

PODI14009 *Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine in Podiatry Practice*

Term 1 - 2026

Profile information current as at 11/05/2026 09:27 pm

All details in this unit profile for PODI14009 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

In this unit, you will assess and manage complex musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders common to the lower extremity. Rheumatology as it relates to the foot and associated arthropathies will be covered in detail with respect to aetiology, pathogenesis, clinical presentation, investigation, and management. You will learn how these disorders can be managed by different interventions, including the use of pressure reducing devices and footwear intervention.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 4*

Credit Points: *6*

Student Contribution Band: *8*

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Pre-requisite: PODI13011 Podiatry Clinical Practice 3. Co-requisite: PODI14008 Podiatry Clinical Practice 4.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2026

- Rockhampton

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. Written Assessment

Weighting: 20%

2. In-class Test(s)

Weighting: 50%

3. On-campus Activity

Weighting: 30%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback - Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from Staff feedback

Feedback

The radiology teaching materials in PODI14009 may benefit from an update to improve clarity and to scaffold effectively upon content delivered in pre-requisite units

Recommendation

It is recommended that the radiology teaching materials are reviewed and updated where required for clarity and for effective scaffolding upon what students have learned in prior units

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
2. Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
3. Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.
4. Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

Per NPC1320

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level ● Introductory Level ● Intermediate Level ● Graduate Level ● Professional Level ● Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4
1 - Written Assessment - 20%		●		●
2 - In-class Test(s) - 50%	●		●	
3 - On-campus Activity - 30%	●	●	●	●

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes			
	1	2	3	4

Graduate Attributes

Learning Outcomes

	1	2	3	4
1 - Communication	•	•	•	•
2 - Problem Solving	•	•	•	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•	•	•	•
4 - Information Literacy	•	•	•	•
5 - Team Work		•		•
6 - Information Technology Competence	•	•	•	•
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•	•	•	
8 - Ethical practice	•	•	•	•
9 - Social Innovation				
10 - First Nations Knowledges				
11 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures				

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

PODI14009

Prescribed

Neale's Disorders of the Foot and Ankle 9th Edition
9th Edition (2020)

Authors: Gordon Burrow, Keith Rome, Nat Padhiar
Elsevier

ISBN: 978-0-7020-6233-0

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- Zoom access for weekly meetings

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Benjamin Peterson Unit Coordinator
b.peterson@cqu.edu.au
Alexandra Bramley Unit Coordinator
a.bramley@cqu.edu.au

Schedule

Week 1 - Introduction to rheumatology and musculoskeletal diseases - 09 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be outlining the expectations and layout of this unit and providing you with an introduction to rheumatology and musculoskeletal disease. We will also cover the complexities around pain and explore osteoarthritis.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 2 - Imaging modalities and pathology in rheumatology - 16 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
During this lecture we will be diving into the imaging modalities and laboratory investigations used in rheumatology.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 3 - Sero-positive arthropathies - 23 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be exploring Sero-positive arthropathies including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Scleroderma and Sjogren's syndrome.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 4 - Sero-negative arthropathies - 30 Mar 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be exploring sero-negative arthropathies including but not limited to psoriatic arthritis, reactive arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, enteropathic arthritis.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 5 - Infectious and Crystal induced arthritis - 06 Apr 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we explore infectious and crystal induced arthritis such as septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, gout and pseudo-gout.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 6 - Non-inflammatory acute and chronic arthritides and pharmacology in rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine - 13 Apr 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will explore conditions such as torn ligaments, avascular necrosis and Charcot neuroarthropathy. We will also dive into the pharmacological management of Rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions and the impacts this has on the body and the lower limb.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	Written Assessment Due: Week 6 Friday (17 Apr 2026) 11:59 pm AEST

Vacation Week - 20 Apr 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
--------------	---------	------------------------------

No delivery of lecture material this week.

Week 7 - Biomechanical assessment and intervention in rheumatology - 27 Apr 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
We will explore gait changes associated with Rheumatological and musculoskeletal disease and the associated management.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 8 - Invasive and non-invasive management of rheumatological conditions pertinent to the lower limb - 04 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Together we will explore and discuss the conservative management of certain rheumatological and musculoskeletal conditions and when to refer for surgical opinion. We will also explore the surgical options and procedures available in the management of these conditions and when this is required.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	Practicum 9am to 5pm Scheduled for Friday Week 8 (contributes to Assessment 3 - On-campus activity, 30%).

Week 9 - Revision week - 11 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
This week we will be focused on consolidating the prior weeks of learning and spending time revising content ready for the in-class test in week 10.	Readings or textbook chapters for each week will be posted in Moodle. Please note that information from readings may be assessable.	

Week 10 - In-class test - 18 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
You will be undertaking assessment item 2 (in-class test, 50%) during normal scheduled class time.		In-class test Due: Week 10 Tuesday (19 May 2026) 2:00 pm AEST

Week 11: In-class revision session and mock OSCE - 25 May 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Utilise this time to review the results of your in-class test and prepare for your upcoming OSCE.		

Week 12: OSCE - 01 Jun 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
During normal lecture time this week, you will be required to undertake assessment item 3 - Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) which contributes to 30% of marks for this unit.		On-Campus Activity (OSCE) Due: Week 12 Tuesday (2 June 2026) 2:00 pm AEST

Exam Week - 08 Jun 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Vacation/Exam Week - 15 Jun 2026

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Written Assessment

Assessment Type
Written Assessment

Task Description

You will be required to submit a written assessment relating to a rheumatological case study relevant to podiatry practice. You are required to review the literature in order to establish the current knowledge of rheumatology and musculoskeletal assessment in podiatry practice. You will then be required to demonstrate your knowledge regarding holistic assessment and management.

Approved use of artificial intelligence (AI): Level 2 - AI Planning. You may use AI for planning, idea development, and research. Your final submission should show how you have developed and refined these ideas.

Assessment Due Date

Week 6 Friday (17 Apr 2026) 11:59 pm AEST

Submission via Moodle

Return Date to Students

Week 8 Friday (8 May 2026)

Feedback will be returned to you within 2 weeks from submission.

Weighting

20%

Assessment Criteria

This assessment should be prepared, and will be marked, in accordance with the 'assessment overview and marking rubric' which will be provided via the unit Moodle page.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

Submission via Moodle

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
- Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

2 In-class test

Assessment Type

In-class Test(s)

Task Description

You will be assessed in the form of a closed book, in-class test covering content from week 1 to week 9. This in-class test is scheduled for week 10, Tuesday 19th May, 2025. This will take place in your usual lecture time and will have a duration of 120 minutes.

The 72-hour grace period does not apply to this assessment item.

Approved use of artificial intelligence (AI): Level 1 - No AI. You must not use AI at any point during this assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

Assessment Due Date

Week 10 Tuesday (19 May 2026) 2:00 pm AEST

In-Class test will be conducted in your usual lecture time slot in week 10 and will be conducted over 120 minutes inclusive of reading time. Ensure you arrive at least 10 minutes prior to start time.

Return Date to Students

Week 12 Friday (5 June 2026)

Results will be made available within two weeks after the in-class test.

Weighting

50%

Assessment Criteria

The in-class test will be marked according to a marking guide developed specifically for this assessment task.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Submission Instructions

At the completion of the in-class test, all completed in-class test papers are to be handed to the unit coordinator or equivalent.

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
- Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.

3 On-Campus Activity (OSCE)

Assessment Type

On-campus Activity

Task Description

You will be required to attend campus for a compulsory practicum Friday Week 8 (9:00am to 5:00pm) then attend an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) on Tuesday Week 12 at 2:00pm, which is weighted at 30%. This assessment will allow students to demonstrate their clinical knowledge, skill and competence, in clinical scenarios. During this assessment, you will be tasked with multiple clinical stations/scenarios to demonstrate your clinical skill set. You will be made aware of the station topics and number of stations prior to the examination date. Included topic will be relating to all areas covered in POD114009 until the end of year 4 term 1. Based on clinical scenarios, you will be required to discuss and perform aspects of relevant patient management and clearly articulate and demonstrate your knowledge and clinical skills. This will be a closed book on-campus assessment.

The 72-hour grace period does not apply to this assessment item.

Approved use of artificial intelligence (AI): Level 1 - No AI. You must not use AI at any point during this assessment. You must demonstrate your core skills and knowledge.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Tuesday (2 June 2026) 2:00 pm AEST

The location of this assessment will be made available to you closer to the date.

Return Date to Students

Vacation/Exam Week Tuesday (16 June 2026)

Results will be made available within two weeks of assessment completion.

Weighting

30%

Minimum mark or grade

50%

Assessment Criteria

You will be assessed according to an assessment rubric made available to you via the POD114009 Moodle site during the term.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Offline

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Recognise and appraise the pathophysiology and clinical pattern of common arthropathies and musculoskeletal disorders specific to the lower extremity
- Evaluate conservative therapies applicable to the patient with rheumatic diseases and implement an appropriate patient-centred management plan.
- Develop patient education strategies for optimum management of common lower extremity musculoskeletal and inflammatory disorders.
- Engage in active learning and apply an evidence based approach to rheumatology and musculoskeletal medicine in podiatry practice.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem