

Media Release

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National Alliance for Pharmacy Education Intern Training Program accredited by APC

The Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) has accredited three leading universities to deliver the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education's (NAPE) Pharmacy Intern Training Program (ITP).

The NAPE ITP program is a major and significant new joint initiative by the National Alliance for Pharmacy Education. Formed earlier this year by Monash University, The University of Queensland, University of South Australia and The University of Sydney, NAPE aims to support the ongoing advancement of the pharmacy profession as a key contributor to the healthcare team.

The NAPE ITP offers cutting edge education from universities at the forefront of pharmacy education and research in Australia. Experienced educators and pharmacists, practicing in a variety of settings, will assist students on their journey to become competent pharmacists. The program is flexibly delivered utilising online, face-to-face and self-directed modes of education, allowing interns to easily access their coursework irrespective of their location and to balance study with their work and personal lives.

The introduction of national registration for pharmacists in 2010 has been an important driver in the joint development of the ITP to be delivered by NAPE universities. Interns now have the flexibility to undertake their training anywhere in Australia and after registering can practice across the country. In alignment with the new national registration scheme, the Australian Pharmacy Council has introduced stringent accreditation requirements for ITP providers. Being granted accreditation assures interns of the high quality of the NAPE ITP.

In 2011 the NAPE ITP will be delivered by Monash University, University of South Australia and The University of Sydney. Monash University has offered an ITP since 2004 with University of South Australia commencing their program in 2010. These programs have been aligned and the University of Sydney has recently announced it will also offer the program from 2011. The sharing of expertise and knowledge between NAPE's members ensures the NAPE ITP program is a high quality, dynamic course delivered by experienced educators and leading pharmacists practicing in a variety of settings.

A significant advantage of the NAPE ITP is the potential for it to lead to a graduate certificate of pharmacy practice, should students choose to complete an additional year of part-time study at the completion of their intern year. With the workforce market becoming more and more competitive, completing a postgraduate degree can support pharmacists seeking career progression and commensurate remuneration.

"We believe that ready access to cutting edge university postgraduate award courses, including intern training programs, is crucial for pharmacists as they contribute to and enhance health care delivery in Australia," says Professor Bill Charman Chair of NAPE. "Our program uniquely combines the best aspects of an academic award, with a contemporary practice focus and delivery by experienced practising pharmacists"

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