

UQ MEDICINE

Phase 1 OBSERVERSHIP

2022 Student Handbook

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difference in health
outcomes.



● Table of Contents

WELCOME.....	3
OVERVIEW	3
OBSERVERSHIP REQUIREMENTS	4
OBJECTIVES	4
ELIGIBILITY.....	5
TIMEFRAME	5
HOW TO APPLY	6
EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS.....	7
ASSESSMENT OF THE OBERVERSHIP	7
UNSATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE OBSERVERSHIP	8
PROBLEMS THAT ARISE DURING THE OBSERVERSHIP	8
MORE INFORMATION	8

Welcome



Welcome to the Observership Handbook!

This handbook and the [Observership Website](#) contain information to assist you with the organisation of your Phase 1 Observership placement.

The Phase 1 Observership is designed to expose you to the practice of clinical medicine in a variety of settings.

Whether you complete your placement locally or elsewhere within Queensland, I am sure you will find it a memorable and valuable experience.

If, after reading the material provided, you still have questions, our highly experienced Placements Team is here to assist you with your enquiries. They can be contacted on med.placements@uq.edu.au

Dr Pieter Jansen

Academic Coordinator, Year 1 Observership
Faculty of Medicine
The University of Queensland

OVERVIEW

The Observership offers MD-Ochsner students the opportunity to further their personal and professional development, provides insight into health service provision in Australia, and facilitates the development of lasting friendships, mentorships and networks.

The Observership is predominantly an observational experience, but students may be expected to participate in adequately supervised activities such as interview and examination of patients.

The Phase 1 Observership is a compulsory requirement of the MD-Ochsner program, and failure to complete the Observership may prevent successful graduation from the MD Program.



OBSERVERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

MD-Ochsner students are required to complete:

- **Summer Block Observership** placement in Australia, prior to the commencement of their second year of the program
- and
- **Longitudinal Semester Observership** placement at a UQ Clinical Unit in Australia, in either Semester 2 of Year 1, or Semester 1 of Year 2.

Further details are outlined in this handbook, the [Observership Guidelines](#) and on the [Observership Website](#), which you are encouraged to review.

OBJECTIVES

The Phase 1 Observership is designed to allow students to gain a wider perspective on medicine. Depending on the Observership, students may:

- develop a knowledge of health systems
- develop an understanding of the role of a range of health care professionals
- develop an understanding of health care team dynamics, team management and patient roles
- gain an insight into 'the life of a doctor'
- experience the practice of medicine in different environments
- develop appropriate communication skills with patients and colleagues

ELIGIBILITY

Students must successfully complete #8 units, including Clinical Science 1 and Clinical Practice 1, before commencing an Observership. Students who have not completed Clinical Science 2 or Clinical Practice 2 are advised to speak with the Academic Coordinator and to consider delaying their Summer Block Observership until they have successfully completed these courses.

TIMEFRAME

Summer Block Observership

The Summer Block Observership period begins at the conclusion of the main exam period in November 2022. All students must complete their Observership prior to the Year 2 Orientation day in 2023.

Students are required to attend their Summer Block Observership five (5) days per week, for a minimum of four (4) hours each day, over the entire four (4) week period. Students are unable to shorten the duration by completing additional hours per day.

Students are able to preference for Metro UQ Clinical Unit placements or self-arrange their own 4-week placement.

Students who undertake their Summer Block Observership externally to a UQ Clinical Unit may divide their Observership into two blocks. If the Observership is divided, the blocks do not need to be in consecutive weeks.

All Observership assessment items must be submitted by the student by the final day as outlined on the [Observership Website](#), under 'Timeline'.



Longitudinal Semester Observership

Students are required to attend this placement for a half day each week, for a minimum of eight (8) weeks, during the applicable semester. This placement will be allocated by the Faculty and will take place at a UQ Clinical Unit or partner organisation.

HOW TO APPLY

Summer Block Placement - UQ Clinical Unit

Students will have the opportunity to nominate their preferences for a Metro UQ Clinical Units (in Queensland, Australia). Students will preference their Observership placement early in Semester 2, via the [Placements](#) system.

Summer Block Placement - Self-Arranged

Applications for external Observership placements are to be submitted through the [Placements](#) system. Applications must include placement details, supervisor details and a signed Student Placement Agreement (SPA), or they will not be processed by the Faculty.

Students must be supervised by a qualified Medical Practitioner or other health care professional, who has agreed to act as a Supervisor, and all placements must be approved by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland.

Longitudinal Semester Observership

Longitudinal placements will be allocated by the Faculty, based on the student's CBL Group, residential suburb and timetable.

STUDENT PLACEMENT AGREEMENTS

Placements at 'non-UQ locations' will not be approved without a Student Placement Agreement (SPA) in place. A copy of the SPA can be found on the [Observership webpage](#), under the 'Summer Block Placement – Self-Arranged' tab.

For providers where an Overarching Student Placement Agreement is already in place, a one-off Student Placement Agreement is not required. A list of sites where the Faculty already have Overarching Agreements can be found [here](#), under the 'Locations' tab. If a student is unsure if a SPA is required, please contact the Placements team.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Students should familiarise themselves with the UQ [“Fitness to Practise” policy](#) before commencing a placement.

Students should at all times be dressed in suitable attire that complies with the dress codes applicable to their placement. If no dress code is available, students should follow the [Medical Student Dress Code](#).

Students must behave in a professional and appropriate manner at all times during their Observership. Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the placement’s OH&S requirements and any other staff expectations. Students must communicate appropriately and professionally at all times while on their placement.

Absences

If students are to be absent from their Observership for any reason, they must notify the Site/Supervisor and the UQ Medicine Placements team. Any time missed must be made up in order to satisfy the requirements of the placement.

If students are absent for ill health, they are required to supply a medical certificate and make up the time. Attendance is an AMC requirement by which students must strictly abide.



ASSESSMENT OF THE OBSERVERSHIP

Student Feedback Report

Students are encouraged to submit the online “*Student Feedback Form*” in the final week of their placement/s. This report includes questions about the placement experience and provides a chance to include any feedback regarding the placement.

The link to the form can be found on the Observership [website](#), under ‘Evaluation & Assessment’.

Supervisor Evaluation Form

Students on placement must ensure a “*Supervisor Evaluation Form*” is completed on their behalf. A link to the form is available on the Observership [website](#), under ‘Evaluation & Assessment’. It is the Student’s responsibility to ensure their Supervisor completes the form. If your host site does not have access to the internet, a PDF version is also available. The completed form must be uploaded to the [MD Community Blackboard Site 2022 - Year 1](#), via the assessment link available in the Year 1 Observership folder. These will be marked off by the Academic Coordinator as evidence of your Observership completion.

UNSATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF THE OBSERVERSHIP

The University acknowledges that students learn and progress at different stages and that their experiences will vary. Students who have not performed or do not demonstrate an accepted level of knowledge to advance in their studies may be marked by their Supervisor as a “fail”. Unsatisfactory completion of the Observership could be due to poor attendance and/or attitude.

This outcome will be discussed with the student by the Academic Coordinator during a counselling session. Students may have the opportunity to undertake a remediation Observership or other remediation activities that can be arranged by the Faculty of Medicine.

Students must seek permission to complete any remediation Observership.

PROBLEMS THAT ARISE DURING THE OBSERVERSHIP

During the course of the Observership, situations may arise that cause concern. Please contact the Placements team at the Faculty of Medicine as soon as practicably possible for further advice.

MORE INFORMATION

Students can find further information on the Observership, including the guidelines, on the Faculty of Medicine’s Observership [website](#).

If you have any questions regarding your Observership, please contact the Placements Team:

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Finally, we hope you enjoy your Observership!