

# FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH - SYDNEY MEDICAL PROGRAM CONCURRENT ENROLMENT PROVISIONS 2018

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## 1 Purpose and application

- (1) These provisions:
  - (a) recognise the value, for motivated and academically strong students, of undertaking a period of formal study either through a higher degree by research or through a postgraduate coursework program; and
  - (b) recognise that there are many opportunities to undertake these additional studies during a medical career path, including concurrently with the Sydney Medical Program.
- (2) These provisions apply to students enrolled in the Sydney Medical Program.
- (3) International students may undertake concurrent study if permitted under the conditions of their student visa.

## 2 Commencement

These provisions commence on 31 October 2018.

## 3 Interpretation

<b>Sydney Medical Program (SMP)</b>	means the Doctor of Medicine (MD) award course.
<b>Stage 1</b>	means Year 1 of the Sydney Medical Program.
<b>Stage 2</b>	means Year 2 of the Sydney Medical Program.
<b>Stage 3</b>	means Years 3 and 4 of the Sydney Medical Program.
<b>Basic and Clinical Sciences Theme (BCS)</b>	means the theme of that name which is one of the four themes in the Sydney Medical Program.
<b>elective</b>	means the flexible elective term which occurs over an eight week period between Years 3 and 4 of the Sydney Medical Program.
<b>higher degree by research (HDR)</b>	means a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

<b>nominated academic</b>	means a member of staff or affiliate of Sydney Medical School at Level D or E nominated by the Head of School and Dean of Sydney Medical School
<b>postgraduate coursework program (PCW)</b>	means a postgraduate coursework program leading to a postgraduate degree.
<b>MD project</b>	means the approved, supervised research or capstone project undertaken by students in the Doctor of Medicine award course.
<b>Postgraduate Coordinator</b>	means an academic with responsibility for the provision of advice and guidance to HDR students.
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	means an academic with responsibility for coordinating a postgraduate coursework program.
<b>Summer Research Scholarship</b>	means a scholarship which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• enables recipients to work with well - established researchers in a high quality medical research facility for a period of eight weeks; and</li><li>• is offered by Sydney Medical Program to students enrolled full-time at an Australian university in an undergraduate degree or professional doctorate.</li></ul>

#### **4 Principles for concurrent enrolment**

- (1) Successful completion of the SMP takes priority over a HDR or PCW program.
- (2) Students must:
  - (a) have an excellent academic record;
  - (b) be in good academic standing with:
    - (i) a grade point average of 75% or better; or
    - (ii) be in the top third of their cohort; and
  - (c) have no:
    - (i) significant academic failure;
    - (ii) professionalism concerns;
    - (iii) academic malpractice;
    - (iv) requirement to repeat a year of study; or
    - (v) requirement to show good cause.
- (3) Sydney Medical School will monitor performance of students enrolled in concurrent study.
  - (a) If the Director of the SMP considers a student's performance to be marginal or unsatisfactory they may recommend that the student suspend their non-SMP study.
  - (b) In determining marginal or unsatisfactory performance, results from all forms of assessment may be taken into account.

- (4) Students may enrol in a HDR or PCW program concurrently with the SMP on a part-time basis only.
- (5) A part time work load implies not more than an additional 0.5 full time equivalence (24 credit points per annum; 12 credit points per semester)
  - (a) This means that:
    - (i) they are ineligible to apply for a research scholarship; and
    - (ii) any research scholarship they may hold is forfeited upon concurrent enrolment.
- (6) Research undertaken as part of a HDR or PCW program cannot form part of an assessment for the SMP (e.g. HDR research cannot take the place of the MD project).

## **5 Eligibility for concurrent enrolment and progression**

- (1) To be eligible to enrol in a concurrent HDR or PCW program, an SMP student must:
  - (a) pass all written and clinical summative assessments for all themes of the SMP on the first attempt in Stage 1 and Stage 2; and
  - (b) achieve at least 75% in the combined final mark for Stage 1.
- (2) To be eligible to continue enrolment from year to year in a concurrent HDR or PCW program, an SMP student must (as applicable to their stage and year of enrolment in the SMP):
  - (a) achieve at least 75% in the combined final mark for Stage 2;
  - (b) achieve an average mark of at least 75% in the three units of study completed in Stage 3 Year 3 (Medicine 3 and the two Specialty Blocks);
  - (c) achieve an average mark of at least 75% in the remaining five units of study completed in Stage 3 Year 4 (three Core and two Specialty Blocks);
  - (d) pass the Long Case in Stage 3 Year 4 on the first or second attempt; and
  - (e) pass the units of study in Stage 3 Year 3 and Year 4 for all themes of the SMP.
- (3) If a student's academic performance in the SMP or progression in the HDR or PCW program falls below the standard required by subclause 5(2) their concurrent enrolment will be reviewed by the nominated academics, who may then determine that they be:
  - (a) required to suspend their HDR or PCW program until their performance in the SMP is acceptable; or
  - (b) permitted to suspend their SMP in order to complete their HDR or PCW program before re-entering the SMP the following year.
- (4) Students who do not meet the academic progression requirements of the SMP and who are required to repeat a year will not be permitted to continue with concurrent degree enrolment.

## **6 HDR or PCW enrolment at another institution**

- (1) Sydney Medical School cannot prevent students from enrolling in an HDR or PCW program at another institution. However, only students who are concurrently enrolled at the University will be covered by all applicable University policies.
- (2) Students will not be permitted to take time off from required SMP teaching activities in order to fulfil HDR or PCW program requirements at another institution.

## **7 Applying for concurrent study after commencement of SMP**

- (1) The earliest time for applying for concurrent study is the beginning of Semester 1 of Year 2 of the SMP.
- (2) Applications for commencement in Year 1 of the SMP will be considered in extraordinary circumstances only, as determined by the nominated academic.
- (3) Students should plan to undertake HDR only at their allocated Clinical School and must have the approval of the Head of their allocated Clinical School. Applications from students wishing to undertake research at a location other than their allocated Clinical School will only be considered in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the nominated academic.
- (4) Requests to transfer to a different Clinical School because of the location of an HDR research project will not be considered.
- (5) Students should plan to enrol in PCW programs offered by Sydney Medical School. Enrolment in PCW programs offered by another faculty at the University will be considered on a case by case basis by the nominated academic.
- (6) Students wishing to undertake an HDR must identify a research supervisor and project and must then obtain approval for concurrent enrolment from the nominated academic.
- (7) Students wishing to undertake a PCW program must identify their preferred PCW program and must then obtain approval for concurrent enrolment from the nominated academic.
- (8) A student who, in the opinion of the nominated academic, does not meet the criteria for concurrent enrolment specified in section 5 will not be admitted to concurrent enrolment. The decision of the nominated academic is final and may not be appealed.
- (9) If the nominated academic gives approval for concurrent HDR or SMP enrolment, students must then obtain approval from the Associate Dean (HDR), who is responsible for ensuring that the proposed research project and supervisory arrangements comply with University policy. This approval may involve an interview with the Postgraduate Coordinator at the student's Clinical School.
- (10) Students who have been given approval for concurrent PCW and SMP enrolment must discuss their concurrent enrolment with their Course Coordinator.
- (11) Students must then apply for HDR or PCW admission in accordance with standard University processes.
- (12) Students who have been given approval for concurrent HDR or SMP enrolment will be required to initially enrol in the MPhil.
  - (a) Upgrade to PhD is possible following a minimum of two semesters' enrolment in the MPhil.
  - (b) Upgrades will only be considered for students who:
    - (i) have demonstrated satisfactory progress in both the SMP and MPhil;

- (ii) obtain the support of their supervisor and the Associate Dean (HDR); and
- (iii) obtain confirmation from the Postgraduate Coordinator at their Clinical School that there are sufficient resources to support the HDR and that supervision is appropriate.

## **8 HDR or PCW study prior to admission to the MD**

- (1) Students enrolled in HDR prior to enrolment in the MD must, after accepting the offer of admission to the MD, discuss their plans for completion of their HDR program with their supervisor and Postgraduate Coordinator (or equivalent position if enrolled at another institution).
- (2) The student must develop a completion plan and discuss it with the Associate Dean (HDR).
- (3) HDR students must notify the Director of the SMP and the Manager of Student Services of their HDR enrolment and the location of their research activity.
  - (a) Efforts will be made to allocate students to the Clinical School closest to their research site, but this cannot always be accommodated.
  - (b) Students must consider the effect of travel between sites on their capacity to complete both degrees.
- (4) Students enrolled full-time in HDR or PCW must change their candidature to part-time (not more than 24 credit points per year, 12 credit points per semester) upon concurrent enrolment in the MD.
- (5) Students enrolled in PCW prior to admission to the MD must, after accepting the offer of admission to the MD, discuss their plans for completion of their PCW program with their Course Coordinator (or equivalent position if enrolled at another institution).
- (6) Students enrolled in PCW programs will not generally be given priority allocation to a Clinical School close to the main campus. It is, however, in the interest of students to notify the Director of the SMP and the Manager of Student Services of their PCW enrolment.

## **9 Entry to HDR by Summer Research Scholarship Program**

- (1) An SMP student who undertakes a Summer Research Project may apply to enrol in an MPhil if:
  - (a) they successfully complete the Summer Research Project;
  - (b) they meet the criteria specified in clause 5(1); and
  - (c) their concurrent enrolment is approved as specified in clause 7.
- (2) Research projects on offer will be advertised in September and applications must be made in accordance with the requirements set out at <http://sydney.edu.au/medicine/study/scholarships/summer-research/index.php>

## NOTES

### **Sydney Medical School - Concurrent Enrolment Provisions 2016**

Date adopted: 31 October 2018

Date commenced: 31 October 2018

Approved by: Professor Robin Ward, Executive Dean

Signature:

Related documents:

[\*Sydney Medical School – SMP Statement of Expectations Provisions 2013\*](#)

[\*Sydney Medical School – SMP Professionalism and Satisfactory Progress Provisions 2013\*](#)