

Including MD students in your research Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Expectations

HOW WILL I KNOW IF A STUDENT WHO ENQUIRES ABOUT MY PROJECT IS PROGRESSING WELL IN THE MD?

The new MD does not assess each student's learning on a 7-point scale as it did in the previous curriculum. Nevertheless, a robust assessment process is in place that provides each student with a clear view of how they are progressing.

Before students can enquire about a research project and/or register and commence a project, they must check their academic standing. Students will be unable to continue with their project request or registration until they have confirmed a satisfactory academic standing.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they are progressing well enough to take on extra activities and monitor their own progress in the MD.

Therefore, you may expect that any student you engage with in research will be in good academic standing, because they will have checked that they are progressing satisfactorily.

IS RESEARCH IN THE NEW MD CONSIDERED TO BE EXTRA-CURRICULAR?

In the new MD curriculum, each year is designed as a year-long course. Therefore, any research that is done within the academic year is considered part of the MD course.

This is the biggest change to student research in the new curriculum because it means that student research projects are no longer considered to be 'extra-curricular'.

They are part of the MD course and therefore the process for you to include students in your research is simplified.

Furthermore, the Unpaid Work Experience Form (UWEF) which previously was necessary for extra-curricular research is now only necessary for students undertaking research outside the academic year i.e., summer break.

- Of course, some institutes or units may ask students to complete their own paperwork, but all UQ medical students who Register their research as part of the MD course will be covered by the current student deed polls already in place.

ARE MD STUDENTS INSURED THROUGH THE SELF-GUIDED RESEARCH PROCESS?

Research projects undertaken by students in the new curriculum (currently Year 1) are now part of the MD course and are covered by UQ insurance.

- However, **students must Register their research once it is approved.**
- The registration form will confirm your supervision and your agreement on student research goals and outcomes.
- **IMPORTANT: Registration is mandatory before any research can begin** and ensures your student is covered by UQ insurance whilst undertaking research with you.

WHAT ARE THE RESEARCH OPTIONS OFFERED AS PART OF THE NEW MD COURSE?

1. Student Self-guided Research: *For students in the new MD curriculum (current Year1 2023).*

Going forward in the new MD is a flexible, student self-guided format for undertaking research where **you and your student agree on the learning objectives and goals.**

It is important that the student initiates the “self-guided” process, detailed on the [Student Research Portal](#)

- The **registration form** will confirm your supervision and agreement on student research goals and outcomes.
- Registration is mandatory before any research can begin and means your student is covered by UQ insurance whilst undertaking research with you.

2. Summer Research 2023/24: *(i.e., Nov 2023 to Feb 2024)*

MD Y1 and Y2 students have several weeks over the summer holiday to work on a project - *if they choose*. Because this option is outside the official MD teaching period, it is considered extra-curricular.

Therefore, for Summer Research, the process for undertaking extra-curricular research as Unpaid Research Work Experience must be followed via the process on the [Student Research Portal](#).

Please Note: *There is no UQ scholarship or stipend attached to this option. The previous UQ summer scholarship program has **ended for MD students**. If you have funding for an RA over the summer, it would be worth advertising that and specifying the skills needed for your project.*

3. MD Y2 Elective MEDI7281 Foundations of Medical Research *(Year 2 students)*

This is a 16-week block in the second half of Year 2 with timetabled research time per week. This option is unchanged in the new MD.

- Details: [MEDI7281: Foundations of Medical Research](#)

4. The Clinician Scientist Track: MD-PhD and MD-MPhil

Eligible MD students commence the PhD or MPhil after completing Year 2. This option is unchanged in the new MD.

- Details here [Clinician Scientist Track: MD-PhD](#)

HOW DO I ADVERTISE A RESEARCH PROJECT FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS?

We are transitioning to a new submission form for advertising all student research projects.

- Please complete the new [Research Project Submission Form](#)

All student research projects will continue to be listed on the Portal's [Find a Project database](#)

IS THERE FUNDING AVAILABLE TO COVER STUDENT PROJECT COSTS?

No. Unfortunately, there is no Faculty funding available to go toward project costs. We advise that you choose appropriately experienced students to work on any project where costly resources are involved. Projects that require minimal resource costs are suitable for most students.

DO PROPOSED PROJECTS NEED TO BE COVERED BY ETHICS APPROVAL?

Yes. If the project requires approval by an ethics committee, or if an amendment is necessary to include a student on an existing ethics approval, then it is **the research supervisor's responsibility to have this in place before the student begins.**

- Alternatively, writing an ethics application may be a suitable project for a student – if it is appropriately supervised.

CAN STUDENTS SUGGEST A SUPERVISOR AND PROJECT?

Yes. This is a popular option for students and often saves time in getting approved because you have already met the student and have possibly agreed to work together.

CAN MULTIPLE STUDENTS WORK ON A SINGLE PROJECT/STUDY?

Yes. Group projects are encouraged where possible. Especially for novice research students who often benefit by working with others.

WHAT ARE REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING SELF-GUIDED RESEARCH?

Remember that every medical student is enrolled full-time and **must prioritise their MD.** While there is no strict limit to the number of hours a student may spend on your project, the MD must remain their priority. ***Please discuss time commitment with your student.***

- Practice **frequent and clear communication** with your student and encourage them to do the same.
- Discuss mutual expectations for your research and ensure that you and your student both agree to these before they begin any research.
- This includes student expectations regarding outcomes of their involvement in your research. Many students will hope to get a co-authorship on a publication or conference abstract, but this should not be guaranteed.
 - While students should not assume a co-authorship as an outcome of their research experience, it is best to be clear about what is expected from them and give a realistic timeframe if a publication is forthcoming.

If you ever have any issues or concerns regarding a student, please don't hesitate to contact Di Eley at studentresearch@uq.edu.au

Thank you again for supporting our students in research.