



**Master of Nurse Practitioner (NS88)
LETTER SUPPORTING ADVANCED PRACTICE
Employer/Colleague Testimonial**

Purpose of this form:

Applicants must supply evidence of advanced practice knowledge and skills within an area of clinical practice before their application for entry into the program will be considered.

Additional entry requirements:

Applicants to the NS88 Master of Nurse Practitioner course at Queensland University of Technology must demonstrate at least four years fulltime-equivalent (FTE) experience as a registered nurse in a clinical area, including at least two years FTE experience at an advanced practice level in the relevant clinical area of practice. In addition, applicants must currently be working in an advanced practice nursing level while enrolled in the course.

Definition of advanced practice:

The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) defines advanced practice as “a level of nursing practice that utilises extended and expanded skills, experience and knowledge in the assessment, planning, implementation, diagnosis and evaluation of [nursing] care required. Nurses practicing at this level are educationally prepared at postgraduate level and may work in a specialist or generalist capacity. However, the basis of advanced practice is the high degree of knowledge, skill and experience applied in the nurse- patient/client relationship to achieve optimal outcomes through critical analysis, problem solving and accurate decision-making”¹.

Applicant instructions:

This form should be completed by a senior nurse, nurse manager or other nursing delegate (approved by the Postgraduate Course Coordinator or Study Area Coordinator) who can testify to the applicant’s level of practice. Sections 1 and 2 must be completed. Verification must include handwritten signatures on this form. Applicant must also attach employers’ statements of service on organisation letterhead. Please keep pages together and forward the completed **Evidence of Advanced Practice** with your application.

Section 1: Applicant’s Advanced Practice Employment Experience

I, _____, verify that _____
(Print first and last name) *(Applicant’s first and last name)*

has worked as an RN at an advanced practice level _____
(Organisation/facility name)

from _____ to _____ in a full time / part time position. Where part-time,
(date) *(date)* *(circle one)*

this required the applicant to work _____ hours per week, which is approximately a total of _____ years / months of advanced practice.
(circle one)

In regard to the applicant’s current practice responsibilities, I confirm that at least 50% or more of their current nursing role involves direct client care. Yes No

Signature:	Date:
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Section 2: Applicant's Advanced Knowledge and Skills

I verify that the above applicant has demonstrated knowledge and skills at an advanced practice level² as follows:

1. Uses best available evidence, observations and experience to plan, conduct and evaluate practice in ways which incorporate complexity and/or a multiplicity of elements
2. Uses health and/or nursing models as a basis for practice
3. Manages outcomes in complex clinical situations
4. Anticipates and meets the needs of individuals and groups with complex conditions and/or in high risk situations
5. Integrates and evaluates knowledge and resources from different disciplines and health care teams to effectively meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
6. Seeks out and integrates evidence from a range of sources to improve health care outcomes
7. Safely interprets and modifies guidelines and practice to meet the health care needs of individuals and groups
8. Leads and guides the nursing team to promote optimum standards of care
9. Shares information and resources to initiate improvements and/or innovation in nursing practice
10. Fosters and initiates research based nursing practice
11. Acts as a mentor and role model for nurses and other health professionals
12. Contributes to development of nursing knowledge, standards and resources through active participation at the broader professional level
13. Facilitates education of individuals and groups, students, nurses and other members of the health care team
14. Acts as a resource for other nurses and members of the health care team
15. Provides nursing as a resource to others through their capacity to practice outside single contexts and episodes of practice

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: _____

Position: _____

Organisation/Facility: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

Email address: _____

¹ NMBA (2014). *Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice (as of 1 Jan 2014)*. Available from the AHPRA website <http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Codes-Guidelines-Statements/Codes-Guidelines/nurse-practitioner-standards-of-practice.aspx>

² adapted from Australian Nursing Federation, *Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse*, 2005.

**Please complete and return this form to the applicant or directly to QUT at qut.applications@qut.edu.au*

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS RELATED TO THE CLINICAL LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT AND CLINICAL SUPPORT TEAM**

1. The applicant must have a minimum of four years full time equivalent clinical practice experience as a registered nurse in the nominated clinical field, which consists of a minimum of two years full time equivalent experience (within the last six years) at an **advanced practice** in the nominated specialty. In addition, the applicant must be **working at an advanced practice level** for the duration of the course.
2. The course comprises two semesters of integrated professional practice
 - Integrated Professional Practice 1 – 170 hours (a minimum of 130 hours)
 - Integrated Professional Practice 2 – 140 hours

Applicants are required to be supernumerary during the Integrated Professional Practice and to complete learning activities and assessment items in this course.

3. The applicant must have ready access to the nominated clinical support team (CST) during their supernumerary clinical learning days. The applicant's CST will provide support through supervision, monitoring and review of applicants extended practice to meet learning objectives.
4. Each applicant must have a CST consisting of two health practitioners. They must have relevant clinical and professional experience and currently practising in the applicant's nominated specialty field (for example, a medical practitioner or an authorised nurse practitioner, an advanced practice nurse, senior clinical nurse consultant or clinical nurse specialist). Other relevant health professionals can also form part of the CST (for example, senior dietician, pharmacist, psychologist).
5. The applicant is responsible for identifying and obtaining support from a suitable clinical learning environment and an appropriate CST. The composition of the CST will be determined and approved by the University prior to your enrolment in your first unit of study.
6. The CST members will be re-confirmed prior to the start of each semester in which the integrated professional practice unit is undertaken. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the Unit Coordinator of any changes to CST members or clinical learning environment as soon as practicable.
7. During the integrated professional practice unit, the applicant is expected to manage, under appropriate supervision, at least two complete episodes of care per week throughout the semester for typical patients/clients in the applicant's case load.
8. The CST will conduct clinical practice reviews on the applicant's management of these patients/clients. These reviews will be held weekly in the first half of the semester and at least fortnightly towards the end of the semester and will be the formal mechanism for teaching and learning. The practice reviews will draw upon documented care in the medical record, observation of practice and the applicant's case reporting and are a process for monitoring safety of practice. The reviews are an important teaching, learning and assessment strategy, but they also provide opportunities for the team to monitor the

quality of patient care.

9. The applicant is encouraged to develop a learning plan and discuss this plan and their learning goals with their CST early in the semester. In addition, they should make time throughout the semester to discuss their progress and make amendments to their plan, to ensure they meet the unit requirements before the end of the semester.
10. Specific details of assessment of clinical and academic performance during the integrated professional practice are outlined in the Unit Information and Student Support Handbook. It is the applicant's responsibility, in consultation with the clinical support team and the Unit Coordinator, to organise the processes for this assessment.
11. A member of the CST will be required to contribute to, and sign off, on assessment records for all two integrated professional practice units and to contribute to and sign off as a panel member/chair in a formal clinical viva.

Course contact:

The Postgraduate Course Coordinator
QUT School of Nursing and Midwifery
Victoria Park Road, Kelvin Grove, QLD 4059 Telephone: 07 3138
3884 Email: Nursing@qut.edu.au