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 degrees are post graduate degrees and are administered by the Graduate School. [http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees](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 MD-PhD and MD-MPhil options on the Research in your medical degree webpage, and the Graduate School. [http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees](http://www.uq.edu.au/grad-school/our-research-degrees) which describe each HDR

There are three models to combining an HDR with the MD degree.
- CONCURRENT MD-MPhil – Concurrent means you undertake your research part-time – ‘concurrently’ - with your full-time MD. This model does not require time out of the MD.
- INTERCALATED MD-MPhil – Intercalated means you will undertake a mixture of part-time and full-time research intercalated with your MD. This model requires one year out of the MD.
- INTERCALATED MD-PhD – Intercalated means you will undertake a mixture of part-time and full-time research intercalated with your MD. This model requires two years out of the MD.

See MD-HDR Timeframes below

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 in MD Year 1, or MD Year 2 to commence the HDR the following January.
  - Enrolled international MD students apply in July 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, or the Concurrent MPhil is January after completion of Year 1 MD
- The latest start is January after completion of Year 2 MD.

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 (A/Prof Di Eley d.eley@uq.edu.au) to discuss your eligibility.

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. Please read carefully Research Options for Ochsner Students
I am an international student. What are my HDR options?
• International students are encouraged to participate in all research options.
• For international HDR students, there is a requirement to pay tuition fees for MPhil or PhD however there are competitive Graduate School Scholarships available to cover costs.

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.
  o UQ Graduate School Scholarship (UQGSS) (Living and tuition, for domestic and international students)
• All UQ scholarships are listed at this link: Scholarships

I don’t have a research Honours as part of my Bachelor’s degree and I am not sure if I would be eligible to enroll in a PhD or MPhil. 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.
  • [https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/uq-research-degrees](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 RHD. 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 which outlines other evidence of your readiness to enrol in a HDR.
  • [https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/evidence-relevant-research-experience](https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/evidence-relevant-research-experience)

What are HDR ‘Milestones’?

• The milestone process provides students with a structured approach to the progression of their research. Milestones compliment your research progression, 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.
  • MD-HDR students must the Faculty of Medicines’ guide for completing each milestone at this link: [https://medicine.uq.edu.au/research/hdr-student-support](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. A/Prof Di Eley. [d.eley@uq.edu.au](mailto:d.eley@uq.edu.au)
### Timeframe for the UQ Intercalated MD-PhD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MD Y1: Decision &amp; Application Year 1</th>
<th>MD Y2: Commence PhD Year 2</th>
<th>Research Year 3</th>
<th>Research Year 4</th>
<th>MD Y3 Year 5</th>
<th>MD Y4 Year 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1</td>
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<td>• Attend research information sessions</td>
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<td>Feb–Jun: Attend all research information sessions &amp; contact Director of MD Research with EOI &amp; CV for approval to apply for PhD</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: PhD PT</td>
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<td>Jan-Dec: Return to FT MD</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD</td>
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<td>• Continue PhD PT</td>
<td>• Continue/finish PhD PT</td>
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<td>*Aug: If approved to apply for the PhD; Internal application deadline Sep/Oct</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil PT</td>
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<td>Jan-Dec: GPA &gt;=5.5 must be maintained</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: GPA &gt;=5.5 must be maintained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes announced ~Dec</td>
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<td>Dec:</td>
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<td>Y1 Elective can be used for research</td>
<td></td>
<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>MD Graduation</td>
<td>PhD ready to submit or already submitted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* *Clinical skills workshops will be provided across research years to help ensure students keep up clinical contact and skills.*

**FT=full time; PT=part time**

### Timeframe for the UQ Intercalated MD-MPhil

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MD Y1: Decision &amp; Application Year 1</th>
<th>MD Y2: Commence MPhil Year 2</th>
<th>Research Year 3</th>
<th>MD Y3 Year 4</th>
<th>MD Y4 Year 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1</td>
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<td>• Attend research information sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb–Jun: Attend all research information sessions &amp; contact Director of MD Research with EOI &amp; CV for approval to apply for MPhil</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil PT</td>
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<td>Jan-Dec: GPA &gt;=5.5 must be maintained</td>
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<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>Dec:</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Aug: If approved to apply for the MPhil; Internal application deadline Sep/Oct</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: GPA &gt;=5.5 must be maintained</td>
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<td>MD Graduation</td>
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<td>Outcomes announced ~Dec</td>
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<td>Y1 Elective can be used for research</td>
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* *Clinical skills workshops will be provided across research years to help ensure students keep up clinical contact and skills.*

**FT=full time; PT=part time**

### Timeframe for the UQ Concurrent MD-MPhil

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<tr>
<th>MD Y1: Decision &amp; Application Year 1</th>
<th>MD Y2: Commence MPhil Year 2</th>
<th>MD Y3 Year 3</th>
<th>MD Y4 Year 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Attend research information sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb–Jun: Attend research information sessions</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact Director of MD Research with EOI &amp; CV for approval to apply for MPhil</td>
<td>PT</td>
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<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>*Clinical skills sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>*Aug: If approved to apply for the MPhil; Internal application deadline Sep/Oct</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: GPA &gt;=5.5 must be maintained</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcomes announced ~Dec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Y1 Elective can be used for research</td>
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**FT=full time; PT=part time**

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Can I choose my own research HDR 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 Research, during an interview.
- It is important to take time to consider your area of research and an appropriate supervisor.
- The ‘Find a Project’ database on the Student Research Portal, is a searchable database that contains contacts, potential projects and advisors to assist students.
- 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.

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 alongside the MD.

For Concurrent MD-MPhil or Extended Research: Projects that have time critical components such as wet lab/basic science and clinical research are not allowed. Choose research projects that:
- are flexible and allow you to do research in spare time e.g., weekends and holidays,
- involve data that is readily available through secondary sources such as databases,
- are not dependent on strict timelines or deadline.

For Intercalated MD-PhD or MD-MPhil: Wet lab/basic science and clinical research are ideal because the full time research component provides dedicated time to research.

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. However, please note – if you enroll in an MPhil or PhD outside the Faculty of Medicine – it is very important that you maintain good communication with the MD Research Director who can assist you in trouble-shooting any problems you have associated with your HDR.

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

- Yes. This is possible as long as the clinician is a UQ ‘Titleholder’ and is qualified to supervise HDR students https://medicine.uq.edu.au/alumni-and-community/academic-title-holders. At least one other co-supervisor, also qualified to supervise HDR students at UQ is also required.

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

- Yes. MD-PhD and MD-MPhil students will receive special consideration for choice of clinical school location, as well as other special consideration associated with the MD curriculum.
Extended Research

Can anyone do Extended Research during their medical program?
- Yes. All students are encouraged to get involved in a voluntary / extra-curricular ‘hands on’ project. See Extended Research on the Research in your medical degree webpage.

I have no research experience at all. Where should I start?
- Start by looking at the 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. Wet lab or clinical research is not advised.
- Look for research projects that involve analysis of secondary data or existing data. Public health and health systems research, medical education and epidemiological research, literature reviews are good options to look for and also offer excellent experience.
- Also keep in mind the Summer Research Scholarship Program. All information is available here: https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-research

Are students who are based outside of Brisbane, e.g., Rural Clinical Schools, able to participate in research?
- Yes. Students are encouraged to find research projects within their clinical location.
- All the Rural Clinical School sites have an active student research program.

How will I get started looking for a research area or project?
- The ‘Find a Project’ database on the Student Research Portal, is a searchable database that contains contacts, potential projects and advisors to assist in finding suitable 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.

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 / voluntary research or an MD-MPhil or MD-PhD.
- All students must fulfil all the normal requirements of the medical program.

Can I get officially acknowledged for my research projects, and research achievements as part of my medical program?
- Yes. This a simple process on the Student Research Portal.
- Every student must register their research on the Student Research Portal under ‘For students’. This allows the MD Program to officially acknowledge all your research activity when you graduate.