MEDI7281: Foundations of Medical Research - 2023

Information for prospective students

About this course

The *Foundations of Medical Research* **course (FoMR)** is **designed to enable students in the Year 2 of the University of Queensland (UQ) Doctor of Medicine (MD) program to complete a health-related research project over a 16-week semester.** Health-focused researchers 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 are 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 all students with practical experience conducting an individual project.

From 11th April 2023, a list of approved projects along with all the details on how to apply for a research project and enrol in MEDI7281 will be advertised to students via the MD Community Blackboard Site under "Year 2 Selective Courses".

How it works: There are two options to source your research project

Apply for an Advertised Project: From Tuesday 11th April 2023, you can choose projects from the Foundations of Medical Research Project List on Blackboard

Or

Student-Sourced Projects: There is the option for you to source your own project. You may already have a research project and supervisor in mind for FoMR or may wish to approach a researcher and ask if they would be willing to supervise you in the FoMR. This is the student-sourced project option.

Learning activities

The course duration is 16 weeks (3rd July 2023 to 6th November 2023). Each student's primary contact will be their project supervisor, but students will be kept on track by authentic assessments designed as project milestones. All assessments 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 (2023)
Project milestones	• 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 October
Supervisor feedback	• An assessment rubric and opportunity for supervisors to provide feedback to students	23rd October

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 who may ask postdoctoral research fellows and/or PhD students to assist with your supervision. Before you begin your research, it is important that you discuss with your supervisor mutual expectations for this course and be realistic about your capabilities and time management.

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 an average of 8 hours per week to an allocated project (i.e., total time commitment of ~128 hours). 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. We have communicated this to supervisors.

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)

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

Frequently asked questions

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 agreement 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.

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.

Do proposed projects need to be covered by ethics approval?
Yes, if the project requires approval by an ethics committee, this must be in place by 3rd July 2023. This is the supervisor's responsibility.

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.

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.