

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DISCOVERY STUDENT POLICY & PROCEDURE FAQ



Melbourne
Medical School

1. Can I change my Discovery topic if the topic I have been allocated to is not suitable for a particular reason?

You may be able to change Discovery topics if:

- There is capacity in your topic of preference;
- Your topic of preference has not yet commenced; and
- You are not more than two (2) weeks through your current topic and no assessment deadlines have passed.

Please contact md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au for assistance with requesting this change.

We do not recommend changing Discovery topics post commencement. If your preferred topic has already commenced, you may wish to review the Melbourne Medical School [Change of Discovery Topic Post Commencement Procedure](#) to determine your eligibility for approval to change topics.

If you intend on changing your Faculty Selective to another Faculty Selective, please follow the [Changing Subject Post-Enrolment](#) instructions.

2. I didn't get allocated to my preferred Discovery topic. Why is that?

We are excited to share so many great Discovery topics with you throughout your MD journey. Many factors are considered throughout the preferencing process including topic capacity limits.

3. Is there a Discovery topic waitlist that I can join if I do not get allocated to my preferred topic?

Yes, we aim to support as many students as we can to study their preferred Discovery topic. Please contact md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au for assistance joining the waitlist.

4. If I select a Discovery topic to begin with, will I need to continue with it throughout all years of my studies?

In your Discovery subjects, you may have the option of selecting one topic that has a threaded pathway and is available across all four years of your MD, or you may wish to gain knowledge in a number of different Discovery topics. Your Course Advisor can assist you in determining which option is best suited to your career and personal goals.

5. What happens if I fail an assessment in my Discovery topic?

MD students may receive the option of additional assessment if they fail an assessment in their Discovery topic.

Students must meet the requirements outlined in the University of Melbourne [Assessment and Results Policy \(MPF1326\)](#).

6. How will my subject be graded?

Discovery subjects are ungraded and as such, your result will be issued in a pass/fail format. If receiving a passing result, this will be displayed on your academic transcript as CMP (pass – no mark awarded).

7. Can I progress through to the following year of studies if I do not pass my Discovery subject?

Progression within the MD is determined by a number of different factors. If the Board of Examiners determines you have not met the requirements of the Discovery subject, you will be referred to [Course Academic Progress Committee](#) (CAPC) meeting to determine your progression in the course.

8. Is there any support available to me if I have an ongoing condition?

Yes, our dedicated Health and Wellbeing Practitioners are here to assist you. You can review the type of support they offer via the Melbourne Medical School [Support Services webpage](#).

At the University of Melbourne, we have a number of additional [Support Services](#) available to students. If you have an ongoing condition that impacts your ability to engage with the course, you are strongly encouraged to register with Student Equity and Disability Service. If eligible, recommendations for your engagement with the course can be made, including Academic Adjustment Plans (AAP) and Alternative Exam Arrangements (AEAs). To see whether you are eligible, information can be found at [Student Equity And Disability Support](#) or visit contact Student Equity and Disability Services via [Stop1](#).

Once you have an academic adjustment plan and/or an alternate exam arrangement in place, please send a copy of to md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au as it is your responsibility to ensure staff are aware of the support we can provide you.

If you are unsure about the type of support you are seeking, we encourage you to raise this during your Course Advisor meeting. If you have already had your meeting, you are welcome to contact us at md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au and we will be happy to point you in the right direction for the most suitable support option.

9. Can I apply for a Short Leave of Absence during my Discovery topic delivery dates?

We understand that sometimes life gets in the way, and you need to take time away from your studies. The process for applying for a Short Leave of Absence is the same for Discovery topics and all other subjects. Please review the Melbourne Medical School [Short Leave of Absence Policy and Procedure](#) for eligibility guidelines, instructions on how to apply and information on the supporting documentation required.

10. What happens if I am unable to complete an assessment due to an unexpected circumstance?

If your ability to undertake an assessment is affected by illness, bereavement, or trauma, you may be eligible for support via special consideration. The process for applying for Special Consideration is the same for Discovery topics and all other subjects. Please review the University of Melbourne [Special Consideration webpage](#) for eligibility guidelines, instructions on how to apply and information on the supporting documentation required.

11. What are the professional behavior requirements of Discovery?

MD students are expected to behave professionally in all their interactions in the course or related to the course. MD professional behavior requirements do not differ from Discovery compared to your other subjects. These requirements can be found via the MD [Professional Behavior guidelines](#).

12. Is there a 100% attendance requirement for Discovery topics?

Yes, there is a 100% attendance requirement for your Discovery topics. This attendance requirement is set to assist you in staying up to date with the content and assessments of your topics. If you are unable to attend, it is an expectation that you will notify your Discovery Topic Lead and submit a [Short Leave of Absence](#) as soon as possible.

13. I have already attended my Course Advisor meeting, but I still have more questions, who can I ask them to?

We are always happy to assist you. Please email us at md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au with a brief outline of the assistance you are seeking, and we will do our best to address your concerns as soon as possible.

14. Can I be awarded credit for a Faculty Selective that I have successfully completed during my previous studies?

As part of your MD, it is not possible to gain credit (Advanced Standing) for studies undertaken previously. If you are interested in studying a Faculty Selective, please select one that you have not yet completed. Alternatively, you may wish to study a Discovery topic of your interest.

15. I am interested in the MD-MPH. Where can I review further information?

We are glad to hear you are interested in studying the MD-MPH. Further information can be found via the [Handbook](#). If you require tailored assistance, you may also wish to contact [Professor Rob Moodie](#) of the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

16. My question or circumstance is not mentioned above. How can I receive assistance?

Discovery is a new subject for 2022 and we anticipate that other queries will arise as the subject roles out. Situations that are not covered in the above will be resolved with reference to/follow course guidelines/similar areas in other course policies. There is nothing for you to worry about if your circumstance isn't displayed above. Please contact md-enquiries@unimelb.edu.au for personalised assistance and support.