****Frequently Asked Questions****

****Graduate Diploma in Child, Family, and Community Nursing****

Dear applicant,

The following pages outline some of the more frequently asked questions, including critical dates, to help you plan for next year.

To qualify for entry to the course you must be a registered Nurse and Midwife and have at least one year of nursing and one year of midwifery experience (two full-time years). You must have a confirmed clinical place in a Maternal and Child Health service. Information about how to apply for a clinical position is available from the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) website. [Here is the link to the MAV website – **MCH Resources**](https://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/social-community/children-youth-family/maternal-and-child-health-children-0-6-years/maternal-and-child-health-resources)

Most of our places in the course are Commonwealth Supported Places (CSP). Where there are more applicants than CSPs available, selection will be on equity grounds, such as living in a rural area, identifying as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, being Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), demonstrating financial need (Commonwealth Health Care Card), or those intending to work in Councils with workforce shortages. You can apply for a CSP when applying for the course by providing an additional personal statement.

We also offer fee-paying places (approximately $26,500 for the Graduate Diploma). You can defer payment of your fees by taking out a FEE-HELP loan. The Department of Health (DH) offers scholarships (up to $7500). The ANMF also offers scholarships to assist with the cost of education. [**Here is the ANMF scholarship link**](https://www.anmfvic.asn.au/about-us/anmf-grants-awards-and-prizes)

Course applications for mid-year entry open on the 1st of May, and 2025 applications open on the 1st of August. Here is the link for all applications: [**Apply direct - Postgraduate, Study with us, La Trobe University**](https://www.latrobe.edu.au/study/apply/postgrad/vic/direct)**.**

If you have any queries about the course, the best way to contact me is via email or phone.

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| Regards,  Dr Catina Adams  Course Coordinator,  Child, Family & Community Nursing  M: 0403 550 935  E: [catina.adams@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:catina.adams@latrobe.edu.au) | A person wearing glasses  Description automatically generated with low confidence |

****Course structure****

The Graduate Diploma in Child, Family, and Community Nursing comprises 120 credit points – 90 credit points of core subjects and 30 credit points of electives.

The core subjects are:

NSM4MCH – Maternal and Child Health (30 credit points) – semester 1

NSM4CCH – Community Child Health (15 credit points) – semester 1

NSM5CAF – Nurturing Child and Family (15 credit points) – semester 1

NSM5COM – Complex Care in Maternal and Child Health (30 credit points) – semester 2

****Electives****

Elective options may include (click on links for subject descriptions):

[**NSM4REM – Research and Evidence in Midwifery**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2022/NSM4REM?year=2022)(15 credit points, week 06-26) commences early.

[**NSM4IPH – Indigenous Perinatal Health subject**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2022/NSM4IPH) (15 credit points, week 27-44) commences early

[[**NSM5RES – Research in Nursing and Midwifery**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2022/NSM5RES)](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2022/NSM5RES) (30 credit points, semester 1 or 2)

[**NSM5RFN – Research in Nursing (**15 credit points, semester 1 or 2)](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/NSM5RFN?offering=Select+Offering)

[**NSM5EDU – Education in Nursing and Midwifery**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/NSM5EDU?offering=Select+Offering)(30 credit points, semester 1 or 2)

[**NSM5MAN – Management in Nursing and Midwifery**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/NSM5MAN?year=2023&offering=Select+Offering)(30 credit points, semester 1 or 2)

[**PHE5HHS – Health systems**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5HHS?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points - Term 5)

[**PHE5PHR – Public Health responses**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5PHR?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points - Term 5)

[**PHE5PSP – Health promotion strategy and practice**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5PSP?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 1 or 4)

[**PHE5STL – Systems thinking and leadership**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5STL?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 1 or 4)

[**PHE5EPB – Epidemiology and biostatistics**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5EPB?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 2 or 6)

**PHE5HCQ –** [**Healthcare quality**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5HCQ?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 3 or 6)

[**PHE5MLH – Management and leadership in health**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5MLH?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 2)

[**PHE5SOM – Strategy and operation management**](https://handbook.latrobe.edu.au/subjects/2023/PHE5SOM?offering=Select+Offering) (15 credit points, Term 3)

Or external electives such as:

* Nurse Immuniser Program – [**La Trobe**](https://www.latrobe.edu.au/courses/short-courses/nurse-immuniser-program)**,** or[**The University of Melbourne**](https://study.unimelb.edu.au/find/short-courses/immunisation-nurse-immuniser/)
* [**The Australasian Lactation Course**](https://www.australasianlactationcourses.com/about-the-courses)(or other approved lactation studies)
* [**Comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health (Nursing) course**](https://www.fpv.org.au/courses/comprehensive-sexual-and-reproductive-health-nursing-course?section=professional-learning-support)
* [**Solihull - contact Helen Stevens for information**](https://helenstevens.com.au/solihull-info)
* Other approved postgraduate subjects.

Students wishing to complete a Master of Nursing should include NSM5RES (30 credit points) as their elective unless they have previously completed 30 credit points in research subjects.

****Credit for electives****

You can apply for credit for up to 30 credit points if you have completed postgraduate studies within the last eight years, which may include the Postgraduate Diploma in Midwifery. Please use this link to apply <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/students/getting-started/new-students/advanced-standing>

****Semester dates****

These are the semester dates for 2024.

* Semester 1 – 04/03/2024 (Week 10) – 31/05/2024 (Week 22) – clinical placement from 01/04/2024. 3-day workshop at the city campus (5, 6 and 7th March). Sessions will be recorded.
* Semester 2 – 29/07/2024 (Week 32) – 25/10/2024 (Week 44). 3-day workshop at the city campus (30, 31 July, 1August). Sessions will be recorded.

****Enrolment****

There are a few ways you can complete the course, with different entry and exit points, and with different patterns of placement. The subjects you enrol into and when will dictate whether you will complete the course on a part-time or full-time basis. NSM4MCH and NSM5COM are the two placement subjects.

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| **Full-time (1 year)** | **Semester 1** | **Semester 2** |
| Year 1 | NSM4MCH (30 credit points)  NSM5CAF (15 credit points)  NSM4CCH (15 credit points) | NSM5COM (30 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) |

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| **Part-time (18-months)** | **Semester 1** | **Semester 2** |
| Year 1 | NSM4MCH (30 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) | NSM5COM (30 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) |
| Year 2 | NSM5CAF (15 credit points)  NSM4CCH (15 credit points) | mid-year graduation |

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| **Part-time (2 years)** | **Semester 1** | **Semester 2** |
| Year 1 | NSM4MCH (30 credit points) | Elective (15 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) |
| Year 2 | NSM5CAF (15 credit points)  NSM4CCH (15 credit points) | NSM5COM (30 credit points) |

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| **MID-YEAR INTAKE**  **Part-time (18-months)** | **Semester 1** | **Semester 2** |
| Year 1 |  | NSM5COM (30 credit points) |
| Year 2 | NSM4MCH (30 credit points)  NSM5CAF (15 credit points)  NSM4CCH (15 credit points) | Elective (15 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) |

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| **MID-YEAR INTAKE**  **Part-time (2 years)** | **Semester 1** | **Semester 2** |
| Year 1 |  | NSM5COM (30 credit points) |
| Year 2 | NSM5CAF (15 credit points)  NSM4CCH (15 credit points) | Elective (15 credit points)  Elective (15 credit points) |
| Year 3 | NSM4MCH (30 credit points) |  |

****Timetable****

Online contact with your lecturers will occur through regular scheduled online “workshops” (via Zoom), where we can talk in real-time. Although these sessions are recorded, it is best to attend the live session. Generally, they will be held on Thursdays at 10am-12pm or 2.00-4.00pm.

****Clinical experience requirements****

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| **NSM4MCH (semester 1)** |  |  |
| Universal MCH (UMCH) | 140 | May commence from week 14 (1st April) |
| May include:  Childcare centre (8) |  |  |
| Early intervention agency (8) |  |  |
| EPC Day stay/lactation (8) |  | EPC = Early Parenting Centre |
| Total subject hours | **140** |  |
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| **NSM5COM (Semester 2)** |  |  |
| Universal MCH (UMCH) | 140 | Mid-year entry – may commence from week 36 (26th August) |
| May include:  Family support services (8) |  |  |
| EPC or EMCH (24) |  | EMCH = Enhanced Maternal and Child Health |
| Total subject hours | **140** |  |

****Resources****

Most textbooks are available as an e-book or hard copies. Books are available through various suppliers and may be purchased from the bookshop on campus or online at <http://www.coop-bookshop.com.au/bookshop/home/homepage.html>. The library also holds copies of the textbooks on reserve. You will use these books throughout the course.

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| **Textbook** | *Pediatric Physical Examination  (4th Ed)* | Duderstadt, K. G. | Elsevier, 2024 |
| **Textbook** | *From Birth to Five Years: Practical developmental examination (4th Ed)* | Sharma, A. & Cockerill, H. | Routledge, 2022 |
| **Textbook** | *Mary Sheridan's From Birth to Five Years: Children's developmental progress (5th Ed)* | Sharma, A. & Cockerill, H. | Routledge, 2022 |
| **Online  Resource** | *PEDS eLearning Foundation  (Course 1)* | CCCH, *Cost Approx. $55 (student discount) - enrol online at:* [*https://www.rch.org.au/ccch/peds/Training\_and\_eLearning/*](https://www.rch.org.au/ccch/peds/Training_and_eLearning/) | |
| **Textbook** | *Paediatric Handbook (10th Ed)* | Harding, K., Mason. D.S. & Efron, D. [**https://shop.rch.org.au/product/paediatric-handbook-2/**](https://shop.rch.org.au/product/paediatric-handbook-2/) | RCH, 2021 |