

Cardiovascular Unit and Coronary Care Unit

Grampians Health Ballarat Cardiovascular Unit was opened in 2012 and consists of two fluoroscopy labs, one procedure room, and 12 pre- and post-procedural bays. The unit provides hybrid interventional cardiology and interventional radiology services, with 24/7 on call services. During 2021-2022, the unit performed >600 coronary angiograms, including >250 percutaneous coronary interventions. Almost half of these interventions were STEMI, with greater than 1 in 10 of these patients presenting to hospital in shock, or post cardiac arrest. While the unit's main workload is coronary intervention, the unit also performs insertion of pacing and defibrillation devices, direct current cardioversion (DCR), various imaging and functional modalities such as intravascular ultrasound (IVUS), fractional flow reserve (FFR), diastolic resting pressure ratios (DPR), transoesophageal echo, right heart studies, and valve assessments.

The Graduate Certificate in Cardiac Care is supported by rotations in Grampians Health Ballarat Coronary Care Unit (CCU), currently a hybrid ICU/CCU department, to further facilitate theoretical and practical application of the course material.



Application process

Applications must be made directly to Grampians Health Ballarat, and once a position is secured, an application can then be lodged with Deakin University.

The course is advertised on the Grampians Health website via e-recruit during September.

Online application is via Deakin University
<https://apply.deakin.edu.au/direct-applications>.

Additional Information

Grampians Health Ballarat

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**Centre for Education
& Training**

in affiliation with

Deakin University

**Graduate Certificate of
Cardiac Nursing**

Grampians Health Ballarat Campus

Grampians Health Ballarat is the largest regional health service in the Grampians region and the principal referral hospital. Grampians Health Ballarat admits in excess of 36,000 acute inpatients, performs more than 7,300 surgical operations, delivers more than 1,500 babies and treats more than 61,000 patients in the Emergency Department per annum.

The Centre for Education and Training offers a Graduate Certificate of Nursing in Perioperative, Emergency, Critical Care and Cardiac Care disciplines, in conjunction with Deakin University. A Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing – Oncology is offered in conjunction with the University of Melbourne, and a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Practice – Paediatrics is offered in conjunction with the University of Melbourne.

In addition to this, the Centre for Education and Training offers programs in a number of key speciality areas of nursing practice and conducts regular specialised short courses and study days.



Application Prerequisites

- Registered Nurse with AHPRA
- Minimum of 12 months recent post-registration acute general nursing experience

Selection Criteria

- Meets Deakin University selection criteria and subsequent acceptance into the Graduate Certificate of Cardiac Nursing.
- Meet medical, immunisation, police & working with children criteria
- Satisfactory interview
- Satisfactory clinical references

Structure of the Course

Course Aims:

To enable registered Division 1 nurses to gain a broad knowledge base from which to plan and care for patients who are critically ill.

To provide an academic and clinical environment for the professional growth of registered nurses into specialised cardiac care nurses.

Course Duration/Employment:

Course is of 12 months duration commencing in February of each year (incorporating rostered annual leave). Participants will be employed at 0.84 EFT with a contract for employment for duration of the course.

Theoretical Component:

Deakin University administers the theoretical component of the course. Grampians Health Ballarat provides a strong supportive link challenging the student's theoretical knowledge in the clinical setting. The theoretical program is completed in one academic year.

Clinical Component:

The clinical component of the course is undertaken in the Cardiovascular Unit and Coronary Care Unit of Grampians Health Ballarat with specific objectives and assessments as set by Deakin University. The Clinical Nurse Educator provides structured clinical tutorials, worksheets, daily bedside clinical teaching and progressive, dynamic assessment methods in order for the student to achieve clinical performance.

Clinical Supervision & Assessments

Clinical supervision, assessment and planning is undertaken by the Clinical Nurse Educator – Cardiac Care who is supernumerary to cardiac care staff. The Educator's role is to support, mentor and facilitate the student's clinical program and educational development and is primarily employed to support Post Graduate Students only.

Formal clinical appraisal and assessment of competency skills are undertaken throughout the course in accordance with Deakin University guidelines. Clinical assessments focus on the acquisition, understanding and demonstration of clinical skills in specialised areas of cardiac care.