

GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN FORENSIC MEDICINE

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

For further information on this programme complete and return this page.

FAMILY NAME _____

FIRST NAME _____

ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

TELEPHONE _____
(including country/area code)

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

CURRENT POSTITION _____

EMPLOYER _____
(if applicable)

RETURN TO:
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Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

The Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine (VIFM) was established by the Coroner's Act 1985. The VIFM is housed in a purpose-built facility close to the centre of Melbourne and is co-located with the State Coroner's Office and the Donor Tissue Bank of Victoria. The Institute has statutory obligations to provide clinical forensic medical services, forensic pathology and related services, teaching and research.

Monash was the first (and remains the only) university in Australasia to establish a Department of Forensic Medicine. Its formal association with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine has been unequivocally successful in the establishment of an academic environment for the provision of forensic services.

The Institute now provides a comprehensive range of forensic services. These include clinical forensic medicine, forensic pathology, toxicology, molecular biology and odontology. The Institute has also been an active provider of undergraduate and postgraduate education and has a comprehensive research programme.

Clinical Forensic Medicine

Clinical forensic medicine (previously known as the work of "police surgeons") is evolving as an increasingly specialised area within the wider field of forensic medical practice. Clinical forensic medicine encompasses a wide range of activities at the interface of medical practice and the law. The range of medicolegal services overlap many other medical specialty areas: paediatrics, gynaecology, clinical toxicology, emergency

medicine, psychiatry, dentistry and forensic pathology. However the discipline of clinical forensic medicine has become the home of the special issues inherent in traffic medicine and custodial medicine. All of the above services are provided by clinicians working either exclusively in the field or in the other medical specialties including general practice.

Graduate Diploma In Forensic Medicine

The need for formal training in clinical forensic medicine has been recognised for some years. Currently there are no formal training or educational programmes in clinical forensic medicine in either Australia or the Asian Pacific region. This has been of concern to justice organisations and has operated to the detriment of medicolegal services and the development of career pathways in that specialty.

The course, through its generic core subjects as well as subjects designed for discipline specific groups, will prepare practitioners for clinical forensic practice, teaching and research activities. Graduates will be able, in time, to proceed to a masters programme in specific fields.

The broad aims of the course are to:

- 1 Assist in the establishment of academic standards in clinical forensic medicine.
- 2 Produce graduates who have a sound knowledge of medicolegal principles.
- 3 Develop practitioner skills in providing clinical forensic services in the community.

Course Content

The course consists of six units comprising three compulsory core subjects and three optional units. Each subject is of equal value and no subject is a prerequisite for any other. Core subjects will be offered in one year and the elective subjects in the following year. Students may enter the course in either year. The course will require two years of part-time study with no full-time enrolments available. If there is sufficient interest, single subjects may be taken. Students will be given an Institute certificate upon satisfactory completion of the subject.

Teaching will occur primarily through distance education, particularly through the Internet and utilising electronic document delivery. The development of practical skills will be facilitated through interactive sessions held at a number of work locations. Tutorials, presentations and other practical components will be conducted at the Institute during an annual two week teaching block.

Subjects

Compulsory Core Units

- Medical Evidence
- Injury Interpretation
- Ethics, Medicine and the Law

Optional Subjects

- Traffic Medicine
- Offences Against the Person
- Custodial Medicine
- Elements of Forensic Science

Prerequisites

Applicants for candidature must hold a medical degree and have at least three years experience in clinical medicine. Students will also require access to a PC with a Web browser. Interstate students will also require access to their local forensic facilities; assistance in arranging this may be sought from the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Fees

This is a full fee paying course. The fee structure for Australian students in \$A9,350.00 for the whole course (or \$A1,560.00 per subject). For international students the fee will be \$A12,000.00 for the course (or \$A2,000.00 per subject).

Overseas Students

Monash University welcomes students from the Asian Pacific region. The University and the Institute have been active in developing close links with a number of regional centres and providing opportunities for advanced training and collaborative research programmes. Students from the Asian Pacific region can be assured of appropriate support from Institute staff in both personal and academic areas.

Delivery of material by distance education will allow students ready access to the programme. Some field work and practical exercises can be carried out in the student's home country. The Institute may be able to assist in arranging adequate supervision and access to local facilities.

Students will be required to attend the Institute for two weeks in both years of the course. All students are expected to be competent in written and spoken English.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC MEDICINE



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Commencing 1999



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