

Clinician Scientist Track

2017 MD-PhD & MD-MPhil

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Research Higher Degree (RHD)?

A Research Higher Degree (RHD) is a term that collectively refers to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a Master of Philosophy (MPhil). Both degrees are post graduate degrees and are administered by the Graduate School.

- <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are interested in or considering an MPhil or PhD while enrolled in the MD program, please remember that you must **first** get approval from the Faculty of Medicine to apply.*

- *Contact the Director of MD/MBBS Research (A/Prof Diann Eley d.eley@uq.edu.au) to discuss your eligibility and plans.*

There are three models to combining a RHD with the UQ medical program.

CONCURRENT MD-MPhil – Concurrent means you undertake your research part-time – ‘concurrently’ - with your full-time MD. This model does not require you to take time out of the MD.

- Students must attain and maintain a GPA =>5.5 throughout the medical program.
- Students must be eligible for enrolment in an MPhil. All details of eligibility criteria and requirements for undertaking an MPhil can be found at <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>
- Students must first seek approval to apply for the MPhil by contacting the Director of MD/MBBS Research A/Prof Diann Eley (d.eley@uq.edu.au)
- The part-time MPhil requires a minimum of two and a maximum of four years to complete.
 - It can be completed after graduating from the MD.
- Commencing the MPhil is in January of Year 2 MD.
- Concurrent MPhil candidates must fulfil ALL full-time requirements of the MD whilst doing the MPhil research on a part-time basis.
- Concurrent MD-MPhil students are not allowed dedicated time out of their MD curriculum to work on research.
- The concurrent model is only available for the MPhil.

Timeframe for Concurrent MD-MPhil

MD Y1: <i>Decision & Application</i> Year 1	MD Y2: <i>Commence MPhil</i> Year 2	MD Y3 Year 3	MD Y4 Year 4
Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 • Attend research information sessions	Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Commence MPhil PT	Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD • Continue MPhil PT	Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD • Continue/finish MPhil PT
Feb–Jun: Attend research information sessions • Contact Director of MD Research with EOI & CV for approval to apply for PhD	Jan-Dec: MPhil PT includes; • research preparation, lit review, ethics, planning	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained
~Aug: If approved to apply for the PhD; • Internal application deadline Sep/Oct • Outcomes announced Nov/Dec • Y1 Elective can be used for research	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained		Dec: • MD Graduation • MPhil ready to submit or already submitted

INTERCALATED MD-MPhil and MD-PhD – Intercalated means you will undertake a mixture of part-time and full-time research intercalated with your MD. This model requires time out of the MD.

Intercalated MD-MPhil

- Students must attain and maintain a GPA =>5.5 throughout the medical program.
- Students must be eligible for enrolment in an MPhil. All details of eligibility criteria and requirements for undertaking an MPhil can be found at <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>.
- Students must first seek approval to apply for the MPhil by contacting the Director of MD/MBBS Research A/Prof Diann Eley (d.eley@uq.edu.au).
- This model is completed over 5 years with a mixture of part- and full-time research intercalated into the MD.
- Commencing the MPhil is in January of Year 2 MD.
- The point of intercalating the full-time research is after completion of Year 2.
- After completing the full-time research year, students return to clinical MD Year 3 and finish the MPhil part-time.
- It is expected that Intercalated MPhil students will complete the MPhil by or before their MD graduation.
- Intercalated MD-MPhil students are not allowed dedicated time out of their MD curriculum to work on research.

Timeframe for Intercalated MD-MPhil

MD Y1: <i>Decision & Application</i> Year 1	MD Y2: <i>Commence MPhil</i> Year 2	Research Year 3	MD Y3 Year 4	MD Y4 Year 5
Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 • Attend research information sessions	Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Commence PhD PT	MPhil FT Research + Clinical skills sessions*	Jan-Dec: Return to FT MD • Continue MPhil PT	Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD • Continue/finish MPhil PT
Feb–Jun: Attend all research information sessions • Contact Director of MD Research with EOI & CV for approval to apply for MPhil	Jan-Dec: MPhil PT includes; • research preparation, lit review, ethics, planning		Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained
~Aug: If approved to apply for the MPhil; • Internal application deadline Sep/Oct • Outcomes announced Nov/Dec • Y1 Elective can be used for research	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained			Dec: • MD Graduation • MPhil ready to submit or already submitted

**Clinical skills refreshers sessions 2-3 times per year.*

Intercalated MD-PhD

- Students must attain and maintain a GPA =>5.5 throughout the medical program.
- Students must be eligible for enrolment in a PhD. All details of eligibility criteria and requirements for undertaking a PhD can be found at <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>
- Students must first seek approval to apply for the PhD by contacting the Director of MD/MBBS Research A/Prof Diann Eley (d.eley@uq.edu.au)
- The MD-PhD is generally completed over 6-7 years with a mixture of part- and full-time research intercalated into the four year MD.
- Students will take two years out of the MD to work full-time on research.
- Students may begin the PhD part-time in January of MD Year 2.
- The point of intercalating the full-time research is after completion of Year 2 for two years.
- After completing the two full-time research years, students return to clinical Years 3 & 4 and continue to work on the PhD part-time.
- Intercalated PhD students are expected to be close to completing their PhD by MD graduation but do not need to graduate both degrees together.
- Intercalated MD-PhD students are not allowed dedicated time out of their MD curriculum to work on research.

Timeframe for Intercalated MD-PhD

MD Y1: <i>Decision & Application</i> Year 1	MD Y2: <i>Commence PhD</i> Year 2	Research Year 3	Research Year 4	MD Y3 Year 5	MD Y4 Year 6
Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 • Attend research information sessions	Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Commence PhD PT	PhD FT Research + Clinical skills sessions*	PhD FT Research + Clinical skills sessions*	Jan-Dec: Return to FT MD • Continue PhD PT	Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD • Continue/finish PhD PT
Feb–Jun: Attend all research information sessions • Contact Director of MD Research with EOI & CV for approval to apply for PhD	Jan-Dec: PhD PT includes; • research preparation, literature review, ethics, planning			Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained
~Aug: If approved to apply for the PhD; • Internal application deadline Sep/Oct • Outcomes announced Nov/Dec • Y1 Elective can be used for research	Jan-Dec: • GPA =>5.5 must be maintained				Dec: • MD Graduation • PhD ready to submit or in final stages of writing

**Clinical skills refreshers sessions 2-3 times per year.*

When can I apply to do a Research Higher Degree during the MD?

The earliest point to commence either the Intercolated PhD or MPhil, and Concurrent MPhil is January of MD Year 2.

What are the eligibility criteria for entry into the Clinician Scientist Track: MD-PhD or MD-MPhil?

The MPhil and the PhD are postgraduate Research Higher Degrees (RHD) and are administered by the UQ Graduate School. A medical student wishing to combine a RHD with their medical program, (i.e. enrol in an MPhil or a PhD whilst enrolled in the MD), must satisfy **two sets of eligibility criteria**; the Graduate School and the Faculty of Medicine (FOM).

1) The Faculty of Medicine determines if a student is allowed to apply for an MPhil or a PhD whilst enrolled in the medical program.

- Only students who demonstrate all of the following criteria will be considered for the Clinician Scientist Track, either the MPhil or the PhD.
 - ✓ meet the enrolment requirements for an MPhil or PhD as specified by the Graduate School (see below)
 - ✓ attain and maintain a GPA =>5.5 throughout the medical program
 - ✓ identify a research project suitable for the MPhil or PhD, and
 - ✓ identify a principal supervisor who has agreed to supervise the MPhil or PhD
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure they understand and meet all the above criteria.
- If the above criteria are met, MD students must **first seek approval to apply for an RHD** through an interview with the Director of MD/MBBS Research, A/Prof Diann Eley (d.eley@uq.edu.au)

2) The Graduate School determines whether or not a student will be approved to undertake either an MPhil or PhD.

- All details of eligibility criteria and requirements for applying to enrol in a RHD can be found at this link. <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>
- It is the student's responsibility to understand the eligibility requirements for enrolment in an MPhil or PhD.

I am not sure if I would be eligible to enrol in a Research Higher Degree, what other experience is considered by the Graduate School for RHD enrolment?

If you are not sure if you would qualify to enrol in a RHD, look carefully at the links below which outlines basic requirements and other evidence considered by the Graduate School.

- Degree requirements: <https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/uq-research-degrees>
- Evidence of Relevant Experience

What are RHD 'Milestones'?

The UQ Graduate School's milestone process is designed to provide students with a structured approach to the progression of their research.

- The milestone process is mandatory for all RHD students.
- It is the student's responsibility to understand the Milestone process, what is required for each, and when each Milestone is due.
- Milestones compliment your research progression, help keep you on track, and ensure you have the opportunity to receive feedback and guidance throughout your candidature.
- <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/completing-each-milestone>

I am a UQ-Ochsner student. What are my RHD options?

Ochsner students who are interested in pursuing the MD-PhD or the MD-MPhil should contact the Director of MD/MBBS Research to discuss eligibility, options and help identify a suitable research topic and advisors.

- Please read carefully Research Options for Ochsner Students

I am an international student. What are my RHD options?

International students may participate in all research options.

All International students are required to pay tuition fees for a Research Higher Degree (MPhil or PhD)

- Please read carefully about 'Scholarships and Fees' for International Students on the Graduate School web site. <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/scholarships-and-fees>

What scholarship opportunities are available to MD-RHD students?

- **School of Medicine:** See this link <https://medicine.uq.edu.au/prizes-and-scholarships-0>
- **Graduate School:** See this link Scholarships
 - ✓ Includes scholarships for domestic and international students

What are the FIRST STEPS to applying for the Clinician Scientist Track?

In this order please:

1. Ensure you understand all of the information provided on the [Research in your medical degree](#) webpage, the FAQs and links to [The Graduate School](#) regarding eligibility to enrol in an MPhil.
2. Ensure you are eligible to apply for an RHD according to the rules set out by [The Graduate School](#), and that you understand the Milestone requirements, see [Milestones webpage](#).
3. Ensure you have a GPA from your first year MD =>5.5 and seriously consider whether you can maintain a 5.5 GPA throughout your MD and alongside an MPhil or a PhD.
4. Identify a research project or area of interest.
5. Identify a Principal Supervisor who has previous experience in supervising Research Higher Degree students and is agreeable to supervise you. The [Medical Student Research Portal](#) and [UQ Researchers](#) may help you to identify a project and a supervisor.
6. Send your Curriculum Vitae (CV) plus the name and affiliation of your proposed Principal Supervisor to the Director of MD/MBBS Research [Associate Professor Di Eley](#) to arrange an interview.

Project Topic and Supervision

Can I choose my own research RHD project and supervisors?

Yes. Keep in mind that the decision regarding your research project must be made in partnership with an appropriate supervisor and final approval is by the Director of MD/MBBS Research, during your interview.

- It is important to take time to consider the area of research interest and then do some 'research' in finding a topic and a supervisor.
- 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.

How many RHD supervisors do I need?

Every RHD candidate must have at least two supervisors who are qualified to supervise RHD students. One will act as Principal and at least one other will act as a co-supervisor.

Can I choose a project and/or advisor outside the Faculty of Medicine, in another UQ school, research centre or institute?

Yes. See the 'Find a Project' database on the [Medical Student Research Portal](#) and also 'Handy Links' on the Portal 'News' page

Can I choose a supervisor who does not hold a teaching position at UQ but is a clinician in a teaching hospital?

Yes. This is possible as long as;

- the clinician is a UQ Titleholder
- is qualified to supervise RHD students, and
- at least one other co-supervisor, is a member of UQ staff and also qualified to supervise RHD students.

Do MD-PhD and MD-MPhil students get any special consideration in terms of choice of clinical school location?

Yes. MD-RHD students will receive special consideration for choice of clinical school location, as well as other items of special consideration associated with the MD curriculum.