educate students to become knowledgeable, skilled, empathetic, ethical and innovative professionals who are able to provide effective assessment and intervention for people of different ages, who exhibit health disorders.

### Professional recognition

Southern Cross University is undertaking accreditation from the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC). Subject to this accreditation, graduates of the Bachelor of Podiatry will be able to seek national registration as podiatry practitioners with the Podiatry Board of Australia. The accreditation process is expected to be completed mid-2016.

### Professional placement

Students will complete approximately 1 000 hours of professional placement in various settings throughout the four years of study. These settings include but are not limited to public hospital rotations (high risk foot clinics), private practice placements (general, sports and surgical) and rural health locations.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthplacements](http://scu.edu.au/healthplacements)

### Major areas of study

The Bachelor of Podiatry enables students to develop an understanding of the theoretical and practical components of podiatry, with a focus on both general or specialist knowledge and skills. The course shares components with existing SCU degrees such as the Bachelor of Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Clinical Sciences and Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science.

The course includes an embedded allied health Honours program for eligible students, which can be studied concurrently during the Bachelor degree course.

### Equipment and facilities

Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities, teaching areas and teaching and learning resources including simulation equipment, clinical learning spaces within on-campus clinics, and laboratories for anatomy and physiology, movement and biomechanics.

Visit [scu.edu.au/healthlabs](http://scu.edu.au/healthlabs)

### Your career

This degree prepares graduates for entry into professional podiatry practice. Podiatrists can work individually or as part of a team, in varied settings and with clients of all ages. The majority of podiatry employment is in private practice, but podiatrists also have the opportunity to work in community health settings, hospitals and with specialised health teams such as in diabetic care, to provide health promotion and education, to undertake research, and work with children, athletes and older people.

### Summary

**Location:** Gold Coast

**Duration:** 4 years full-time or 8 years part-time

**UAC code:** 330169

**QTAC code:** 059961

**Total units:** 32 | **Indicative ATAR:** 72 | **Indicative OP:** 13

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## ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF HEALTH

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### Offered by SCU College

The Associate Degree of Health is a two-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) entry-level course that provides students with the opportunity to prepare to study for a professional career pathway in allied health.

The Associate degree provides a pathway for eligible graduates into a range of Southern Cross University allied health and health-related Bachelor degrees including: podiatry, speech pathology, occupational therapy, sport and exercise science, and psychological science. There is also a generic pathway into the Bachelor of Clinical Sciences with credit (advanced standing) of up to 12 units.

For more information visit: [scu.edu.au/scucollege](http://scu.edu.au/scucollege)

## Key dates for 2016 entry

SCU has a teaching calendar of three sessions. Depending on the course of study, this can enable students to spread their study load, or to accelerate and complete their degree in less time than the usual duration indicated on the course pages.

**All dates in the table opposite are provisional only and may be subject to change.** For the most up-to-date information visit the SCU teaching calendar page at: [scu.edu.au/teachingcalendar](http://scu.edu.au/teachingcalendar)

UAC and QTAC dates may also be subject to change. Please refer to their websites. Visit: [www.uac.edu.au](http://www.uac.edu.au) [www.qtac.edu.au](http://www.qtac.edu.au)

Also note that late UAC and QTAC applications incur an extra fee.

### CAMPUS TOURS AVAILABLE ALL YEAR ROUND T: 1800 626 481 E: [campustours@scu.edu.au](mailto:campustours@scu.edu.au)

Rising Stars Scholarship applications for 2016	Open July 2015 Check website for closing dates <a href="http://scu.edu.au/scholarships">scu.edu.au/scholarships</a>
UAC and QTAC on time applications for 2016 entry (Session 1)	Open early August 2015 Close late September 2015
<b>STAR Entry Scheme opens</b>	Early July 2015
<b>STAR Entry Scheme offers</b>	Early December 2015
<b>SCU Info Days</b>	7, 9 and 11 December 2015
<b>UAC and QTAC main round offers</b> <i>For the full list of offer rounds visit the UAC and QTAC websites</i>	Mid January 2016
<b>Session 1 teaching dates</b>	29 February – 27 May 2016
Orientation	24 – 26 February 2016
<b>Session 2 teaching dates</b>	11 July – 7 October 2016
Orientation	6 – 8 July 2016
<b>Session 3 teaching dates</b>	7 November 2016 – 1 February 2017
Orientation	2 – 4 November 2016

## Applying to study on campus

For full details go to: [scu.edu.au/howtoapply](http://scu.edu.au/howtoapply)

To study on campus, either as a full-time or part-time student, you will need to apply online through either the Universities Admission Centre (UAC) or Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) – either can process your application.

## International students

Southern Cross University welcomes international students. This guide however is not intended for their use. International students should contact SCU International.

**W:** [scu.edu.au/international](http://scu.edu.au/international)

**E:** [intoff@scu.edu.au](mailto:intoff@scu.edu.au)

**T:** 02 6620 3876

# 5 steps to SCU

## 1 Choose a course



[scu.edu.au/courses](http://scu.edu.au/courses)

## 2 Find out more



[campustours@scu.edu.au](mailto:campustours@scu.edu.au)

## 3 Apply



[scu.edu.au/howtoapply](http://scu.edu.au/howtoapply)

## 4 Accept your offer



[scu.edu.au/gettingstarted](http://scu.edu.au/gettingstarted)

## 5 Enrol in units



[scu.edu.au/enrol](http://scu.edu.au/enrol)

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publishing (April 2015). All University courses are subject to change by the University and the information provided in this brochure should be used as a guide only. To the extent permitted by law, SCU excludes all liability arising from the use of, or reliance on, the information contained in this brochure.

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