

MEDI7281: Foundations of Medical Research

Information for prospective supervisors

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 project over a 16-week semester. **Health-focussed researchers and innovators from across a broad range of disciplines and settings are invited to submit a project proposal** to supervise one or more students as part of this course.

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 foundation course will provide students with practical experience conducting an individual project.

NOTE: This is **not** a winter/summer scholar program or volunteer/work experience research. This is a research elective course for Year 2 MD students and constitutes part of the MD degree.

Call for Projects

A broad range of projects are invited from research centres, institutes, schools, hospitals, and health services across Queensland. Projects are to be conducted over 16-weeks during semester 2, 2023 (**3rd July to 6th November**), with students expected to spend the equivalent of one day per week working on the project.

- It is also worth noting that it may be possible for students to continue working with their supervisors to continue or finalise projects even after the completion of the course.

Learning activities

Each **student's primary contact will be with their project supervisor**, but students will be **kept on track by assessments designed as project milestones 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 and undertaking their assessments.

Assessment

| Assessment | Description | Due Dates (2023) |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 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) | 28th July 25th Aug – 8th Sep 9th Oct 23rd Oct |
| Supervisor feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment rubric and opportunity for supervisors to provide feedback to students | 23rd Oct |

Role of the supervisor

We wish to thank you in advance for your interest in supervising a student. Please note that most students will be new to research. **For students to benefit from this experience, it is critical that they have regular access to their supervisor(s) for guidance during their project.** Supervisors are **expected to spend approximately 30 minutes per week (or 1 hour per fortnight)** with each student or group of students. Please discuss your expectations with your student at the beginning of the project and explain how you would usually work with a novice researcher. You may wish to enlist your post-docs and/or PhD students to assist with supervision.

What type of projects are suitable?

Projects should provide a meaningful learning experience by enabling students to participate in an ongoing project or the opportunity to undertake their own small piece of supervised research. Eligible projects include:

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

If you would like to discuss the suitability of your project, please feel free to or contact the Course Coordinator, via med.yr2projects@uq.edu.au.

PATIENT DATA: If you are proposing a project which involves hospital/patient data it is important to discuss your project with your Research Governance Officer before submitting a proposal. Please note that most Queensland Health facilities will not allow students to access medical records (iEMR) for research purposes.

Who can supervise a project?

Supervisors must have prior research and supervisory experience and have adequate time to guide students' projects and support them in completing their project milestones.

Role of the student

Students are expected to commit ~8 hours per week to their project across 16 weeks. Due to timetabling pressures in the MD program, students are unlikely to have a whole day free and may need to work on their project over multiple part-days. Please note that many students will be new to research and so expectations on deliverables should be realistic.

Frequently asked questions

Can supervisors host multiple students?

Yes. Supervisors can host as many students as they believe they can support based on available projects, resources and contact time. Most supervisors choose to host 1 to 3 students.

Can multiple students work on a single project/study?

Yes. However, students are expected to engage in individual scholarship and so larger projects should be broken into smaller sub-projects that enable identifiable individual contributions.

What is the expected time commitment for students and supervisors?

Projects are 16-weeks long. Students are expected to spend ~8 hours per week on their project and associated assessments. Supervisors are expected to spend ~30 minutes per week with each student or group of students.

Do projects need to be covered by ethics?

Yes, if your proposed project requires an ethics approval, **it must be approved before the 3rd of July 2023.**

Is there funding available to cover project costs?

Unfortunately, there is no funding available for student projects.

More information

For all information and **key dates**, please visit the [Foundations of Medical Research website](#) or contact the course coordinator, Dr Akefe Isaac, via med.yr2projects@uq.edu.au.

[Submit a project by clicking here](#)