

POSTGRADUATE

H522 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND MEDICINE



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY AUSTRALIA

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine (GCAHM) is a new course offered at Deakin University that delivers specialist knowledge and skills to students currently employed, or wishing to gain employment, in rural and remote health-related professions. This course aims to provide you with the necessary tools and knowledge to improve the social, physical and mental health of agricultural workforces across Australia.

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine focuses on improving health outcomes on the 'other side of the fence' and how poor health impacts agribusiness, agricultural production and sustainability. You will learn about the interplay between diverse topics that span environmental, social, physical and mental health in addition to community stressors that impact on the wellbeing of rural and remote communities. The interdisciplinary and hands-on nature of the GCAHM will highlight what is needed to improve the determinants of health in farming communities both in Australia and abroad.

Who can apply for this course?

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine has been developed to appeal to a wide variety of graduate-level students and professionals from nursing, medicine, health, agricultural science, agribusiness, social work, veterinary and environmental science backgrounds. In addition, rural professionals, health professionals, health care administrators and policy makers would greatly enhance their knowledge of the physical and mental health issues facing today's rural and remote communities by undertaking this course. Upon successful completion of the course, graduates with a relevant health degree will be eligible to become an AgriSafe provider.

Why study this course?

Agricultural workforces in Australia and abroad experience excessive work-related mortality, are burdened with high rates of physical and mental disease, have limited access to health services and experience low health literacy. This results in poor health outcomes for diseases and illnesses that are readily manageable in urban settings. The GCAHM highlights the ways in which the physical and mental health of rural and remote workforces can be improved. This course also highlights how health, safety and wellbeing are essential for productivity in primary industries and agribusiness. The GCAHM expands upon the individual determinants of health to explore issues of climate change, agricultural practices, remote community sustainability and other social determinants of health in farming communities. Undertaking the GCAHM will be beneficial to students wishing to undertake further study as well as health and rural professionals looking to update their knowledge and improve health provision, research, safety, policy and literacy in rural and remote communities or to improve agricultural production and sustainability.



HMF701 class of 2011 at Western District Health Service, Hamilton

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
**FARMER
HEALTH**

in partnership with



What will you get out of it?

Following successful completion of the Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine you will have:

- developed the knowledge and skills required to recognise risks and improve the health, safety and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians
- an improved understanding of the physical and mental health issues encountered by agricultural men, women and children
- raised your awareness of the environmental, climatic, economic and social influences that result in higher rates of morbidity and mortality in rural and remote Australia
- the ability to use online communication technologies to investigate and address agricultural and rural health problems
- the ability to discuss climate change and how it impacts both health and productivity
- an understanding of the requirements for successful health policies to improve services and safety interventions in rural communities.

Course outline

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine consists of four credit points of study made up of:

Two core units:

- HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine: delivered as a five day intensive in Hamilton during Trimester 1
- HMF702 Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities: a wholly online unit delivered in Trimester 2.

PLUS

Two credit points made up from either the 'Research stream' or 'Coursework stream':

Research stream: a two-credit-point research project:

- HSH731 Minor Project A and HSH732 Minor Project B

OR

Coursework stream: two single credit point elective units from the following list:

- HSH701 Principles and Practice of Public Health
- HSH702 Contemporary Health Issues and Policies
- HSH703 Health Promotion
- HSH704 Health Education and Communication Strategies
- HNN746 Nursing, Cultural Diversity and Politics of Health Care
- HNN715 Leadership and Management in Nursing

Alternatively you may choose 700-level units not listed above provided they are relevant to the field of agricultural health and medicine and you have attained written approval from the course chair.

Career opportunities and professional accreditation

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine (GCAHM) opens a variety of exciting career paths by providing students with a strong foundation in agricultural health, safety, wellbeing and sustainability. After successful completion of this course you will have the academic, practical and research skills to work in a range of career paths spanning health service provision, rural research, health management, health promotion, agricultural productivity, sustainability and rural policy. The GCAHM provides an important opportunity to those who are currently, or plan to be, rural and remote professionals in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Health, Health Management, Rural Policy, OH&S and Agriculture.

The course is recognised by AgriSafe Australia and enables clinically trained graduates to become an AgriSafe practitioner. The course is accredited to offer continuing education and professional development points through a number of professional colleges and associations, including the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine, the Royal College of Nursing Australia, the Australian Association of Social Workers, the Australian Veterinary Association, and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.



Unit details

For details of the units mentioned above please visit www.deakin.edu.au/handbook and also www.farmerhealth.org.au.

Course duration and location

The Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine consists of four credit points of study taken over one year of part-time study. It is offered in a combination of on-campus and online modes. Students will be required to attend a five-day intensive in Hamilton during Trimester 1 to complete HMF01 Agricultural Health and Medicine. Please note, this subject is only offered once annually with the five-day intensive occurring in late February to early March. Further information on course structure and electives is available at www.farmerhealth.org.au, or by contacting the National Centre for Farmer Health on (03) 5551 8533.

Credit for Prior Learning

The University aims to provide students with as much credit as possible for approved prior study or informal learning which exceeds the normal entrance requirements for the course and is within the constraints of the course regulations. In the case of graduate certificates, a minimum of two credit points within this course must be completed at Deakin University. Credit for prior learning will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Please contact Health – Student and Academic Services for more information on Credit for Prior Learning and how to apply. Further information on Credit for Prior Learning and course enrolment procedures can be discussed with the Director of the National Centre for Farmer Health, Clinical Associate Professor Susan Brumby on (03) 5551 8533 or susan.brumby@deakin.edu.au.

Students who have completed the Graduate Certificate of Agricultural Health and Medicine will be eligible to apply for Credit for Prior Learning in a number of courses including: the Master of Public Health, Graduate Diploma of Health Promotion, Master of Health Promotion, and Master of Health and Human Services Management.

Admission requirements

Applicants must have satisfactorily completed an appropriate undergraduate qualification from a recognised agricultural, health, medical or allied health course. Alternatively, candidates who demonstrate to the Course Chair that they have applicable professional experience in the areas of health and/or agriculture will be assessed for eligibility on an individual basis.

Unit outlines

HMF701 Agricultural Health and Medicine*

HMF701 is Agricultural Health and Medicine is offered by Deakin's School of Medicine and the National Centre for Farmer Health in Trimester 1. HMF701 aims to develop the next generation of rural and agricultural health leaders to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of rural and remote Australians. It is well documented that agricultural workers, their families and communities face poorer health outcomes than their urban counterparts, experiencing higher incidences of injury, illness and work-related fatalities than most other industries.

The unit addresses the underlying causes of injury and illness in agriculture and highlights the importance of healthy farming families and communities for the productivity and sustainability of the industry. You will learn about the poor health in agricultural areas and its impact on agribusiness, agricultural production and sustainability, and help to improve the health outcomes of farming men, women and children. You will increase your understanding of the social, environmental, physical and mental health factors that result in higher rates of injury illness and death in rural and remote communities. This information will be beneficial to professionals looking to improve agricultural production and sustainability or to improve health provision, research, policy and literacy in rural and remote communities.

*This unit can be studied as a stand-alone single unit of study. It is only offered once per year as an intensive and is a prerequisite to become an Agrisafe Australia provider.



HMF702 Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities*

HMF702 Healthy and Sustainable Agricultural Communities is a twelve-week online postgraduate unit offered by Deakin's School of Medicine and the National Centre for Farmer Health in Trimester 2. HMF702 focuses on the social, environmental, health promotion, policy and community factors that negatively impact the physical and mental wellbeing of agricultural workers, their families and communities. Rural and remote Australians endure limited access to essential health services, lower health literacy and higher rates of workplace injury and lifestyle disease than their urban counterparts. Further compounding this unhealthy 'life on the land' is an ageing and diminishing workforce required to work harder for longer in a time of changing agricultural practices, increasing corporatisation and global food insecurity; all this while dealing with the stress of tightening financial pressures, climate variability, natural disasters and succession. If the picture of health in rural and remote Australia isn't complicated enough, agricultural communities face reduced access to community-level wellbeing initiatives and are underrepresented in health policies. But there are also plenty of positives to living in the country together with exciting and innovative health, safety and wellbeing programs that are beginning to make positive changes for those most in need.

HMF702 aims to distill the key aspects of these issues to facilitate a greater understanding of the interplay between personal, social and environmental determinants of health. A better knowledge of these factors will improve the effectiveness of current health, education and community interventions and promote health as a cornerstone to the sustainability and productivity of rural and remote communities.

*This unit can be studied as a stand-alone single unit of study.

Course fees

This course is offered on a full fee-paying basis only. Students may be eligible to apply for FEE-HELP. For more information on FEE-HELP visit www.goingtouni.gov.au

For more information on tuition fees, visit www.deakin.edu.au/future-students/fees.

Applications

To apply for postgraduate study you will need to submit an application online at www.deakin.edu.au/future-students.

For information about application closing dates and the application process, please visit www.deakin.edu.au/apply and the National Centre for Farmer Health website www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/education-centre.

For more information

Health – Student and Academic Services
03 9251 7777
health-enquire@deakin.edu.au
www.deakin.edu.au/future-students

National Centre for Farmer Health
03 5551 8533
nafh@wdhs.net
www.farmerhealth.org.au/page/education-centre

Published by Deakin University December 2011.
While the information provided was accurate at the time of publication, Deakin University reserves the right to alter, amend or delete details of course and unit offerings, and other information published herein. For the most up-to-date course information please visit www.deakin.edu.au.

Deakin University CRICOS Provider Code: 00113B