Sonja de Munck has been working as an Occupational Therapist for over 15 years and educating newly graduated therapists is a key part of her role. Sonja is in the process of completing the Master of Health Professional Education and is mid-way through the research component, after completing four coursework units.

Sonja says “the course has given me the opportunity to apply the theory of teaching and learning in the workplace. I have also gained skills in evaluating education programs. Participating in the course has opened my eyes to better ways of enhancing learning for therapists and it is rewarding to know that I am now providing education with a sound theory behind it. It has also been great to be able to share with other health professionals on the course and gain new ideas from their experiences”.

“I am now at the stage of writing my thesis related to educational needs of OTs in hospital settings. I never thought I would be someone who would be involved in research! It is exciting to think that because of my study, I may be able to improve the learning experiences of OTs in the workplace”.

Ayman Khalifah is a graduate dentist who has worked as a demonstrator for two years at the dental school at Taibah University in Saudi Arabia. He has a major role in students’ preclinical training and mentoring. Ayman is currently a full-time student in the Masters in Health Professional Education.

Ayman says “I am keen to learn educational concepts and theories both in classroom and in clinical settings, in order to apply them as a dental educator”.

“Moreover, practicing various teaching methods in different circumstances while studying has enhanced my knowledge of the various forms of learning approaches that are used in other disciplines and I can see where they could be used effectively in teaching dental students”.

Meet Some of Our Students

Sonja de Munck: Occupational Therapist

Ayman Khalifah: Graduate Dentist

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Did you know?
The Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences will present an information session on the Health Professional Education courses at the UWA Postgrad and Honours Expo on Wednesday 19th September at 6.30pm. To register your interest please go to the website http://www.studyat.uwa.edu.au/about/events/postgradexpo.

Are you interested in enrolling?

For 2013 International Applicants:
Applicants from overseas should contact the International Centre and complete the application for international students.

International Centre
The University of Western Australia
Nedlands, Perth Western Australia 6009
Phone: +61 8 6488 3939
Fax: +61 8 9382 4071
Website: http://www.international.uwa.edu.au
Email: http://www.ask.uwa.edu.au/app/ask

Are you interested in enrolling in any of the courses in Health Professional Education?

For further information see our webpage: http://www.meddent.uwa.edu.au/teaching/centre/courses/coursework and contact the Director of Post Graduate Studies, Professor Sandra Carr (sandra.carr@uwa.edu.au) or Administrative Officer Post Graduate Studies, Caroline Martin (caroline.martin@uwa.edu.au) if you have any questions.

Enrolments for Semester 1, 2013 will remain open until mid-December, with late applications considered depending on the availability of places.
**Scholarships available to cover fees**

Half-tuition scholarships are offered to Faculty teaching staff to undertake postgraduate study in Health Professional Education.

For further information please contact Caroline Martin in the Education Centre:

[Caroline.Martin@uwa.edu.au](mailto:Caroline.Martin@uwa.edu.au) or Ph: (08) 6488 6881

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**Research being conducted within the Masters course**

Katrine Nehyba is currently enrolled in a Masters in Health Professional Education. She has recently submitted her thesis entitled ‘Physiotherapy Student Learning Experiences on Clinical Placement’. The purpose of Katrine’s research was to identify and explore the learning experiences of physiotherapy students undertaking different models of clinical education in WA. One response to the shortage of physiotherapists in Australia in recent years has been to increase the intake of physiotherapy students and this has led to increased demand for clinical education opportunities. A method used to address this is collaborative learning placements, where students attend a placement in pairs or groups instead of individually. Katrine’s study identified the amount of time students spent in various learning activities while on placement, and whether differences occurred between different group sizes. It also describes physiotherapy students’ approach to learning in the clinical environment and their perceptions of clinical learning experiences.

The results showed that physiotherapy students had similar experiences on placement regardless of the clinical model they experienced. This supports the continued use of collaborative learning placements in physiotherapy clinical education. The majority of participants identified as adopting a deep approach to learning, which suggests a group of students who seek to find meaning and understanding in what they are learning. The participants spent most of their time on placement engaged in patient care, and they were satisfied with their clinical learning experiences. The findings of this research provide evidence that clinical educators and academic staff can consider in order to optimise the learning experiences of students on placements.

“I have really enjoyed the process of completing my Masters in Health Professional Education” states Katrine. “I had a question about physiotherapy clinical education that I wanted to answer, and I’ve achieved that. My supervisors and all of the staff in the Faculty have been really helpful and I learnt so much. My teaching skills have improved and I have gained valuable research experience. It’s a lot of work, but it is worth it.” Katrine presented the results of her research at the Australia and New Zealand Association of Health Professional Educators conference in Rotorua, New Zealand in June this year.

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**Semester 1 2013 Units on Offer**

**IMED8801 Principles of Teaching and Learning**
Core unit, Pre/co-requisite for all other units.
*Unit Coordinator:* Prof Sandra Carr

**IMED 8803 Introduction to Research in Health Professional Education**
Core unit
*Unit Coordinator:* Asst/Prof Sue Miller

**IMED 8805 Innovation and Contemporary Issues in Health Professional Education**
Elective unit.
*Unit Coordinator:* Asst/Prof Sue Miller

**IMED8802 Principles of Assessment and Evaluation**
Core unit
*Unit Coordinator:* Assoc/Prof Zarrin Siddiqui

**IMED 8804 Clinical Teaching and Supervision**
Elective unit.
*Unit Coordinator:* Prof Sandra Carr

**Please note:** Some units are subject to minimum quotas.