# Careers in Chiropractic:

## Pathways and Preparation

Our **Bachelor of Health Science / Master of Clinical Chiropractic** is the only Chiropractic program offered in Western Australia accredited by the Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia (CCEA). Both degrees are required for registration as a Chiropractor in Australia and New Zealand and delivered as a single, integrated four-year program.

The initial Bachelor of Health Science provides the essential background in human biological sciences and introduces chiropractic skills and theory. The additional Master degree emphasizes evidence-based, patient-centred care and clinical skill development needed to:

- deliver safe, ethical, and effective chiropractic care
- integrate clinical expertise with the best available evidence and patient preferences
- work across diverse areas, including private practice, allied health teams, sports medicine, health insurance, medico-legal advising, rehabilitation, and research.

There are pre-clinical and clinical practicum (placement) hours undertaken within the Murdoch Chiropractic Clinic or at an external location (an outreach clinic) within the program. These periods are indicated in the study / course plan. Students also need additional first aid training, security clearances and the ability to meet the inherent requirements to pass the course, by demonstrating essential skills and attributes (reasonable adjustments are possible for students living with disability).

## Practicing as a Chiropractor in Australia

In order to practice in Australia, Chiropractors must apply for general registration with the Chiropractic Board of Australia (CBA) and meet the Board's registration standards (including continuing professional development).

Graduate registration is available to students completing the last 6 weeks of study or graduates who have completed their studies within the last 12 months.

## Develop your career before you graduate

- Volunteer with a not-for-profit promoting health, fitness and wellbeing activities (e.g. Park Run). Useful links:
  - Murdoch Guild Volunteering
  - Seek Volunteer / Volunteering WA
- Earn and learn by applying for:
  - support roles in a clinical setting e.g. Chiropractic Assistant.
  - Sales representative roles in the health and fitness industry
  - Sports Trainer for a local sporting club
  - jobs on campus (e.g. Student Ambassador).
- Join a relevant professional association. Both Chiropractic Australia (CA) and the Australian Chiropractic Association (ACA) offer free student membership. Some membership benefits:
  - access to resources, tools, guides and newsletters (CA and ACA)
  - networking events (CA and ACA)
  - online professional development (CA)
  - membership to specialised clinical practice groups (ACA).
- Consider completing an additional short course, microcredential or certification to be eligible for other health, fitness and wellbeing roles.

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Image source: Pixabay.com



## Careers

Chiropractic careers can be varied and multifaceted.

Many Chiropractors start their own private practices (gaining expertise in running a private practice within the program, including the operation of diagnostic imaging equipment) and can set their own hours for personal work life balance.

Others are employed as associated or subcontracted by more experienced Chiropractors (Principals / Directors) within established practices and health centres.

Some specialised clinical interest areas include:

- Rehabilitation of Neuromusculoskeletal Conditions
- Pregnancy and Paediatrics
- Sport and Exercise
- Wellbeing and Lifestyle Management.

With experience they may also move into consultancy work, consulting to government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), health policy panels and regulatory bodies.

Others choose a different pathway and can be employed within the Workplace Rehabilitation industry as Injury Management / Rehabilitation Consultants, working with other allied health professionals in co-ordinating return to work programs and undertaking workplace, functional and ergonomic assessments within the workers' compensation system.

Finally for those who undertake further post-graduate studies, Chiropractors can pursue an Academic career (teaching and research) in higher education. Study grants for PhD and Masters by Research qualifications may be available through the ACA.

## Further Study (related options at Murdoch)

- Research Masters with Training (can be Accelerated)
- (Research) Master of Education

## Chiropractic Industry Bodies

Australian Chiropractors Association

Chiropractic Australia

Chiropractic Board Ahpra

## Alternative options after two years of study

- Exit with a Bachelor of Health Science after successfully completing degree requirements, including all units within the Neuromuscular Health major.
- Transfer to the Bachelor of Sport and Exercise Science at Murdoch University.

### Occupation and Industry Information

- Chiropractor - Duties, skills and values.
- Chiropractor - Labour market information (Jobs and Skills Aust.)
- Health Care and Social Assistance - Industry information (Jobs and Skills Aust.)

### Useful Links

- Aust. Chiropractic Association (ACA)
- Chiropractic Australia (CA)
- Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Radiology Council of WA - Registrations
- Small Business Development Corporation and Business.gov.au
- Workcover WA and (Motor vehicle Injury) Insurance Commission of WA
- The program learning aligns with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals:
  - 3: Good health and well-being
  - 4: Quality education
  - 11: Sustainable cities and communities