

Take your career to the next level



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Flexible online study in orofacial pain

Orofacial pain is frequently reported in the general population and it can be severe. It encompasses several conditions that involve medical, dental and psychological variables, such as neuralgia, neuropathic pain, and temporomandibular disorder and related headache syndromes. To address this need, a new pathway in Orofacial Pain has been introduced into the **Master of Medicine/Science in Medicine (Pain Management) degree program.**

Specialise in an emerging area

Gain a Masters degree in the emerging specialty area of Orofacial Pain. Medical, dental and other health care professionals often comment that there is a large unmet need for well-trained health care practitioners to manage patients presenting with complex orofacial pain, temporomandibular joint (TMJ) pain and headache problems. Our Masters program follows international guidelines for orofacial pain programs to build the knowledge base required by specialists.

Study a clinically-focused curriculum

All of our units of study are case-based and clinically focused, designed to improve your understanding of pain management and your ability to diagnose, investigate and manage patients presenting with orofacial pain disorders

Build capacity for the American Board of Orofacial Pain examinations

Drawing on the curriculum guidelines published by the International Association for the Study of Pain and the American Academy of Orofacial Pain, the new pathway will help you acquire knowledge and skills tested in the certificate examinations.

Learn from local and international experts

Our teachers are academic clinicians and researchers, including neuroscientists, anaesthetists, pharmacologists, psychologists, physiotherapists, neurologists, pain medicine specialists, dentists and orofacial pain specialists. All are widely experienced in pain management. The new pathway provides a unique breadth of teaching and clinical expertise in core pain management concepts and specific issues in orofacial pain management.

Flexible study modes

Our degree program is delivered entirely online and has been designed to be undertaken while you are working full-time, with the option of taking between 1 or 2 units of study per semester. You can take your time in completing this course, from two-years to a longer period depending on your needs.

Multidisciplinary approach to learning about orofacial pain

Our program provides you opportunity to learn with other health professionals from different disciplines to upgrade your skills in the comprehensive management of Orofacial Pain. This is equally of benefit for those involved in teaching or in clinical practice.

Unit	Aim
Introduction to Pain Management	To introduce you to the problem of pain within a multidisciplinary team framework and to highlight the extent of the problem in the community. The unit provides an overview of historical and philosophical models of pain and its management methods over time. Current classifications of pain are examined and the interrelationship between various paradigms of health and illness are outlined. Participants also begin to consider the principles of research design and biostatistics, and explore professional and ethical issues.
Pain Mechanisms and Contributors	To introduce and develop your understanding about the basic neuroscience of pain and the interrelationship between psychological, physiological and environmental processes in pain. Neuro-anatomical, physiological, pharmacological, and biochemical mechanisms involved in nociception, including peripheral and central sensitisation are discussed. Theoretical bases are introduced and the ways in which psychological and environmental factors modify or maintain pain perception and behaviour are explored.
Pain Treatment and Management	To introduce participants to the core principles of pain assessment, treatment and management. Participants consider the biopsychosocial model and the scientific basis for assessment, diagnosis and treatment. They explore principles of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, together with routes of drug administration. The role of physiotherapy and rehabilitation management, and the use of procedures such as neural blockade, simulation techniques and surgery are also considered.
Orofacial pain	To explore the principles of orofacial pain mechanisms, symptomatology and treatments. Topics include orofacial pain assessment, diagnostic tests including local anaesthetic blocks, specific pharmacology for orofacial pain, and multidisciplinary treatment approaches.
Advanced Studies in Orofacial Pain	To expand on the unit Orofacial Pain by providing an in depth understanding of orofacial pain mechanisms, symptomatology and management. Topics include orofacial pain classification and diagnosis and management strategies based on the biopsychosocial model of pain.
Pain and Sleep	The interaction between pain and sleep is well established: pain affects sleep and sleep affects pain. This unit examines normal human sleep and the relationship between sleep disorders and pain, and pain disorders and sleep. Sleep physiology and dysfunction are considered as well as multidisciplinary treatment approaches and therapeutic options.
Headache	To explore the best clinical practice in understanding and treating headache disorders. Headaches are a common complaint in the general population, and are either classified as a primary or secondary headache disorder.
Orofacial Pain in Practice	To translate orofacial pain theory into practice. Clinical learning activities provide opportunities to synthesise and integrate learning. The practical application of the knowledge gained from previous units of study allows students the opportunity to draw conclusions that will form the basis for further investigation, and intellectual and/or professional growth.



For dates & further information visit:
sydney.edu.au/medicine/pmri/education

T: +61 2 9463 1516
 E: paineducation.admin@sydney.edu.au