School of Medicine

Head of School
Professor H MacDougall

Taught Programmes

M.Sc.: Health Psychology
M.Res.: Medicine

Programme Requirements

Health Psychology
M.Sc.: 60 credits from MD5001 - MD5020, 60 credits from MD5090 plus 60 credits from PS5003, PS5005

Medicine
M.Res.: 60 credits from MD5101 - MD5120, 120 credits from MD5190

Modules

MD5001 Theories of Health Psychology and Behaviour Change
Credits: 15 Semester: 1
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology
Description: This module will consist of the knowledge base that covers the context and perspectives of health psychology including an historical overview and current theories and approaches in health psychology. It will include an awareness of other related disciplines, and acknowledgement of social and cultural factors. Theoretical models of health behaviour and behaviour change will be introduced including associated health-related beliefs and cognitions.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Three lectures and a two hour tutorial.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

MD5002 Quality of Life, Communication and Chronic Illness
Credits: 15 Semester: 1
Prerequisite: MD5001
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology
Description: This core module will contain the knowledge base for understanding the conceptual underpinnings of the quality of life field and its importance in generating a debate about the success of health care interventions, assessment of care and definitions of health and illness. The relevance of psychological issues to the person suffering acute and chronic illness will be covered and the important role of communication processes in the interface between patient, clinical staff and care-givers will be included as a key theme. Some practical observation of clinical-related communication processes will be an additional feature of this module.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%
MD5003 Biological Systems and Development
Credits: 15  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: MD5001, MD5002
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology
Description: This core module will introduce the importance of biological and developmental systems to the understanding of people's perceived and actual health status including methods of assessing health behaviour and intervening to change health behaviour. This module will consist of learning a generalisable tool to analyse and pool the effects of interventions, namely meta-analysis.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

MD5004 Health Information and Decision Making
Credits: 15  Semester: 2
Prerequisite: MD5001, MD5002, PS5003
Co-requisite: PS5005
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology
Description: This core module introduces the student to the expanding filed of health information and decision making. Members of the public, whether they are patients or not are bombarded with health information and mis-information, via various media, from which they may process and make decisions about entering or remaining in the health care system, or embarking on new health or self care interventions designed to improve outcome. Students will acquire understanding on how to assess the influence of these interventions through detailed examination of a mixture of theoretical and practical steps.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Three lectures, a two hour tutorial and a practical.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment = 40%, Two Hour Examination = 60%

MD5090 Research Project in Health Psychology
Credits: 60  Semester: Whole Year
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology
Description: The dissertation will consist of a written report of original, empirical health psychology research, up to 15,000 words in length. It will consist of an appropriate literature review, statement of aims, methods, results, discussion and conclusion sections with supporting bibliography. The project will be supervised and receive ethical approval.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: Individual Supervision.
Assessment: Project report = 100%

MD5101 Training in Research Skills
Credits: 30  Semester: 1
Co-requisite: MD5102
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Res. in Medicine
Description: This module introduces students to the core skills which underpin medical research. The emphasis will be on how to do research in a health service setting.
Class Hour: To be arranged.
Teaching: One three-hour seminar.
Assessment: Continuous Assessment (Oral Presentation = 25%, Poster Presentation = 25%, Grant Proposal = 50%) = 100%
MD5102 Recent Advances in Medical Research
Credits: 30  
Semester: 2  
Co-requisite: MD5101  
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Res. in Medicine  
Description: This module will take the form of a series of 'masterclasses'. Research active investigators within the Medical School will give presentations on their specialist topics. This will be complemented by a series of journal clubs.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: One three-hour seminar.  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment (e-portfolio) = 100%

MD5190 Research Project in Medicine
Credits: 120  
Semester: Whole Year  
Co-requisites: MD5101 and MD5102  
Anti-requisite: MD5191  
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Res. in Medicine  
Description: In this module a research project will be undertaken on a single topic relevant to medical research. This will be supervised by a member of academic staff. There will be a formative meeting after three months with a research panel to discuss the aims and objectives of the work.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: Tutorials  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment, including 12 - 15,000 word project report = 100%

MD5191 Research Project in Medicine
Credits: 60  
Semester: Whole Year  
Co-requisites: MD5101 and MD5102  
Anti-requisite: MD5190  
Programme(s): Compulsory module for Postgraduate Diploma in Medicine  
Description: In this module a research project will be undertaken on a single topic relevant to medical research. This will be supervised by a member of academic staff. There will be a formative meeting after three months with a research panel to discuss the aims and objectives of the work.  
Class Hour: To be arranged.  
Teaching: Tutorials  
Assessment: Continuous Assessment, including 8 - 12,000 word project report = 100%

PS5003 Generic Research and Professional Skills in Psychology
Credits: 30  
Semester: Whole Year  
Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology  
Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology  
Description: This module introduces students to the various skills and issues which are of importance to academic psychologists irrespective of their particular area of research. Weekly seminars will cover the various topics, such as academic presentations (published writing, talks, posters), the use of technology in order to enhance communication, how to read research reports, how to gain ethical approval for research, and how to build an academic career.  
Class Hour: To be arranged  
Teaching: Seventeen 2 hour seminars  
Assessment: Ten elements of Continuous Assessment
PS5005 Methods of Data Analysis in Psychology

Credits: 30  
Semester: 2

Prerequisite: Acceptance into a research degree in Psychology

Programme(s): Compulsory module for M.Sc. in Health Psychology

Description: This module aims to ensure that students are competent in the use of advanced data analysis in psychology. This includes advanced training in common statistics (including regression, analysis of variance and multivariate techniques) plus additional training in qualitative methods. Students will also study more complex topics such as statistical modelling.

Class Hour: To be arranged

Teaching: Eleven 2-hour workshops

Assessment: Ten elements of Continuous Assessment