Master of Clinical Embryology

International Student Information sheet

Abbreviated Title: MClinEmbryol
CRICOS Code: 028955G
COURSE Code: 2309
Monash University Provider Code: 0008C
Course Finder Weblink: http://www.monash.edu.au/study/coursefinder/course/2309/
Course Fee for International students: Year 2013 $50,250*

* Read the section “Study and fee schedule for off campus students for greater explanation of fees for part/time students

Course Start: 26 February 2013
Duration (on campus): One year of full time study (until late November)
Applications open now and first round applications close 30 November 2012

English requirements: IELTS 6.5 with at least 6 in all bands or Proof of University Study in English:
(see http://www.adm.monash.edu.au/admissions/postgrad/pg-english-requirements.html for further details)

The Master of Clinical Embryology course (MCE) offered within the Monash University Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is administered by the Education Program in Reproduction and Development (EPRD). The MCE course has gained global recognition in the IVF field for producing high calibre embryologists, who have the knowledge and skills to work in, and manage, human IVF clinics. MCE is offered both on campus (one year full time) and off campus (restricted entry, full or part-time)

More than 70% of MCE graduates obtain positions as clinical embryologists in IVF clinics; some graduates have found employment or undertake further studies in research laboratories in related disciplines.

Course overview and student course pathways

The Master of Clinical Embryology provides candidates with the essential postgraduate knowledge and skills necessary to contribute competently to the human infertility clinical services. Theoretical and practical skills are presented in the broader context of quality control procedures required to ensure maximum success in a clinical human IVF laboratory. The regulations that control clinical human IVF practices are also presented.

The course attracts students interested in the IVF field and also those already working in the field. MCE graduates usually obtain positions as clinical embryologists in IVF clinics with good prospects of career progression within the industry. Some of our graduates find employment or undertake research in related disciplines. However, the MCE is not currently regarded as a research-based course and unless students have had previous research experience at an Honours or Masters level or have been associated with research laboratories and co-authored papers published in peer-reviewed international journals they will not usually be accepted into postgraduate research programs offered at Monash University.

Study schedule for on campus students

The course consists of eight units, comprising theoretical and practical work. Lectures are delivered by experts from all disciplines in, and related to, the IVF field. It must be stressed that the Master of Clinical Embryology is a laboratory based training course, with no patient contact. Mouse and ovine IVF are used as models for practical work. Mid-year, students are given the opportunity to visit an Australian or New Zealand IVF clinic, or a clinic may be selected from overseas.

Workload
The MCE is equivalent to a 3-semester course, which has been condensed into a one year (10 month) period, from early February to late November. This makes it a very intensive full-time course with only one week’s holiday in the middle of the course. Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials, complete all assignments and be available for laboratory work most days of the week, including evenings and weekends.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (approx)</th>
<th>Unit code</th>
<th>Course name</th>
<th>Credit points</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>MCE 5100</td>
<td>Introduction to mammalian embryology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>MCE 5101</td>
<td>Infertility and treatment strategies</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter</td>
<td></td>
<td>4-day break</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>MCE 5103</td>
<td>IVF processes: embryo culture &amp; cryopreservation theory</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>MCE 5112</td>
<td>IVF processes: embryo culture &amp; cryopreservation, practical</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid July</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 week semester break, plus up to 1 week work experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>MCE 5200</td>
<td>Total quality management in assisted reproductive technologies</td>
<td>6</td>
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**Exit Point:** Graduate Diploma in Clinical Embryology (48 credit points required)

| Sept | MCE 5201 | ICSI and research methods | 12 |
| Oct  | MCE 5212 | Preimplantation genetic diagnosis (PGD) | 6 |
| Nov  | MCE 5213 | Regulation and ethics in assisted reproductive technologies | 6 |

**Location**

All teaching and practical classes for the on campus MCE course will be conducted within the Department Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Southern Clinical School, which is based at the Monash Medical Centre, Clayton (this is approx 1km south of the main Monash University campus, Clayton).

**Assessment**

Assessment is via a range of methods, encompassing tests for practical competence (hand skills, laboratory book documentation, ability to complete small projects, quizzes), and theoretical knowledge (2500 and 3000-word essays, written examinations, critical reviews, data presentation, including statistical interpretation in abstracts and posters) and a minor research project. Students will be advised of particular requirements at the commencement of each unit.

**Entry Requirements**

Applicants should have a medical degree, veterinary science degree, Bachelor of Science degree (with honours) or the equivalent professional experience in embryology or reproductive biology gained following a pass degree.

English requirements: IELTS 6.5 with at least 6.0 in all bands. To check which English test is accepted for your country assessment level visit [http://www.monash.edu/international/entryrequirementspg/](http://www.monash.edu/international/entryrequirementspg/) and follow the links through to the relevant education subclass.

**Study and fee schedule for off campus students**

In 2009 the off-campus online version of the MCE course was only available to those in employment in accredited Australian and New Zealand IVF laboratories. From 2010 it will be available to those currently in employment in selected overseas IVF laboratories. The cost per credit point will be the same for on- and off-campus students. Students can choose to take all eight units within one year or spread the load over two years. If working full-time, we recommend studying part-time.

Fees are paid on a per semester basis ie. if only two units are taken in the first semester (1100 (6CP) and 1101 (12CP for example), then the fee for the first semester would be A$10 950. Also, depending on the level of IVF experience, it is possible to get up to 2 units credited as ‘prior learning’ which could reduce the overall cost of the Masters by A$10-15 000.
Entry Requirements

Please note: if applying to enrol in MCE off-campus, it is essential that you fill in and submit an MCE off-campus supplementary form. (Email sally.catt@monash.edu to request this form).

Students applying for the off-campus course will need to fulfil the on-campus MCE requirements and also be a trained or trainee 1 embryologist. They will be required to fill in a supplementary application form giving details of the student’s training/professional experience and a mentor approved by the EPRD will be appointed to log the student’s practical abilities (no. of egg pickups, inseminations, ICSI etc, plus a record of success rates). The mentor (usually a senior employee of the student’s employing IVF laboratory) will also be required to act as a contact throughout the course.

In addition, details of the country’s IVF laboratory accreditation will be requested. If accreditation is not done in a particular country then a site visit from an assessor appointed by the EPRD may need to be arranged. Students must have an email address and access to the internet and provide telephone and fax contacts that will enable regular contact with the MCE co-ordinator and staff.

✓ Students can choose one year of full-time study or 2 years part-time for their off-campus course commitment.
✓ The course structure is the same as for the on-campus students and units are offered within the same semester as for on-campus students. Students can choose the number of units they study each year to suit their work commitments and may be governed by their level of training.
✓ The course will be delivered online (via Blackboard, the University’s web-based course management system), with continual assessment by essays, examinations, journal reviews, posters, online discussions, self test quizzes and/or short answer tests.
✓ Extra practical skills, required for the course, will be taught in short residential blocks based within the Monash Medical Centre complex of the Clayton campus. During the residential part of the off campus course, oral and written examinations will assess also theoretical knowledge. It is expected that off campus students attend a minimum of one residential session during the course, duration depending on skills required. Please note that a student visa for off campus students will not be issued but it should be possible to apply for short stay business visas, Class 456 when attending residential schools (we will be following this up).

1 Trainees may be accepted to the course but will need to attend extra on campus residential sessions

Application Process (on or off campus)

International applicants must apply through to Monash University International
http://www.monash.edu.au/international/

A “postgraduate by course work” application form can be downloaded from http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/apply/apply-now.html (see also links in Further Information below) or you can apply online (https://emuconnect.monash.edu.au/connect/webconnect). If posting, this must be sent by post to the address on the application form.

Please use this following checklist when sending your form
✓ Application form (please note, if applying before August, you may need to use a 2011 form. this is acceptable, just indicate the year of study for which you wish to apply)
✓ Evidence that you meet the English language requirements (IELTS test scores etc).
✓ Certified copies of academic transcripts and/or work experience endorsed by an appropriate person, for example, academic results endorsed by your former academic institution. If your documentation is in a language other than English, an official certified translation must be provided.
✓ Statement of purpose indicating why you wish to undertake this course. This is particularly important for assessing candidates’ suitability for the course.
✓ A $100AUD bank draft made payable to Monash University to cover the (non-refundable) application fee. Please contact the EPRD office in order to track your application processing.
In addition to mailing your application to Monash University International, you can also email the EPRD’s MCE Course Coordinator (Email sally.catt@monash.edu) a detailed Curriculum Vitae including

- employment details
- academic history
- relevant practical work previously undertaken
- Names and contact details for two to three referees
- IETLS score
- Statement of purpose indicating reasons wishing to apply for the MCE course

This documentation enables EPRD to advise applicants whether they will be potentially suited to the course. Please note, it often takes a few weeks for forms to be processed through Monash University, International. Please contact the EPRD office in order to track your application processing.

I am interested but I need to know more . . . .

For the most up-to-date information about course fees, how to apply and any further information, it is best to contact:

Dr Sally Catt
Course Coordinator
Education Program in Reproduction and Development, Block B, 5th Floor, Monash Medical Centre, 246 Clayton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168, Australia
Phone: +61 3 9594 7434
Email: sally.catt@monash.edu

Monash University International Students Applications
http://www.monash.edu.au/
Go to Future students/International/Apply).

Monash University Residential Services
Information on accommodation choices and living costs
http://www.monash.edu.au/study/international/accommodation.html

Go to Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Postgraduate Studies/Masters degrees by coursework/ Clinical Embryology:
http://www.monash.edu.au/study/coursefinder/course/2309/
Other links:
Monash University Postgraduate Handbook

Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations www.dest.gov.au
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade www.dfat.gov.au Department of Immigration and Citizenship www.immi.gov.au
Australian Tax Office www.ato.gov.au

Australian Government Requirements for International Students
http://www.monash.edu/intoff/AGOV.html

Scholarships at Monash Australian Campuses
http://www.adm.monash.edu/scholarships

Scholarship Opportunities Offered Outside Monash
http://www.adm.monash.edu/scholarships/external.htm

PLEASE NOTE: While the information provided in this document was correct at the time of publication, Monash University reserves the right to alter procedures, fees and regulations should the need arise. Students should read carefully all official correspondence and other sources of information for students (such as websites) to be aware of changes in the information contained in this document. Monash University reserves the right to adjust annual tuition fees. However, Monash University undertakes that any fees adjustment will not exceed 10% per annum. This information was published correct as at June 2009.