

Information for students for Master Surgery Dissertation subjects

Thank you for your interest in enrolling in the Master Surgery Dissertation subjects which are a flagship component of the Master Surgery. The Dissertation subjects are taught over two six credit point subjects – SURG5050 which is also called Part A and SURG5051 which is also called Part B.

The aim of the dissertation subjects is to allow you to develop a research question, review the literature, develop methods, collect data, analyse data, and present a dissertation answering your question. Your project can either use original data or be a systematic review with or without meta-analysis.

In Part A you will develop your research question and methods and complete a literature review. In Part B you will complete your analysis and complete your dissertation. For each subject, it is expected you will spend ~10 hours of work per week working on the subjects as required for a six credit point subject.

In both subjects, our expert faculty will assist you to develop your projects and provide advice and support to complete your projects.

CHOOSING YOUR SUPERVISOR

For the dissertation subjects, you will require a supervisor who you will work with to identify a research area of your interest and have experience and access to data or resources to address your research question.

We encourage you to have a supervisor who is affiliated with the University, but we understand that you may prefer to have an external supervisor due to your location or prior experience. If you prefer to have an external supervisor, it is important you discuss with your supervisor their experience with research and the ability to complete your project within the key dates below.

We would recommend your supervisor has experience with supervision of honours medical students, masters students, higher degree research students or similar to help your project succeed and be completed within the time frame of the subjects.

If you require help in finding a supervisor, the Master Surgery team can assist you with this.

SUPPORT PROVIDED

The dissertations subjects have an expert faculty with experience in study design, data management, analysis, and other aspects of research. Our faculty aim to support you and your supervisor with your research projects. During the semester you will have the opportunity to discuss and receive expert feedback via a number of discussion boards and presentation sessions.

KEY DATES

During Part A it is critical you finalise any ethics approvals required for your projects which will be the primary responsibility of the site where your research takes place.

During Part B it is required you submit your dissertation by the end of the semester, so your data analysis should be at a stage of being finalized at the start of the semester when you enrol in Part B.

Within the first few weeks of Part B, you will be required to present a preliminary abstract of your project and if there are concerns about the suitability of your project to meet the requirements of Part B due to inadequate results you may need to withdraw from the subject and enrol at a later date when your results are more developed.

The subjects are designed to be completed consecutively and depending on your projects progress you may spend one of two semesters between each subject to complete the finalisation of your results.

We also understand that research does not always go to plan, and it is possible to enrol and complete Part A and not continue with Part B. You will be awarded marks and six credit points if you complete Part A to a satisfactory level.

OTHER SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

The dissertation subjects are designed to complement other subjects offered in the Master's program and depending on your projects and you and your supervisor/s experience you may wish to consider other subjects which will give you skills to complete these subjects more effectively. Subjects which we would recommend considering would be:

Core subjects:

PUBH5018: Introductory Biostatistics – for projects using original data and if your or your research team/supervisor has limited experience with analysis

CEPI5100: Introduction to Clinical Epidemiology or SURG5035: Surgical Research and Evaluation – if you or your research team/supervisor has limited experience in research

SURG5003: Scientific Communication for Surgeons – for skills in presentation

Elective subjects:

CEPI5315: Introduction to Systematic Reviews – which includes meta-analysis

PUBH5217: Biostatistics: Statistical Modelling – for projects using original data with linear models, logistic models, and survival models

PUBH5218: Advanced Statistical Modelling – for projects using applying model-building strategies and fitting advanced statistical models

PUBH5505: Qualitative Research in Health – for projects in qualitative analysis (beginners)

PUBH5506: Advanced Qualitative Analysis and Writing – for projects in qualitative analysis (advanced)

We hope you enjoy your enrolment in the dissertation subjects. If you require further information, Nina Zhu – Education Support Officer n.zhu@sydney.edu.au can assist with our faculty team.