



AUSTRALIAN
PHYSIOTHERAPY
COUNCIL

International Accreditation

Give your physiotherapy program the credibility to prove its quality and compete with confidence on the world stage.



The Australian Physiotherapy Council helps international physiotherapy programs prove excellence, build global trust and compete at the highest level.

Our International Accreditation is an independent, expert review that examines the quality of a physiotherapy program, including its curriculum, clinical education, student support, assessment practices and graduate outcomes.

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Why does international accreditation matter?

- Physiotherapy education is increasingly global. Students are mobile, universities are expanding partnerships, and healthcare systems need graduates ready for contemporary practice.
- International accreditation can support workforce mobility by showing that a program has been assessed against recognised physiotherapy education standards. For universities, this can strengthen confidence in graduate preparation and improve global positioning.
- International accreditation helps universities:
 - signal premium quality
 - stand out to students, regulators, employers and partners
 - benchmark against rigorous physiotherapy education expectations
 - support recruitment, partnerships and long-term growth.

Why work with the Australian Physiotherapy Council?

- The Australian Physiotherapy Council is Australia's national, government-appointed, independent authority for accrediting entry-level physiotherapy education. We are a trusted leader in education quality assurance.
- With decades of experience in accreditation, the Council brings the authority, a significant track record and expertise expected of a top-tier accreditation body.
- For universities outside Australia, the Council applies standards adapted from the Australian context with confidence, rigour and respect for local academic, healthcare and cultural settings.



The Australian Physiotherapy Profession

Australia has a highly regarded physiotherapy profession with strong expectations for education quality, clinical competency, evidence-based practice and public safety.

Australian physiotherapy graduates are prepared to work across a broad range of practice settings, including hospitals, private practice, rehabilitation, community health, aged care, disability, sport, primary care and emerging models of healthcare delivery.

The Australian Physiotherapy Council accredits more than 50 physiotherapy programs in Australia, including programs delivered by universities with strong teaching, research and health education capability.

These programs demonstrate the Council's long-standing experience reviewing diverse institutional models, locations and delivery structures.

For international universities, that expertise becomes a premium quality signal in the market.





What do graduates of accredited programs look like?

A graduate of an internationally accredited physiotherapy program is expected to be prepared for safe, ethical and effective entry-level practice.

An accredited program should prepare physiotherapy graduates who can:

- Apply contemporary physiotherapy knowledge and evidence-based practice
- Assess, plan, deliver and evaluate safe physiotherapy care
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, colleagues and other professionals
- Practise ethically, professionally and respectfully
- Understand public safety, risk and quality responsibilities
- Work effectively in clinical and interprofessional environments
- Reflect on their practice and continue learning throughout their career
- Respond to the needs of diverse communities and healthcare contexts.

Graduate readiness is not assessed through a single feature of the program.

It is demonstrated through the combined quality of curriculum, clinical education, assessment, academic governance, student support and continuous improvement.

International Accreditation Standards

The Council's International Accreditation Standards are adapted from the Australian entry-level physiotherapy accreditation standards and used in international contexts.

The standards are outcomes-focused, allowing universities to show how their program achieves the expected entry-level physiotherapy outcomes without prescribing one curriculum structure or teaching model.

The International Accreditation Standards are linked to the International Physiotherapy Practice Thresholds, which describe the entry-level attributes, roles, competencies and foundational abilities expected of physiotherapy graduates.



Domains and criteria

The International Accreditation Standards are organised into five connected domains.

1

Public Safety

Public safety is assured. This domain considers whether the program protects students, staff, patients, clients and the public through appropriate safety, ethical, professional and compliance processes.

2

Academic Governance and Quality Assurance

Academic governance and quality assurance processes are effective. This domain considers whether the program has robust governance, risk management, monitoring, evaluation and continuous improvement processes.

3

Program of Study

Program design, delivery and resourcing enable students to achieve the required professional attributes and competencies. This domain considers curriculum design, learning outcomes, clinical education, teaching and learning methods, staffing, facilities and resources.

4

Student Experience

Students are provided with equitable and timely access to information and support. This domain considers student information, admission practices, support services, feedback processes and the learning environment.

5

Assessment

Assessment is fair, valid and reliable. This domain considers whether assessment methods are appropriate, diverse, transparent and aligned to the learning outcomes and graduate competencies. It also considers moderation, feedback and the assessment of clinical and professional capabilities.

The value of accreditation from the Australian Physiotherapy Council



Quality recognition

International accreditation provides independent external recognition and a credible signal to students, staff, clinical partners, regulators and institutional leaders.



Expert insight

Universities receive evidence-informed feedback from experienced physiotherapy education and practice experts to identify strengths, clarify risks and sharpen program performance.



Graduate readiness

The accreditation focuses on learning outcomes, clinical education and assessment, preparing graduates for entry-level practice.



Continuous improvement

Accreditation supports a disciplined culture of evaluation, action and improvement.



Strategic positioning

It positions your university as a credible, quality-focused institution ready to compete on the global stage.

The accreditation process



The process is clear, structured and collaborative, from enquiry to decision and ongoing monitoring.

1

Start the conversation

The Council learns about your program, goals and readiness, then confirms timelines, expectations and evidence needs.

2

Apply and submit evidence

The education provider submits an application and supporting evidence against the International Accreditation Standards. Evidence may include curriculum documents, assessment information, clinical education arrangements, governance structures, staffing information, student support processes and quality assurance records.

3

Independent review

An international accreditation panel is established. Panel members independently review the application and evidence against the standards. The panel identifies strengths, gaps and matters requiring clarification.

4

Preliminary report

The panel prepares preliminary findings that outline evidence reviewed, areas of alignment and questions to explore further. This helps guide the next stage of review.

5

Site visit

The panel undertakes an in person site visit to meet university leaders, academic staff, students, clinical educators and other stakeholders. It also allows the panel to verify evidence and understand how the program operates in practice.

6

Panel report and decision

Following the site visit, the panel prepares a report and the Council makes an accreditation decision. The report provides findings, rationale and any required conditions or recommendations.

7

Ongoing monitoring

Accredited universities complete annual monitoring reports. This supports continued quality assurance and enables the Council to monitor changes, conditions and ongoing compliance with the standards.

Accreditation outcomes

Accreditation decisions are based on the evidence provided and the extent to which the program meets the International Accreditation Standards.

Possible outcomes may include:



Accredited

The program meets the standards and is accredited for the relevant accreditation period, subject to ongoing monitoring requirements.



Accreditation with conditions

The program substantially meets the standards but must address specific conditions within agreed timeframes. Conditions are monitored by the Council.



Not yet accredited

The program does not yet meet the requirements for accreditation. The Council may provide feedback to help the education provider understand the areas requiring further development.

If a program has conditions, the panel may review progress and determine whether the conditions have been met.

The accreditation cycle

International accreditation is supported by a multi-year quality assurance cycle.



Annual monitoring may include information about:

- student enrolment data
- clinical education placements
- academic staffing changes
- progress against conditions
- material changes to the program
- other information requested by the Council as part of quality assurance.

Frequently asked questions

Does international accreditation guarantee registration or licensure?

No. International accreditation does not confer registration, licensure, approval to practise or legal recognition in any jurisdiction. Education providers and graduates must meet the requirements of the relevant country, regulator or professional body.

Is the process based only on Australian requirements?

No. The Council's International Accreditation Standards are adapted from Australian accreditation standards for international use. Australia-specific references have been removed or adapted so the standards can be applied across different healthcare, regulatory, academic and cultural contexts.

Will the Council tell us how to design our curriculum?

No. The standards are outcomes focused. The Council does not prescribe one curriculum model, teaching method or delivery structure. Universities must show how their program meets the standards and prepares graduates to achieve the required professional attributes and competencies.

What evidence will we need to provide?

Evidence usually includes information about governance, curriculum, assessment, clinical education, staffing, facilities, student support, quality assurance and graduate outcomes. The Council provides guidance on evidence requirements during the accreditation process.



What happens during a site visit?

A site visit allows the panel to verify evidence, meet stakeholders and better understand how the program operates. The visit may include meetings with university leaders, academic staff, students, clinical educators and other relevant groups.

How long does accreditation last?

Accreditation is supported by a multi-year cycle and annual monitoring. The exact accreditation period and monitoring requirements will depend on the accreditation decision and any conditions.

What happens if our program changes after accreditation?

Education providers must notify the Council of significant program changes. The Council will consider whether the change may affect compliance with the standards and whether further review is needed.

Can accredited universities promote their status?

Yes. Once your program is accredited, the Council will provide permission and an international accreditation badge to support promotion of your program's quality. Any use of the Council's name, logo, reports or accreditation outcomes must be accurate, not misleading and approved where required.



Start the conversation

Ready to position your physiotherapy program as internationally credible, quality-driven and built for the future?

Talk to the Australian Physiotherapy Council's International Accreditation team and take the next step toward a stronger global quality profile.



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