

CHART A COURSE

Adding to regions' body of knowledge

Course Bachelor of medical sciences.

In healthcare, knowledge of human anatomy, physiology and biochemistry in health and disease is a given. But the field also needs graduates who understand their local area and its needs.

This degree was introduced in 2011 by Central Queensland University (CQU) to support the increasing demand for healthcare professionals across Australia, particularly in rural and remote areas. Population growth associated with the mining and resources boom has created health workforce shortages.

"We use our experience and expertise in distance learning to support students from rural and remote areas to gain a qualification that will support their career aspirations, yet allow them to remain in their area," says a senior lecturer at CQU, Geoffrey Bosson.

In second and third year, students specialise in areas such as pathology, nutrition or clinical investigation. All involve clinic placements.

Duration Three years full time or part-time equivalent.

Time Study 40-50 hours a week.

Where Distance education or in person in Rockhampton (travel to Rockhampton is required for residential components).

When Next intake is semester 1, 2013.

Link cqu.edu.au.

SUE WHITE