

2021

## MD Research Advice for UQ-Ochsner Students

Students in the UQ-Ochsner cohort are encouraged to enhance their research experience while in the UQ medical program. This experience can take place in Brisbane Australia and/or at the Ochsner Clinical School (OCS) in New Orleans USA.

### *Please keep in mind - Priorities for Ochsner Students*

For most UQ-Ochsner students, the best time to get involved in research is in Phase 2 of the MD Program while at OCS. *Your priorities in Years 1 and 2 must be about preparation for the USMLE Step One and maintaining successful progression in the MD Program.*

## Clinician Scientist Track (CST)

The Clinician Scientist Track (CST) - refers to combining a PhD or an MPhil into the medical program. Students must be eligible to enroll in a Higher Degree Research (HDR).

### *What is a Higher Degree by Research (HDR)?*

- A Higher Degree by Research (HDR) is a term that collectively refers to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and a Master of Philosophy\* (MPhil). Both are postgraduate degrees and are administered by the UQ Graduate School. <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>

*\*The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is equivalent to the Master of Science (MSc) degree*

### *Can anyone do a HDR (MPhil or PhD) during medical school?*

- Not all students will be eligible. Please see the descriptions of the PhD and MPhil on the Graduate School website which describes each HDR <http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees>

### *What is the model for combining a HDR with the MD Degree?*

- The MPhil or the PhD is undertaken as an intercalated model, which means that you interrupt your MD degree to do full time MPhil or PhD research
- INTERCALATED MD-MPhil – requires one year out of the MD.
- INTERCALATED MD-PhD – requires three years out of the MD.

### *When can I apply to do a HDR (PhD or MPhil) during the MD?*

- Enrolled Ochsner (international) MD students apply in June of MD Year 2 to commence the following January

### *When can I start the MD-HDR?*

- The earliest an enrolled MD student can start either the Intercalated PhD or MPhil, is January after successful completion of MD Year 2.

- **[View MD-HDR timeframes](#)**

### *What scholarship opportunities are available to MD-HDR students?*

- The UQ Graduate School Scholarship (UQGSS) is the primary funding for HDR tuition and living stipend. All details are at this link [Scholarships](#)
- Application for the MPhil or PhD includes the UQGSS i.e. there is no separate [scholarship](#) application.

*I do not have a research Honours as part of my Bachelor's degree am I still eligible to enroll in an MPhil or a PhD?*

- Look carefully at the links below which outline basic requirements and other evidence of eligibility considered by the Graduate School.
- After you have read the requirements, if you are not clear you are eligible, you may contact the Director of MD Research with your CV and any questions.
  - <https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/uq-research-degrees>
  - [Evidence of Relevant Experience](#)

*I have an Honours degree based on GPA only, does this count as Honours to the Graduate School?*

- High academic merit is very important to gaining entry into a HDR. It is possible that the Graduate School will allow you to enrol in a HDR without a research Honours. However, look carefully at the link below that outlines other evidence of your readiness to enrol in a HDR.
  - [Evidence of Relevant Experience](#)

*What are HDR 'Milestones'?*

- Completion of HDR milestones is mandatory for all HDR candidates.
- The milestone process provides a structured approach to the progression of your research degree. Milestones help keep you on track, and ensure you receive feedback and guidance throughout your candidature.
- *It is the student's responsibility to understand the milestone process, what is required for each, and when each milestone is due.*
- [The Faculty of Medicine HDR Support webpage gives a comprehensive guide for completing each milestone. https://medicine.uq.edu.au/research/hdr-student-support](#)

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

- *Contact the Director of MD Research (Professor Di Eley [d.eley@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.eley@uq.edu.au)) to discuss your eligibility before commencing MDYear 2.*

**Reminder:** *Please direct any questions you have regarding the MD-PhD or the MD-MPhil, not answered on these FAQs or the website, to the Director of MD Research. Professor Di Eley. [d.eley@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.eley@uq.edu.au)*

## HDR Project Topic and Supervision

*Can I choose my own HDR project and supervisors?*

- Yes. Keep in mind that it is important to take time to consider your area of research and an appropriate supervisor.
- The decision regarding your research project must be made in partnership with an appropriate supervisor and final approval of your project is by the Director of MD Research, during an interview.

*How many HDR supervisors do I need?*

- Every HDR candidate must have at least two supervisors who are qualified to supervise HDR 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 center or institute?*

- Yes this is possible. However, it must be discussed with and approved by the Director of MD Research as early as possible, and before the application deadline.

*Can I choose a supervisor who does not hold a paid position at UQ but is a clinician in a teaching hospital i.e. an Academic Title Holder?*

- Yes. This is possible. However, it must be discussed with and approved by the Director of MD Research as early as possible.

*Do MD-PhD and MD-MPhil students get any 'special consideration' associated with the MD curriculum?*

- Yes. MD-PhD and MD-MPhil students will receive special consideration for choice of clinical school and placement location in MD Year 3 and Year 4