



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Melbourne
Medical School

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS



INTRODUCTION

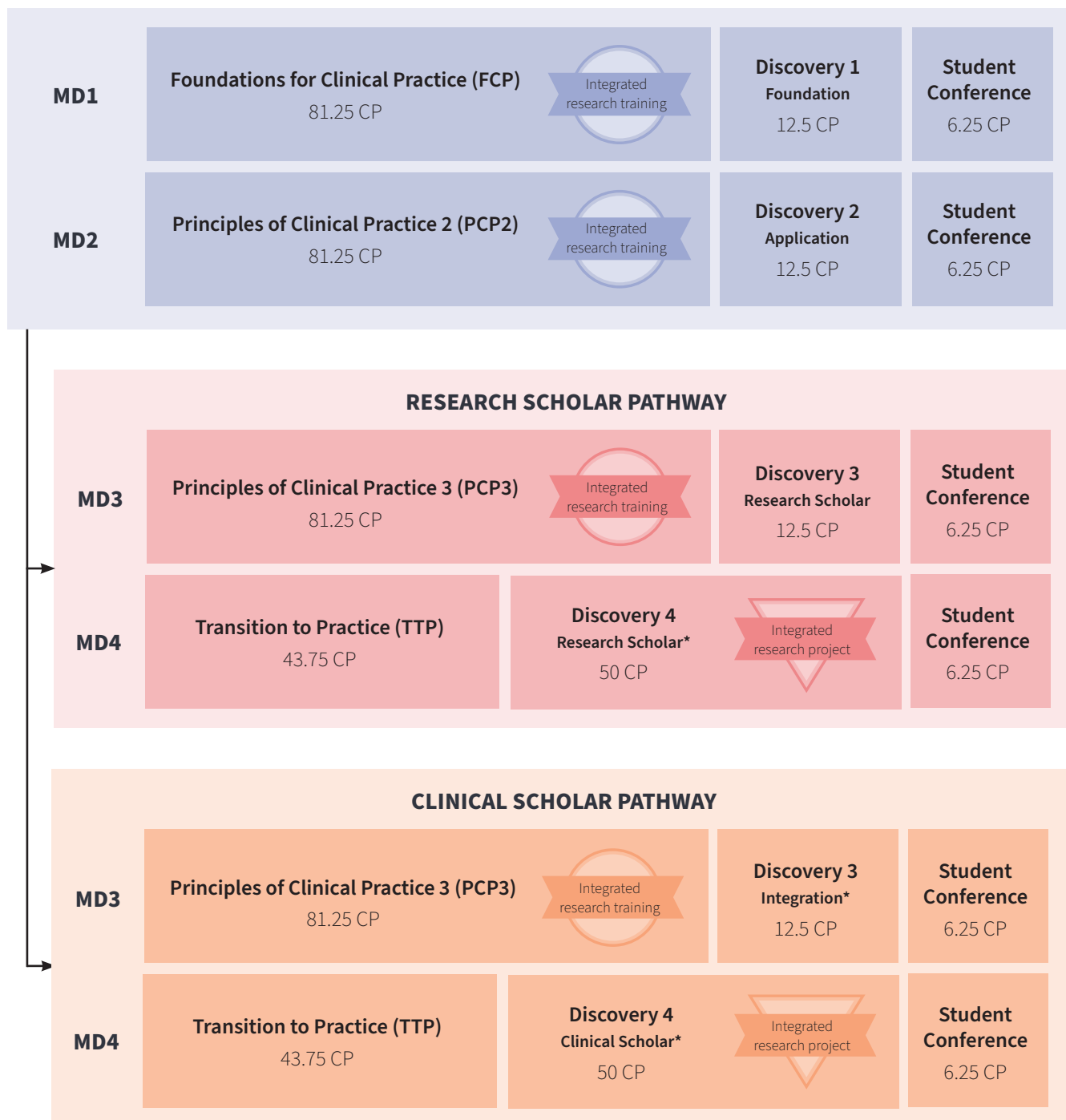
The redesigned Doctor of Medicine (MD) course offers you the choice of two flexible pathways. Each pathway supports you to meet the MD course's core research learning outcomes and includes the option to extend skills and scholarship by choosing either the Research Scholar pathway or Clinical Scholar pathway.

Each pathway will broaden your skillset in either research skills and leadership (Research Scholar pathway) or clinical advocacy and leadership (Clinical Scholar pathway). Both pathways offer learning activities, projects and assessment tailored to meet and explore beyond the course learning outcomes in your chosen area of interest.

During your second year, you will consider which pathway best meets your interests and career goals and choose either the Research Scholar pathway or the Clinical Scholar pathway. You will be supported in this decision-making process by an experienced team of Course Advisors.



MD COURSE STRUCTURE



*New subject

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PATHWAY

The Research Scholar pathway leads to advanced knowledge and skills in the design and conduct of research. The Research Scholar pathway will build your capacity for producing original research that contributes to evidence-based healthcare and establishes your professional identity as a clinician researcher. If you choose to advance your knowledge and skills in research scholarship, in third year you will undertake *Discovery 3: Research Scholar* as your Discovery subject, and the following year *Discovery 4: Research Scholar*.

You can undertake research in any discipline and seek out potential supervisors at your clinical school or associated University of Melbourne institutions. Alternatively, you may prefer to continue your Discovery pathways from your Discovery topics in Year 1 and 2 by discussing with your topic leads options for research and continue your pathway as a research scholar. Please note that some disciplines and topics may have limitations on research projects and the number of students they are able to supervise.

DISCOVERY 3: RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Discovery 3: Research Scholar is the first subject dedicated to the Research Scholar pathway in the MD. This subject builds on the foundation level research methods knowledge and skills from the core research methods curriculum in the MD.

You will undertake a four-week intensive subject in the third year of the Discovery stream, when you will commence work on a research project, under the supervision of an experienced researcher. This is the first step of the research project, which will be continued and completed in the following year in the *Discovery 4: Research Scholar* subject. Prior to the four-week intensive, you will work with your supervisor and research team to develop your research question. During the four-week intensive, you will conduct a literature review and propose a detailed research project plan. This subject will prepare you for the project work to be undertaken in *Discovery 4: Research Scholar*. You will also work collaboratively with your supervisor and research group to establish professional working relationships as a clinician researcher.

Please note:

- Prior to commencing the four-week intensive teaching period of *Discovery 3: Research Scholar*, you will be required to satisfactorily complete the core research modules in Principles of Clinical Practice 3 (PCP3). There are 2 modules, and the time commitment for each module is approximately 10 hours.
- Prior to commencing the four-week intensive, you will need to dedicate time to establishing a research relationship with your supervisor and agreeing to your research question. Supervisor/research group meetings outside the intensive period cannot be undertaken during PCP2 or PCP3 scheduled activities and placement. Research meetings should be scheduled during self-directed learning time - this is essential.
- Successful completion of *Discovery 3: Research Scholar* is a pre-requisite for *Discovery 4: Research Scholar*. You cannot enrol in *Discovery 4: Research Scholar* if you undertake *Discovery 3: Integration*. You must demonstrate strong self-regulated learning attributes to succeed in the Research Scholar pathway and are expected to be proactive in building relationships with your supervisory team. Motivation is a key for success in this pathway.

DISCOVERY 4: RESEARCH SCHOLAR

Discovery 4: Research Scholar is a semester long full-time subject, where you will continue to work with your supervisor and research team on the research project that was commenced in *Discovery 3: Research Scholar*. In *Discovery 4: Research Scholar*, you will collect, analyse and interpret data and then present your findings in the form of a journal article-style report, conference poster and oral presentation. This subject will enable you to establish professional working relationships and develop your own professional identity as an early career clinician-researcher. The subject will be delivered in Semester 1 of the final year of your course.

CLINICAL SCHOLAR PATHWAY

The Clinical Scholar pathway is aimed at providing opportunities for you to pursue a deeper understanding of leadership and advocacy in medical practice. This is a unique subject for a medical program, integrating clinical placement with research scholarship but more importantly allowing you to shape your placement to align with your interests and encouraging you to think broadly about a variety of experiences that could inform this - not only considering medical or surgical disciplines but also primary health care, First Nations health, population health, sexual health, rural placements and more. Like other years in the Discovery program, you will submit your preferences and the DME alongside the associated clinical schools will endeavour to meet your needs wherever possible.

DISCOVERY 3: INTEGRATION

Discovery 3: Integration will have a greater emphasis on clinical placement and experiential learning. You will select the Clinical Scholar pathway in line with an interest in clinical leadership, integrated clinical scholarship and health advocacy.

The topics in *Discovery 3: Integration* give you a choice of options to gain deeper insights into an area about which you are passionate and may pursue the following year. Alternatively, the subjects can provide a stand-alone learning experience within the course. Each of the learning options available within this subject is of high educational quality and is designed to enhance your personal and professional growth. The subject will be delivered as a four-week intensive and employs blended delivery and integrated experiential learning experiences.

DISCOVERY 4: CLINICAL SCHOLAR

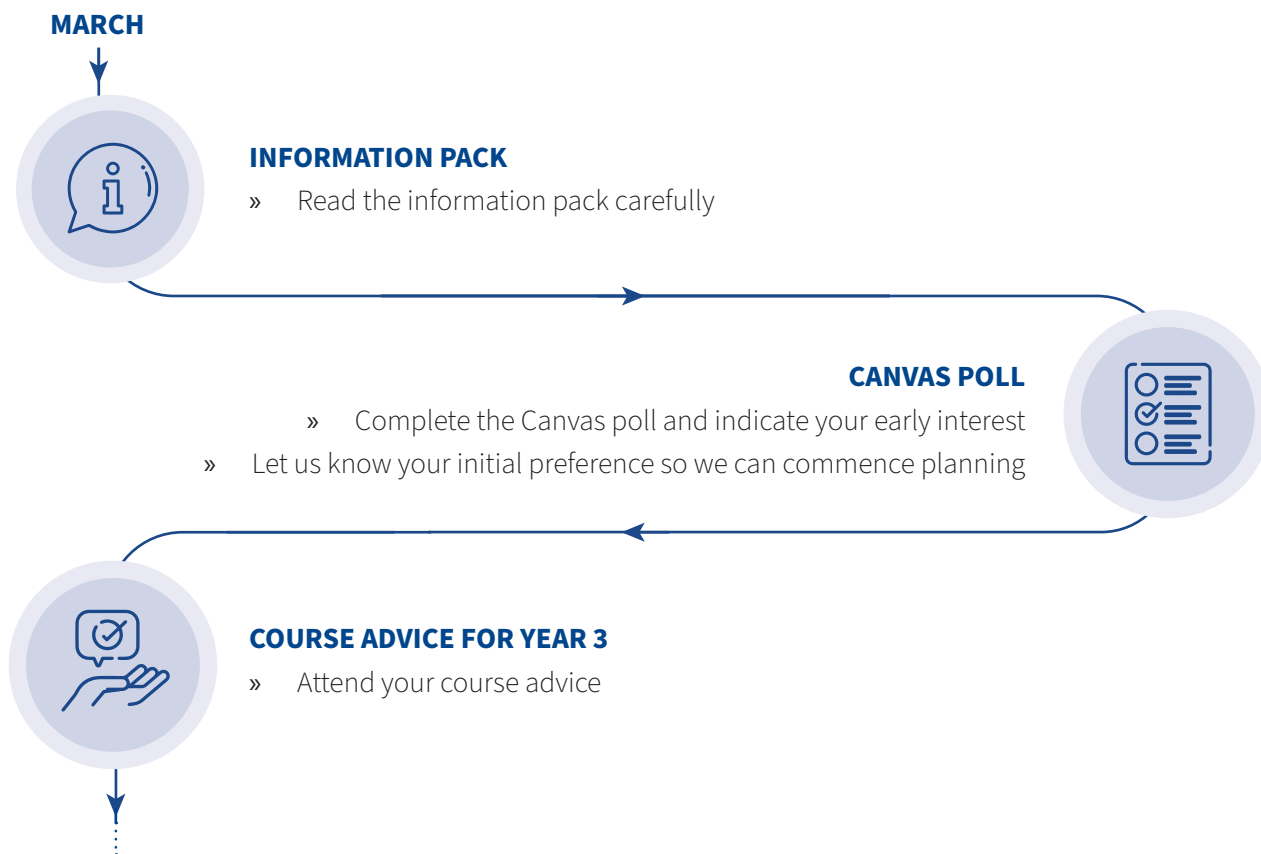
Discovery 4: Clinical Scholar is a semester-long full-time subject in final year which integrates clinical placement with a “scholarly output”. There will be 3 x 4 weeks of clinical placement interspersed with five full weeks dedicated to creating the scholarly output. You will preference areas of focus and will be allocated placements across the University domain. It is anticipated that most placements will occur through the clinical schools/sites (including General Practice) however you will be encouraged to think broadly about this. In accordance with your preferred focus area, you will also be allocated a supervisor and project.

Within the clinical team, you will perform clinical tasks and demonstrate appropriate professional practice, highlighting the role of the medical practitioner. You will be encouraged to consider your role in advocacy and leadership as future medical practitioners.

Scholarly output options may include projects in research or quality assurance or narrative medicine. The level of scholarship demonstrated through core coursework and Discovery will meet all training requirements and the course research learning outcomes, to being a career as a Clinician Scholar.

TIMELINE

Your decision-making pathway and what you need to do.



If you are certain you want to be a Research Scholar, you will need to attend your course advice meeting in Semester 1 before the end of the teaching period. At this session information will be provided to confirm your decision and you will be given more information on next steps and engaging with a supervisor.

If you are unsure about your pathway, we would strongly recommend you attend a course advice meeting in Semester 1, so that you keep your options open with the Research Scholar pathway. We can help clarify any questions that may help you make your decision.

If you are certain you want to be a Clinical Scholar, you do not need to attend a Course Advice meeting before the final pathway decision. You will have to opportunity to attend group drop in sessions in July before entering your final Discovery 3 topics preferences into Sonia.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR STUDENTS

During Semester 2, you will identify an area you are interested in researching and engage with a supervisor in this area. You will be given advice on how to do this by the Research Scholar academic coordinator at your clinical school or associated University of Melbourne institution.

Before the commencement of the teaching period in Year 3, you will confirm your supervisor and a research area. Additionally, we will liaise with your chosen supervisor to seek their confirmation and understanding of the expectations of the Research Scholar pathway.

It is never too early to start discussing research options with potential supervisors and mentors. Developing these relationships is crucial, being proactive will be essential to the supervisor/student researcher relationship.



MD RESEARCH METHODS CURRICULUM

The core research methods curriculum is modularised and distributed across the first three years of the MD within the clinical subjects. The core research methods curriculum will develop your foundation level research knowledge and skills, preparing you to undertake either the Research Scholar or the Clinical Scholar pathway.

COURSE RESEARCH LEARNING OUTCOMES

The research methods taught in the core curriculum has been divided into four main topic areas: study design and methodology, ethics, critical appraisal and managing scientific and scholarly evidence. For each of these topic areas, the core competencies for a graduate of the MD have been defined.

TOPIC	DOMAIN	COURSE RESEARCH LEARNING OUTCOME
Study design and methodology	Knowledge	Describe commonly used qualitative and quantitative research methodologies
	Skill	Justify the choice of a research design and methodology to answer a research question
Ethics	Knowledge	Describe the ethical standards for the design, conduct, recording and reporting of clinical research that involves human participants
	Skill	Apply ethical practice principles in the conduct of research or project work
Critical appraisal	Knowledge	Compare and contrast a range of approaches that can be used to identify and interpret scientific and scholarly evidence
	Skill	Critically interpret, synthesise and communicate findings from a range of scientific and scholarly literature
Managing scholarly and scientific evidence	Knowledge	Identify the tools and techniques that enable clinicians to evolve their knowledge in response to emerging research discoveries
	Skill	Demonstrate strategies for keeping up to date and practising medicine in line with the latest evidence



CLINICAL SCHOLAR PATHWAY

Applied research methods curriculum will be achieved through the Clinical Scholar pathway, and the completion of an integrated clinical placement with an associated supervised scholarly output. You will meet the research course intended learning outcomes through completion of this pathway.

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PATHWAY

Extended research methods curriculum will be achieved through the Research Scholar pathway. You will exceed the research course intended learning outcomes through completion of this pathway.

MEETING COURSE RESEARCH LEARNING OUTCOMES

RESEARCH SCHOLAR PATHWAY		CLINICAL SCHOLAR PATHWAY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FCP	YEAR 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FCP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PCP2	YEAR 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PCP2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PCP3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discovery 3: Research Scholar	YEAR 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PCP3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discovery 3: Integration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TTP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discovery 4: Research Scholar	YEAR 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TTP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discovery 4: Clinical Scholar

