

# 2021 FAQs

## 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>

### *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 domestic MD students can apply to a PhD or MPhil in ~ August/September of MD Year 2 to commence the HDR the following January.
- Enrolled international MD students apply in June of MD Year 2 to commence the following January.

### *When can I start the PhD or MPhil?*

- 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](#)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> June of MD Year 2*

### *I am a UQ-Ochsner student. What are my HDR options?*

- Ochsner students who are interested in pursuing the MD-PhD or the MD-MPhil should contact the Director of MD Research to discuss eligibility before commencing MDY2.
- Please read the FAQs for UQ-Ochsner Students on the **Ochsner Student Research Hub**

### *I am an international student. What are my HDR options?*

- International students who are interested in pursuing the MD-PhD or the MD-MPhil should contact the Director of MD Research to discuss eligibility before commencing MDY2.

### *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>

**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.