## Postgradute Physiotherapy at La Trobe Transcript

**Text on Screen:**

Postgraduate Physiotherapy at La Trobe University

Felicity Blackstock
Lecturer, Physiotherapy

La Trobe University offers many Physiotherapy programs, the two year graduate entry Master of Physiotherapy Practice is a degree for people who are not yet registered Physiotherapists. If you are not a Physiotherapist, this is the degree for you. This degree is for people who have completed a Bachelor degree in the last 5 years. In their bachelor degree they needed to have obtained a GPA or grade point average of 5.5 of 7. They also need to have completed pre-requisite studies in Anatomy, Physiology and Bio-Mechanics. Specifically with Anatomy it needs to be regional musculoskeletal anatomy, head, neck, thorax, pelvis, upper limb and lower limb and neuro anatomy. In physiology there needs to be completed exercise physiology. The two year degree is structured around the first six months being theoretical learning, developing physiotherapy skills. In the final 18 months, students are allocated to a clinical school where there is a mix of both theoretical learning and clinical practice in the health care settings of Victoria.

Graduates from the two year graduate entry Masters of Physiotherapy Practice are eligible for registration with the Physiotherapy Board of Australia. After registration they are able to practice as a Physiotherapist in Australia.

Edmund Leahy
Lecturer, Physiotherapy

So for qualified Physiotherapists who are registered within Australia we have a number of postgraduate opportunities which are available at La Trobe University. We have the graduate certificate in Sports Physiotherapy and also the Masters in Sports Physiotherapy. In addition to that we also have the Graduate Certificate in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy as well as the Masters of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy. The design of these two courses is that you need to do the Graduate Certificate first, so if you decide to go down the Musc stream you need to do the graduate certificate in musculosketal first, if you achieve greater than 70% average, greater than a B average, you can go on to do your Master is in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy. Similarly for the sports courses, you need to do the graduate certificate in Sports, if you get greater than a 70% average you can go on to the Masters component of that course.

So if you are looking at the design of the courses, both the graduate certificate in musculosketal and sports you need to do three subjects, there’s a professional development subject where you can do the weekend courses through the APA, which count towards your masters, we need to evaluate whether you’ve achieved certain outcomes from those courses. So any weekend courses you do can actually count towards that. You also do an online subject which is around clinical sciences, which is very useful and very flexible, you can do it at home and not have to come into Uni. We also do a lit searching subject and research subject which you can do from home as well. It’s all online so you don’t have to come into university at all. So it’s designed for real clinicians, a real environment in the real world, who have real jobs, and know that you can’t come into university very often so we’ve made it as flexible as we can. If you look at the masters component of both of the courses, you need to come into the university for two weeks for one of the subjects and the second subject is all about doing your clinical placements, which is different if you do the masters of musc compared to sports, there’s further information on the web site regarding this.

People who complete the Masters of Musculoskeletal are highly sought after in terms of being educators, they’re also highly sought after in terms of private practices and also within the hospital environment. Many people who want to go onto become primary contact Phsyiotherapists in hospitals they need to be completed their Masters of Musculosketal for some employers to even to be considered for some of those positions. If we are looking at Sports masters graduates they are highly sought after in terms of going off to the Olympics, AFL footy teams and working with elite athletes. It’s generally expected that you need to have that Masters of Sports. Both the Masters of Musculosketal and Masters of Sports Physiotherapy courses, if you complete those courses entitles you to go off and become APA titled members, whether that be sports of musculoskeletal.