

University Degree Courses in Homeopathy – examples

Second Edition December 2007



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Introduction

This document contains a brief overview with examples of university degree courses in homeopathy being offered in some countries in the world, or similar courses that in some way have been evaluated by national authorities. The examples presented in this report should in no way be interpreted as recommendations made by the European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH). It is ECCH's recommendation that any homeopathy education should be based on a curriculum similar to that provided in the European Guidelines for Homeopathic Education. This document includes examples of degree courses from the following countries: Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Australia – Bachelor of Health Science (Homeopathy)

Bachelor degree courses in homeopathy are available in Australia. All degree courses in Queensland are accredited by the Minister for Education under the Higher Education (General Provisions) Act 1993, in Victoria, by the Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment under the Tertiary Education Act 1993 and in Western Australia, by the Minister for Education and Training under the Higher Education Act 2004.

The Australian Register of Homeopaths (AROH) is a national register of accredited homeopaths in Australia. The Board of AROH registers homeopaths who are qualified to government-endorsed standards. Registered homeopaths are bound by AROH's code of professional conduct and standards of practice. The purpose of the Register is to protect the public by accrediting practitioners who meet these standards.

Bachelor degree courses are offered by the Australian College of Natural Medicine and the Nature Care College. The Australian College of Natural Medicine offers a Bachelor of Health Science (Homeopathy). The course consists of 1773 hours of direct student teacher contact time, including 1064 hours of teaching related to homeopathy, 609 hours of clinical teaching and 375 hours in general medicine (some topics overlap). The Nature Care College course consists of 1738 hours of student teacher contact time, including 794 hours related to homeopathy, 310 hours of clinical teaching and 528 hours in general medicine. Individual subjects for both courses are presented below.

Course subjects for the Australian College of Natural Medicine:

- Homeopathy
- Materia medica
- Homeopathic clinical studies and advanced homeopathic clinical case analysis
- Clinical examination

- Foundations of chemistry and biochemistry
- Human biology and human disease processes
- Pharmacology

- Safe Practices
- Foundations of communication and counselling
- Interpersonal skills of the practitioner
- Introduction to professional practice
- Establishing a practice
- Community education and public health
- Critical Research skills
- History and philosophy of natural medicine
- Nutrition

Course subjects for the Nature Care College:

- Homeopathy
- Homeopathic case management
- Advanced case studies
- Homeopathic student clinic

- Physical examination and integrated pathology
- Basic first aid certificate

- Chemistry and biochemistry
- Anatomy and physiology
- Symptomatology, diagnosis and pathology
- Wet labs

- Communication skills
- Principles of critical thinking
- Practice management
- Safe practices
- Professional studies
- Current issues in health care

- Research proposal
- Nutrition
- Elective

References:

- Australian College of Natural Medicine <http://www.acnm.edu.au/accreditation.lasso>
- Nature Care College <http://www.naturecare.com.au/courses/?id=6>

South Africa – Master’s Degree in Homeopathy (M.Tech.Hom)

The Master’s Degree in Homeopathy, M.Tech.Hom., is the only training recognised for registration of homeopaths in South Africa. Homeopathic students undergo dual training, meaning that they are trained both as homeopathic practitioners and as homeopathic pharmacists. It consists of a five year full-time course in general medicine, homeopathy, allopathic pharmacology and homeopharmaceutics, followed by an additional one year post-graduate clinical internship, adding up to a total of six years of studies and experiential learning before registration. Training is provided by the Durban University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg, or to SA Qualifications Authority (SAQA) and AHPCSA approved equivalent.

The Chiropractors, Homoeopaths and Allied Health Professions Act (Act 83 of 1982) specifically governs and regulates the practice of homeopathy in South Africa. Homeopathy has been a registerable profession since 1974 and there are presently some 560 registered homeopathy practitioners. It is prohibited for anyone who is not a registered practitioner to practise homeopathy. Homeopathy is fully recognised and integrated in South Africa and a registered practitioner may use the title, Doctor. Although Homeopathy is not yet included in the public healthcare system, expenses for consultations and medicines are fully refunded by all private medical schemes.

The scope of practice of a homeopathic practitioner is virtually the same as that of an allopathic medical practitioner, with the exception of surgery. All aspects relating to the import, manufacture, distribution and access to medicines, including homeopathic medicines are governed by the Medicines and Related Substances Control Act (Act 101 of 1965). The draft amendments to Act 101 provide that homeopathic practitioners may also prescribe allopathic medicines. A homeopath may compound, prepare, manipulate, prescribe and dispense any homeopathic medicine for his/her own patients, both in the crude and homeopathic/potentised form.

By law homeopaths may carry out any mental or physical examination. Legislation compels allopathic and homeopathic practitioners to provide a medical diagnosis. Legislation applies equally to both allopathic and homeopathic practitioners.

By way of example, the five-year full-time curriculum provided by the Durban University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg consists of:

Year 1

- Anatomy I
- Physiology I
- Biology I
- Chemistry I
- Physics I
- Philosophy, Principles and History of homeopathy I

Year 2

- Anatomy II
- Physiology II
- Biochemistry II
- Medical Microbiology II
- Epidemiology I
- General Pathology II
- Social Studies I

Year 3

- Diagnostics III
- Materia Medica III
- Systemic Pathology III
- Psychopathology II
- Auxiliary Therapeutics III

Year 4 (B Tech*)

- Diagnostics IV
- Materia Medica IV
- Clinical Homeopathy IV
- Homeopharmaceutics IV
- Research Methods and Techniques I

Year 5 (M Tech*)

- Materia Medica V
- Clinical Homeopathy V
- Practice Management and Jurisprudence V
- Research Project and Dissertation I

Students have contact with patients from the third year of study and are required to complete a certain number of hours in a clinic in order to complete a specified training programme.

* A Bachelor degree equivalent (B Tech) in homeopathy is obtained after four years full-time studies, but this degree is not conferred and does not result in permission to practise homeopathy. The first and only exit qualification is the Masters Degree in Homeopathy (M.Tech.Hom) which is conferred only at the end of the fifth year of training. A PhD may be obtained in one of two ways; five years full-time masters degree studies, followed continuously by a further three years PhD studies, followed by the one year clinical internship, or five years full-time masters degree studies, followed by the one year clinical internship, during which they may commence a further four years of part-time PhD studies. Both allopathic and homeopathic training are state-funded.

- Homeopathic Association of South Africa <http://www.hsa.org.za/>
- Whole Health Now: http://www.wholehealthnow.com/homeopathy_pro/south_africa.html
- Homeopathic Scope of Practice: <http://www.homeopathy.org.za/homsop2004.htm>
- University of Johannesburg: <http://www.uj.ac.za/Default.aspx?alias=www.uj.ac.za/homoeopathy>
- Durban University of Technology: <http://www.dut.ac.za/department.aspx?id=65&fid=4>

United Kingdom – Bachelor of Health Science (Homeopathic Medicine, BHSC Hom Med)

Four Universities in the United Kingdom deliver Bachelor degree courses in homeopathy. Two of them offer three year full time Bachelor Degree courses, The University of Central Lancashire and the University of Westminster. Both courses can also be done part time. Two other universities have validated four year part-time BSc courses in homeopathy, Middlesex University and Thames Valley University.

As an example in the United Kingdom, the University of Central Lancashire offers a 3 year full time (or 5 year part time) course that leads to a BSc (Hons) Homeopathic Medicine. The course is designed to provide a licence to practise homeopathy.

The total amount of direct student-teacher contact time is 1083 hours, plus guided case management. The course comprises of 18 modules. The required 175 hours of clinical training are divided into 25 hours observation in class in the first year, 75 hours in clinic in the second year and 75 hours in clinic in the third year. This does not include the student's own managed cases.

The course is divided into:

Year 1

- Homeopathic materia medica and clinical practice
- Principles of homeopathy
- Introduction to health, holism and healing
- Communication and caring in practitioner-client relationships
- Introduction to physiology and pharmacology theory

Year 2

- Applying homeopathic theory to practice
- Case analysis and management within safe, ethical practice
- Philosophy and health
- Theoretical physiology
- Organ system pathology
- Research methods

Year 3

- Guided case management
- Practice management
- Therapeutic homeopathy
- Vitalistic models and homeopathic practice
- Nutritional theory
- Dissertation

More information at:

- University of Central Lancashire:
<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/factsheets/health/nursing/3594.pdf>
- Middlesex University: <http://www.mdx.ac.uk/aboutus/partners/docs/chehomeopathy.pdf>
- Thames Valley University:
<http://courses.tvu.ac.uk/CourseDetails.aspx?CourseInstanceID=9512&SearchType=A2Z&Char=H&rptindex=2&isSorted=0&img=img&sortname=null&count=0&PageSize=20>
http://www.purtonhouse.com/phs_schoolCoursesCosts.asp
- University of Westminster: <http://www.wmin.ac.uk/sih/page-57>

United Kingdom – Master of Health Science (Homeopathic Medicine, MSc Hom Med)

The University of Central Lancashire offers a three year part-time MSc Homeopathy course by e-learning. The course is open for homeopaths who wish to further their knowledge and understanding within areas such as research, reflective practice, education and supervision. The course is delivered by e-learning and may therefore be accessed by homeopaths in all parts of the world.

The university provides a Postgraduate Certificate after one year's part-time studies, a Postgraduate Diploma after two years and the MSc after three years part-time. The course is made up of nine modules. These include four compulsory modules: Deconstructing practice, developing homeopathic practice, introduction to postgraduate research, therapeutic relationships. Two out of three optional modules: Inspiring homeopathy education, supervision in homeopathy and student initiated module. Lastly, it includes a dissertation that covers three modules.

More information at:

- University of Central Lancashire:
<http://www.uclan.ac.uk/courses/factsheets/health/nursing/8632.pdf>