



UniSA

Graduate Certificate in Surgical Pathology Preparation

Experience. The Difference.



A flexible program for diagnostic professionals

Unique in Australia, UniSA's Graduate Certificate in Surgical Pathology Preparation provides advanced training in the dissection, sampling and preparation of tissues for histopathological examination and diagnosis.

Careers

This program has been designed to improve the skills and career options of medical scientists and technicians working in diagnostic laboratories. Graduates typically take on greater responsibilities in the laboratory, improving their professional standing and earning capacity.

Professional recognition

Surgical tissue specimens received in an anatomical pathology laboratory are normally subjected to pre-assessment and macroscopic selection (often referred to as 'cut-up') before being processed for diagnosis. While in the past such preparations were performed by medical pathologists, recent changes to the National Pathology Accreditation Advisory Council (NPAAC) guidelines mean that suitably experienced scientists or technicians are now permitted to carry out cut-up procedures.

UniSA's Graduate Certificate in Surgical Pathology Preparation is the only university certificate qualification in Australia providing professionals with the specific skills required to undertake specialised cut-up work.

The program consists of a combination of coursework and work-based experiential training under the supervision of a qualified pathologist at the student's workplace.

Topics covered in core courses include advanced studies in tissue structure (highlighting the relationship between morphological change in tissues and clinical manifestations); occupational health and safety; standard operating procedures; cut-up equipment; macro and micro photography; data storage and retrieval; blocks and cassettes; and professional organisations.

All students also complete a Surgical Pathology Workbook, which records supervised work practice to develop competency in surgical cut-up and passes through five levels: observation of the cut-up, supervised practice involving only tissue transfer (simple specimens), supervised cut-up of non-complex specimens, limited independent practice, and autonomous practice.

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Surgical Pathology Preparation at UniSA

Taught on the job and from UniSA's City East campus, this program has been developed with the needs of busy laboratory professionals in mind.





"The program not only gave me specialised skills that are highly valued in the workplace, it also helped me develop a network of colleagues and friends who work in laboratories all over the country. The curriculum was extremely relevant to our needs. We were given guidelines and ideas that we could take and adapt to fit our situation, which was much better than a one-size-fits-all approach."

Kellie Madigan
Graduated 2005



"I've been working in a medical pathology laboratory for more than 20 years, and I recommend the Graduate Certificate in Surgical Pathology Preparation without any reservations. Studying improved my skills and understanding of anatomical pathology which led to a promotion at work. I am now more involved in the daily running of the lab and in my own professional development."

Sharin Prakesh
Graduated 2005

Graduate skills

Graduates will be ready to take on specialised cut-up work within anatomical pathology laboratories. By the time you've graduated you will have a thorough understanding of tissue selection, dissection and preparation methods appropriate to histopathological analysis.

Industry experience

With a strong emphasis on work-based training, the Graduate Certificate in Surgical Pathology Preparation provides a supportive framework for diagnostic professionals to upgrade their skills while on the job. Projects are structured to address the requirements of each participant's workplace.

Entry requirements

Applicants must:

- Hold a degree or diploma in Laboratory Medicine, Biomedical Science, Medical Laboratory Science or equivalent
- Have ongoing access to an accredited or NPAAC-recognised pathology laboratory (to fulfil supervisory requirements)
- Have majored in or completed advanced studies in laboratory histopathology

Fees and further information

This is a fee-paying program.

For more information on fees, program content etc, see:

- Program website:
www.unisanet.unisa.edu.au/programs/program.asp?Program=ICSP
- School website:
www.unisa.edu.au/pmbs

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online. For more information see www.unisa.edu.au/applyonline

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