

MEDI7281: Foundations of Medical Research

Information for prospective students

About this course

The *Foundations of Medical Research* course (MEDI7281) is designed to enable students in the second year of the University of Queensland (UQ) Doctor of Medicine (MD) program to complete a health-related research, translational or development project over a 16-week semester. For example, this could range from laboratory-based research, to development of an e-Health or medical education tool, to evaluating the implementation of a new health service. Researchers from across a broad range of disciplines and settings have been invited to submit project proposals to supervise one or more students as part of this course. **Approved projects will be advertised to students via the MD Community Site during March-April.** Details on how you can be matched to a project, or find your own, are available on the MEDI7281 [website](#).

Rationale for course

Understanding the research process and developing critical thinking and analytical skills is vital to doctors in the evidence-based and ever-changing practice of medicine. The UQ MD program has a diverse student cohort with varying levels of prior research experience. This course will provide students with practical experience conducting an individual project.

Learning activities

The course duration is 16 weeks (5 July 2021 to 29 October 2021). **Students are expected to commit an average of 8 hours per week to an allocated project across the 16 weeks** (i.e., total time commitment of ~128 hours). Each student's primary contact will be with their project supervisor, but students will be kept on track by authentic assessments designed as project milestones. All assessment will be managed by the course coordinator. Students will be provided with online learning resources, report templates and optional tutorials to assist them in meeting their project milestones.

Assessment

Assessment	Description	Due Dates (2021)
Project milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project synopsis (2 pages, template provided) • Progress report (1 page, template provided) • Abstract (max 350 words) • Oral presentation (7 min talk, 3 min questions) 	30 Jul 25 Aug - 15 Sep 18 Oct 25 Oct
Supervisor feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A short checklist and opportunity to provide feedback to the student 	TBA

Role of the supervisor

This course is designed to allow students to experience what it is like to work as part of a research team. As such, we have made it clear to all supervisors that they are expected to spend approximately 30 minutes per week (or 1 hour per fortnight) with each student or group of students. Depending on the nature of the project, students may require additional training from their supervisor or another mentor. Supervisors may also ask postdoctoral research fellows and/or PhD students to assist with supervision.

What type of projects are suitable?

We have asked supervisors to propose projects that allow you to have a meaningful learning experience by involving you in an ongoing project or supervising you in an independent project. Eligible projects include:

- Observational studies (e.g., surveys, chart reviews)
- Secondary data analysis
- Laboratory research
- Literature reviews (e.g., systematic review)
- IT development projects
- Digital health projects
- Interventional studies
- Social science methods (e.g., interviews, qualitative research)
- Data-linkage studies
- Translational projects (e.g., implementing evidence into practice, knowledge translation)

Who can supervise a project?

Supervisors must have a Higher Degree by Research or equivalent research experience. Supervisors must be able to guide students' projects and support them in completing their project milestones.

Role of the student

Students are expected to commit an average of 8 hours per week to their project across 16 weeks. Depending on your timetable, you may not have a whole day free for research and may need to work on your project over multiple part-days. We have communicated this to supervisors.

Frequently asked questions

Can multiple students work on a single project/study?

Yes. However, students are expected to engage in individual scholarship, so even if you are working on a larger project, you should be allocated a smaller sub-project that you can identify as your own work.

What is the expected time commitment for students and supervisors?

Projects are 16-weeks long and students are expected to spend an average of 8 hours per week working on their project. Supervisors are expected to spend approximately 30 minutes per week (or 1 hour per fortnight) with each student or group of students.

Do proposed projects need to be covered by an ethics approval?

Yes, if the project requires approval by an ethics committee, this must be in place before Semester 2. This is the supervisor's responsibility.

Is there funding available to cover project costs?

There is no funding available for student projects. Projects will need to be short and contained, therefore, "sub-projects" of already funded studies that are up and running, or projects that require minimal resource costs, would be suitable.

Can students suggest a supervisor and project?

While it is expected that most students will conduct a project sourced by the course coordinator, you may propose your own supervisor/project. Approval of "student-sourced projects" will be based on the following criteria: (1) the project is of a suitable size and scope for MEDI7281; (2) the proposed supervisor is appropriately qualified and equipped to supervise you; and (3) the supervisor confirms their interest in supervising you as part of the MEDI7281 course by completing a project proposal form. More information about sourcing your own project is available on Blackboard.

More information

For more information and for **key dates**, please visit the Foundations of Medical Research [website](#) or contact the Course Coordinator, Dr Megan Steele via med.yr2projects@uq.edu.au