

CHART A COURSE

Ancient method in mainstream

Course Bachelor of traditional Chinese medicine

Traditional Chinese medicine may have been practised for more than 5000 years, but in Australia one of the biggest changes to its regulation takes place this year.

A national TCM board, set up last year, will require registration for practitioners from July 1. This includes those practising acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine.

"It's the first time there's been national registration," says Dr Yifan Yang from the Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

While it's still considered complementary medicine, TCM is also starting to be recognised more broadly by Western countries.

Yang says that in the past 10 years more acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine research has been published in top medical journals. "Mainstream medical doctors and medicine would like to say medicine must be scientifically proven. We agree with that, but we also look at clinical effectiveness."

Cost \$16,000 a year.

Duration Four years, full time.

Time About 20 contact hours a week.

Where Sydney Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

When Open days July 21 and September 15 for a 2013 start.

Link sitcm.edu.au.

SUE WHITE