

# FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH - SYDNEY MEDICAL PROGRAM CONCURRENT ENROLMENT PROVISIONS 2020

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## 1 Purpose and application

- (1) These provisions:
  - (a) recognise the value for motivated and academically strong students of completing a higher degree by research or postgraduate coursework program; and
  - (b) support students undertaking additional studies concurrently with the Sydney Medical Program.
- (2) These provisions apply to students enrolled in the Sydney Medical Program (SMP).
- (3) International students may undertake concurrent study if permitted under the conditions of their student visa.

## 2 Commencement

These provisions commence on 1 January 2020.

## 3 Interpretation

<b>academic dishonesty</b>	has the meaning given in the <a href="#">Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2015</a> . At the date of these provisions, that is:  has the meaning given in subclauses 7(1) and 7(2) of that policy.
<b>academic leader</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>Higher degree by research (HDR)</b>	means a Master of Philosophy (Mphil) or a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).
<b>MD project</b>	means the approved, supervised research or capstone project undertaken by students in the Doctor of Medicine award course.

<b>Nominated academic</b>	means a member of staff or an affiliate at level D or E in the SMP nominated by the Head of School and Dean.
<b>postgraduate coursework program (PCW)</b>	means a postgraduate coursework program leading to a postgraduate degree.
<b>Research misconduct</b>	has the meaning given in the <a href="#">Research Code of Conduct 2019</a> . At the date of these provisions that is:  has the meaning given in clause 20 of that policy.
<b>Sydney Medical Program (SMP)</b>	means the Doctor of Medicine (MD) award course.

#### 4 Principles for concurrent enrolment

- (1) Students must not commence the SMP whilst completing an HDR or PCW.
- (2) The Sydney Medical School does not generally allow students to defer entry to the MD to complete an HDR or PCW program.
  - (a) The Head of School and Dean of Sydney Medical School may make an exception for high performing students enrolled in an HDR program at the University of Sydney where completion is anticipated within one year.
- (3) Students may apply for concurrent enrolment in an HDR or PCW program after completion of their first year in the MD.
 

**Note:** See clause 5 for further eligibility requirements.
- (4) Students may enrol in an HDR or PCW program concurrently with the SMP on a part-time basis only.
- (5) A part-time workload requires students to enrol in a 0.5 full time equivalent load (24 credit points per annum; 12 credit points per semester). This means that students:
  - (a) are ineligible to apply for a research scholarship; and
  - (b) must forfeit any research scholarships they hold upon concurrent enrolment.
- (6) Research undertaken as part of an 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).
- (7) The Sydney Medical School will monitor the 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.

#### 5 Eligibility and progression

- (1) To be eligible to enrol in a concurrent HDR or PCW program, an SMP student must:
  - (a) have an excellent academic record;
  - (b) have passed all year 1 and year 2 SMP assessments without any remediation plans or further assessments;

- (c) be in the top third of their cohort; and
- (d) not have:
  - (i) repeated a year of study;
  - (ii) any professional concerns raised against them;
  - (iii) been found to have engaged in academic dishonesty or research misconduct; or

**Note:** See the [Academic Honesty in Coursework Policy 2015](#) and the [Research Code of Conduct 2019](#).

- (iv) been required to show good cause.

**Note:** See Part 16 of the [Coursework Policy 2014](#).

- (2) To be eligible to continue enrolment from year to year in a concurrent HDR or PCW program, an SMP student must:
  - (a) continue to pass all SMP assessments without any remediation plans or further assessments; and
  - (b) maintain their academic standing in the top third of the cohort.
- (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 academic, who may then require that they either:
  - (a) suspend their HDR or PCW program until their performance in the SMP is acceptable; or
  - (b) suspend their SMP 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.
 

**Note:** Only students who are concurrently enrolled in a program at the University will be covered by University policies and procedures.
- (2) Students will not be permitted to take time off from required SMP teaching activities 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) A student who, in the opinion of the nominated academic, does not meet the eligibility criteria specified in clause 5 will not be admitted to concurrent enrolment.
  - (a) The decision of the nominated academic is final and may not be appealed.
- (3) Students wishing to undertake a PCW program must:
  - (a) identify their preferred PCW program; and
  - (b) obtain approval for concurrent enrolment from the nominated academic.

- (4) Students wishing to undertake HDR should plan to carry out research only at their allocated clinical school. They must:
  - (a) identify a research supervisor and project; and
  - (b) obtain approval for concurrent enrolment from the nominated academic of the Head of their allocated clinical school.
- (5) If the nominated academic gives approval for concurrent HDR enrolment, students must then obtain approval from the Associate Dean (Research Education), 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 academic leader at the student's clinical school.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Requests to transfer to a different clinical school because of the location of an HDR research project will not be considered.
- (8) Students who have been given approval for concurrent PCW and SMP enrolment must discuss their concurrent enrolment with their course coordinator.
- (9) Students must then apply for HDR or PCW admission in accordance with standard University processes.
- (10) Students who have been given approval for concurrent HDR and SMP enrolment will be required to initially enrol in the Master of Philosophy (MPhil).
  - (a) Upgrade to a 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 (Research Education); and
    - (iii) obtain confirmation from the academic leader at their clinical school that there are sufficient resources to support the HDR and that supervision is appropriate.
- (11) The nominated academic will consider concurrent enrolment in PCW programs offered by another faculty at the University on a case by case basis.

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

- (1) Concurrent enrolment will not generally be permitted in year 1 and 2 of the MD program.
- (2) 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 academic leader (or equivalent position if enrolled at another institution).
- (3) The student must develop a plan for completion within one year (full time equivalent) and discuss it with the Associate Dean (Research Education).
- (4) 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.

- (5) Students must be enrolled part-time in HDR or PCW (not more than 24 credit points per year, 12 credit points per semester) upon concurrent enrolment in the MD.
- (6) 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).
- (7) 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.

## NOTES

### **Faculty of Medicine and Health - Sydney Medical School Concurrent Enrolment Provisions 2020**

Date adopted: 1 January 2020

Date commenced: 1 January 2020

Signature:

Approved by: Professor Robyn Ward  
Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Health

Review Date: 1 January 2025

Related documents:

[\*Faculty of Medicine and Health Professionalism Provisions 2019\*](#)

[\*Faculty of Medicine and Health Professionalism Requirements Provisions 2019\*](#)