Students in the UQ-Ochsner cohort are encouraged to enhance their research experience while in the UQ medical program. This experience can take place in Australia at the UQ Faculty of Medicine (FOM) and/or in the USA at the Ochsner Clinical School (OCS).

Research training opportunities are available on both campuses through formal and informal models. The following FAQs highlight all research options available to OCS students.

Please Note: The Research in your Medical Degree is the main source of information for medical student research. [https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/research/research-your-medical-degree](https://medicine-program.uq.edu.au/research/research-your-medical-degree)

What are the research options while enrolled in medicine at UQ?
- The Clinician Scientist Track (CST). The CST allows students to combine a Higher Degree by Research (HDR), either an MPhil or PhD, with the medical program.
- Extended Research Track (ERT) provides extra-curricular / voluntary research experience
- Masters of Public Health (MPH)
- Summer Research Program Scholarships

**While there are a variety of options available – not all students will be eligible for each option.**

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)

What is an MPhil?
In Australia, a Master of Science (MSc) is called a Master of Philosophy (MPhil). The MPhil is an internationally recognised HDR and is equivalent to a research Masters (MSc) in the USA.

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)

There are three models to combining an HDR with the UQ medical program.
- 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.

When can I apply to do a HDR (PhD or MPhil) during the MD?
- The earliest any enrolled MD student can apply to a PhD or MPhil is ~August/September in MD Year 1, or MD Year 2 to commence the PhD or MPhil the following January.
- In other words, the entry point to either the Intercalated PhD or MPhil, or the Concurrent MPhil is either January of Year 2 MD, or January Year 3 MD.
### Ochsner Timeframe for the UQ Intercalated MD-PhD

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD FT + Decision &amp; Apply for PhD</td>
<td>Begin PhD PT + MD FT</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>PhD PT Research</td>
<td>PhD PT Research</td>
<td>MD FT + MD FT</td>
<td>MD FT + MD FT</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MD Y1</strong></td>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 Attend research information sessions</td>
<td>Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Begin PhD PT</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: PhD PT includes; research prep, literature review, ethics, planning</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MD FT Continue PhD PT</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD Continue PhD PT</td>
<td>Jan – Jun: 6 month gap to Residency</td>
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### Ochsner Timeframe for the UQ Intercalated MD-MPhil

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<tr>
<td>MD FT + Decision &amp; Application</td>
<td>Begin MPhil PT + MD FT</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>MPhil FT Research + Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>MPhil FT Research + Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>MD FT + MD FT</td>
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<td><strong>MD Y1</strong></td>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 Attend research information sessions</td>
<td>Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Commence MPhil PT</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil PT includes; research preparation, literature review, ethics, planning</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil ready to submit or already submitted</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD Continue MPhil PT</td>
<td>Jan – Jun: 6 month gap to Residency</td>
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### Ochsner Timeframe for the UQ Concurrent MD-MPhil

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD FT + Decision &amp; Application</td>
<td>Begin MPhil PT + MD FT</td>
<td>Research</td>
<td>MPhil PT Research + Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>MPhil PT Research + Clinical skills sessions</td>
<td>MD FT + MD FT</td>
<td>MPhil FT + MD FT</td>
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<td><strong>MD Y1</strong></td>
<td>Feb: Commence FT MD Y1 Attend research information sessions</td>
<td>Feb: Continue FT MD Jan: Commence MPhil PT</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil PT includes; research preparation, literature review, ethics, planning</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: MPhil ready to submit or already submitted</td>
<td>Jan-Dec: Continue FT MD Continue MPhil PT</td>
<td>Jan – Jun: 6 month gap to Residency</td>
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PLEASE NOTE: If you are interested in, or considering an MPhil or PhD while enrolled in the MD program, please remember that 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 not sure if I would be eligible to enroll in a PhD or MPhil. What other experience is considered by the Graduate School for HDR enrolment?

- If you are not sure if you would qualify to enrol in a HDR, look carefully at the links below which outline basic requirements and other evidence considered by the Graduate School.
  - https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/uq-research-degrees
  - Evidence of Relevant Experience

What are HDR ‘Milestones’?

- The UQ Graduate School’s milestone process is designed to provide students with a structured approach to the progression of their research. It is the student’s responsibility to understand the Milestone process, what is required for each, and when each Milestone is due.
- Milestones compliment your research progression, help keep you on track, and ensure you have the opportunity to receive feedback and guidance throughout your candidature.

What scholarship opportunities are available to MD-HDR students?

- School of Medicine: See this link https://medicine.uq.edu.au/prizes-and-scholarships-0
- Graduate School: See this link Scholarships
- Ochsner Post-graduate Fellowships: The Ochsner Clinical School provides MD graduates the opportunity to remain engaged in research while they await the start of their residency, approximately 6 months from December to June.

I don’t have a research Honours as part of my Bachelor’s degree. Am I still eligible to enroll in an MPhil or a PhD?

- It is possible that the Graduate School will allow you to enroll in a HDR without a research Honours. The link below outlines other evidence of your readiness to enrol in a HDR. Evidence of relevant experience: https://graduate-school.uq.edu.au/evidence-relevant-research-experience

I have an Honours degree based on GPA only, i.e. it did not include a significant research component or a written thesis, 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

Reminder: As a medical student, any questions you have regarding the MD-PhD or the MD-MPhil, not answered on these FAQs or the website, should be directed to the Director of MD Research. A/Prof Di Eley d.eley@uq.edu.au
### HDR Project Topic and Supervision

**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 interest and then do some ‘research’ in finding an appropriate topic and a supervisor.
- The ‘Find a Project’ database on the [Student Research Portal](https://studentresearchportal.uq.edu.au), 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](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 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](https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-research) webpage.

I have no research experience at all. Where should I start?

- Start by looking at the [Student Research Portal](https://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au/guidelines-students) 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, especially in wet lab or clinical research.
- Try looking 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](https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-research)

Are students who are based outside of Brisbane, e.g., Ochsner and Rural Clinical Schools, able to participate in research?

- Yes. Students are encouraged to find research projects within their clinical location but may undertake research based in Brisbane. However, keep in mind the practicality of what you do. e.g., if you are living outside Brisbane, the research should not be dependent physically being in Brisbane, or on strict time frames.

How will I get started looking for a research area or project?

- The ‘Find a Project’ database on the [Student Research Portal](https://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au/guidelines-students), 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.
- ‘Steps to find a project’ are here [https://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au/guidelines-students](https://research-portal.medicine.uq.edu.au/guidelines-students)

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](https://employability.uq.edu.au/summer-research)