



Structured Program for M Med Sc and PhD students in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Aims

The aim of the Structured Program is to broaden your skills as a researcher so that you will not only complete your postgraduate degree successfully and within the 2 years (for Masters) or 3 to 4 years for PhD, but also be prepared for the next stage of your career as an independent scientist.

Organisation

Completion of the core part of the Structured Program is mandatory for all new postgraduates. It has two components:

The University-wide component of the Program includes:

- Preparation and submission of a Literature Review
- Preparation and submission of your Research Proposal
- Presentation of a Seminar

The Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology specific part includes:

- Participation in research group meetings
- Participation in Discipline seminars
- Participation in specific sessions organised for the Post Graduate students.

Some students, with shortcomings in their theoretical or technical abilities, or problems with English as their second language, may be required to undertake supplementary work (Directed Studies Component), in addition to the Core Program. This could include the Integrated Bridging Program, one or more supplemented undergraduate subjects, or a specialist course such as those offered in electron microscopy, statistics, or molecular biology techniques. Your specific requirements need to be discussed in detail with your supervisor and postgraduate coordinator.

CORE PROGRAM

Literature Review

The Literature Review should be a critical review of the literature in your research area. It should outline the broader aspects of the problem being investigated and bring into focus the specific questions that will be asked during the course of the research training. There is no set length, but 15 to 30 double-spaced pages is common. It should be carefully and appropriately referenced.

The Literature Review is to be submitted within 6 months of commencement of the program.

Research Proposal

While there are many ways that this could be done, it would make good sense to approach this exercise in the same way that you would write a grant application. It should be concisely written, with a brief Background (approximately one page), Aims, clearly stated Hypotheses, Methods to be used, Time Table and brief Budget. It will normally be around 4 pages.

The **Research Proposal** is to be submitted within 6 months of commencement of the program. The **Research Proposal Proforma** can be downloaded from the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology web site.

(<http://www.health.adelaide.edu.au/og/student/pg/>)

Project Seminar

You will be programmed to give a Seminar to the Discipline on your Project Proposal as part of the Medical School site, Wednesday lunchtime program. This will be programmed within the first 6 months of your candidature. The first seminar you give should be approximately 20 minutes in duration (plus question time). It should be a verbal presentation of your Literature Review and Project Proposal.

Research Meetings

Your supervisor will make you aware of the Journal Clubs and other local meetings within your discipline that you should attend. These forums as well as your own Research Group meetings provide an opportunity to discuss your research and the latest publications with others working in similar areas.

Discipline Seminars

The Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology has a major Seminar Program at the Medical School Site on Fridays at 4.00pm. You are, as are all academic staff in the Discipline, expected to attend these seminars as part of your scientific training and to broaden your knowledge.

Postgraduate Student Meetings

In consultation with the elected Postgraduate representative of the Discipline, the Postgraduate Coordinator will convene a series of presentations by staff members or visitors on a variety of topics. The aim of these meetings is to provide the students with resources for conducting their research and for moving on to the next stage of their careers.

The program for 2008/2009 has not been finalised.

Because the yearly enrolment in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is only 3-4 students per year, it is not feasible to run a complete program each year. Thus it is expected that students will continue to attend the Postgraduate meetings throughout their course.

SUPPLEMENTARY WORK (DIRECTED STUDIES COMPONENT)

Integrated Bridging Program

This is a course to introduce students to scientific writing and seminar presentation, where English is not your first language. It is an extremely good course and uses the Literature Review as an exercise in developing writing skills.

Special Courses

As part of their Structured Program some students may wish to attend special courses which are offered by various sectors of Adelaide University or some outside organisations. You should consult you supervisor about attending these.

Timing and Completion of the Structured Program

The Structured Program must be completed within 6 months of your enrolment.

Contact

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