

Research Options in your Medical Degree

Frequently Asked Questions 2017 Overview

What are the options to do research while enrolled in UQ medicine?

- **The Clinician Scientist Track (CST)** refers to the MD-PhD and MD-MPhil. There are three ways to incorporate a PhD or an MPhil into the medical program; the intercalated MD-PhD or MD-MPhil and the Concurrent MD-MPhil. The CST allows students to combine a Research Higher Degree (RHD), either an MPhil or PhD, with the medical program.
- **Extended Research** refers to a wide variety of volunteer extracurricular research opportunities for all medical students, regardless of their research background, with an interest in doing some research during their medical program.
- **MD-MPH** incorporates a Masters of Public Health (MPH) into the MD degree.
- **Summer Research Scholarships** provide excellent opportunities for students to get 'hands on' research experience concentrated over the summer break.

While there are a variety of options available – not all students will be eligible for each option. The following websites contain all details and information about student research.

- [Medical Student Research Portal](http://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au) <http://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au>
- [Research in your medical degree](https://medicine.uq.edu.au/research-your-medical-degree) <https://medicine.uq.edu.au/research-your-medical-degree>

Can anyone do a Research Higher Degree (MPhil or PhD) during medical school?

No. Not all students will be eligible. Please see the descriptions of the MD-PhD and MD-MPhil options on [Research in your medical degree](#) webpage.

Can anyone do Extended Research during their medical program?

Yes. While the MD curriculum will provide didactic training in the research process and certain skills, all students are encouraged to get involved in an extra-curricular 'hands on' project in a volunteer capacity. Please see the description of Extended Research on [Research in your medical degree](#) webpage.

How will I get started looking for a research area or project?

The 'Find a Project' database on the [Medical Student Research Portal](#), is a searchable database that contains contacts, potential projects and advisors to assist students in finding a suitable area of research.

- ✚ Students do not have to choose a research project from the Portal, but it is a good place to start for ideas, guidance and assistance.

Find a Project:

1. Browse the database to learn more about available projects and supervisors
2. Complete an *Enquiry Form* on any project that you have a genuine interest in, and submit the form.
3. A copy of your form will be sent to the supervisor, and you should receive a reply within a week. *If you don't receive a reply in a weeks' time, you may contact studentresearch@uq.edu.au for assistance.*
4. From that point you may discuss the project or topic directly with the supervisor and explore opportunities.

Will I be allowed any time out of my medical program to devote to research activity?

No. There is no dedicated time out of the medical program to devote to extra-curricular research or a Research Higher Degree. All students must fulfil all the normal requirements of the medical program.

What types of research projects are best for medical students?

Because students do not get dedicated time to devote to a research project, it is strongly recommended that you choose projects that are flexible and feasible within your curriculum timeframe. Projects that have time critical components such as wet lab work should be considered carefully, and probably avoided unless the lab time can be done at weekends or in summer breaks.

Please **choose research projects** that;

- are flexible and will allow you to do research work in your spare time e.g., weekends and holidays,
- involve data that is readily available through secondary sources such as databases, charts, etc.
- are not dependant on strict timelines or deadlines.

Can I get officially acknowledged for my research projects, and research output and achievements as part of my medical program?

Yes. We have a simple process that will allow us to acknowledge your extra-curricular research activity and research output throughout your medical degree. This acknowledgement is vital to your early career progression, your CV, future references, and your Dean's letter.

- Please register and report all your research activity, projects, publications, presentations and awards on the [Medical Student Research Portal](http://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au) <http://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au>
- **If you don't report it on the Portal we can't acknowledge your efforts when you graduate.**

I have no research experience at all. Where should I start?

- Start by looking at the [Medical Student Research Portal](#) for a broad variety of research projects, activities and supervisors on the 'Find a Project' database
- Please understand that with little or no prior research experience you may be limited in the types of activities you may be allowed to do, especially in wet lab or clinical research.
- Try looking for research projects that involve analysis of secondary data or existing data.
- Public health and health systems research, medical education and epidemiological research are good options to look for.
- Literature reviews or a systematic literature reviews are also excellent experience.

Also keep in mind the **Summer Research Scholarship** scheme which is run by the UQ Advantage Office

- All the information is available here: www.uq.edu.au/uqadvantage

Are students who are based outside of Brisbane, e.g., Ochsner and Rural Clinical Schools, able to participate in research?

Yes. Students are encouraged to find research projects within their study location but may also undertake research that is based in Brisbane. Please keep in mind the practicality of what you do. e.g., if you are based outside of Brisbane, the research should not entail work that must be done in Brisbane or is dependent on strict time frames.

I don't have a research Honours as part of my Bachelors degree. Am I still eligible to enrol in an MPhil or a PhD?

It is possible that the Graduate School will allow you to enrol in a RHD without a research Honours. Please look carefully at the link below which outlines other evidence of your readiness to enrol in a RHD.

- [Evidence of Relevant Experience](#)

I have an Honours degree based on GPA only, i.e. it did not include a significant research component or production of a written thesis, does this count as Honours to the Graduate School?

High academic merit is very important to gaining entry into a RHD. It is possible that the Graduate School will allow you to enrol in a RHD without a research Honours. However, look carefully at the link below which outlines other evidence of your readiness to enrol in a RHD.

- [Evidence of Relevant Experience](#)

I am interested in doing clinical research or wet lab research. Which Clinician Scientist Track is best for me?

If your interest is clinical research or basic science and wet lab work, the Intercalated MD-PhD or MD-MPhil is strongly recommended. This track will allow you ample time to immerse yourself in your project and the research culture.

- Please read the Intercalated MD-PhD or MD-MPhil on the [Research in your medical degree](#) webpage

I am an international student. Will I have to pay tuition fees to enrol in a RHD (MPhil or PhD)?

Yes. International students are required to pay postgraduate tuition fees to undertake an MPhil or a PhD.

- Please refer to 'Fees and Costs' at this link <https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/fees>

UQ-Ochsner Students - Please see the specific FAQs on the UQ-Ochsner Student page for options around RHDs.