



Master of Clinical Education by Research

Information for prospective students

The Master of Clinical Education by Research (MCE/R) is part of the suite of postgraduate clinical education courses offered in the [Prideaux Centre for Research in Health Professions Education](#) within the College of Medicine and Public Health at Flinders University. It comprises both coursework and research components and is a recognised Higher Degree by Research (HDR) at Flinders University.

The course aims to enable health professionals to make a significant contribution to research evidence in the field of clinical education, and to lead clinical education research in a range of environments and systems. It provides a pathway into a PhD.

More information about the MCE/R is available at:

<https://students.flinders.edu.au/my-course/course-rules/postgrad/mce/mcedur>

Program of study

Coursework component (semester-based enrolment):

HLED9101 Symbiotic Clinical Education for the Health Professions 1 AND
HLED9108 Research Skills in Clinical Education,

Plus either

PHCA9502A: Qualitative Research Methods* AND
PHCA9502B: Qualitative Research Methods*

OR

PHCA9511A: Social Statistics in Public Health** AND
PHCA9511B: Social Statistics in Public Health**

*Students intending to undertake a thesis primarily using qualitative methods should complete PHCA9502A and PHCA9502B.

**Students intending to undertake a thesis primarily using quantitative methods should complete PHCA9511A and PHCA9511B

Thesis component (time-based enrolment):

HLED9114: Clinical Education Thesis. The thesis is 24 months part time or 12 months full time

MCE/R application process

STEP 1

Contact the course coordinator Dr Koshila Kumar (contact details overleaf) to discuss your intentions of applying and your research project ideas. This is to facilitate the development of a robust research proposal and identification of potential supervisors – both of which are required before an application for the MCE/R can be submitted to the university.

STEP 2

Develop a research proposal that outlines the research project you would like to undertake in the thesis component of the MCE/R program and send to the course coordinator for initial review. The course coordinator will provide feedback and help you to further refine your proposal to the required standard, and also discuss potential supervisors among the Flinders staff. Please allow ample time for this phase.

Your research proposal (3-4 pages) should contain the following information:

Title page

- Student name, brief biography including current role and any previous research experience
- Research project title
- Degree being applied for
- Names of proposed supervisors (if known)

Introduction

- Background to the research topic/problem with reference to the literature
- Theoretical framework
- Research aims and research question/s

Methods

- Research design (quantitative, qualitative or mixed methods)
- Setting/context for the study
- Participants (sampling and recruitment)
- Data collection methods
- Data analysis methods

Timelines, action plan and resources

- Use a Gantt chart or similar to outline your timelines (full-time thesis is 12 months and part-time thesis is 24 months)
- If you are using the MCE/R as a pathway into a PhD, factor in an upgrade seminar and paperwork around the $\frac{3}{4}$ mark of candidature

Reference list

As you develop your research proposal, please consider the following:

- How does your research align with your current or future role or any workplace priorities or needs? Discuss your research proposal with your manager or employer and get their support.
- Who from the Flinders University clinical education teaching team or other academic staff in the university may be the right supervisor? Please use the [Find a Supervisor](#) page to identify suitable supervisors. You will need two eligible Flinders affiliated supervisors.
- Is there a colleague from your organisation who can provide local supervision or mentorship? This is a key ingredient for success. This person can also be formally listed as an adjunct supervisor, but they must have a Master's degree or higher qualification to supervise.
- Are you going to undertake the thesis as a full or part time student? The thesis is 12 months (fulltime) or 24 months (part-time). Please note, a full-time thesis equates to 40 hours of study a week and a part-time thesis equates to approximately 20 hours of study per week. If you are working more than 30 hours a week you will need to study part-time.
- What is the ethics approval process? Typically, you will need to obtain ethics approval from Flinders University Social and Behavioural Ethics Committee AND from your local hospital or university ethics committee. Check with your organisation about what their local ethics approval requirements are.

STEP 3

Finalise your research proposal and submit to the course coordinator Dr Koshila Kumar koshila.kumar@flinders.edu.au. It will be sent for formal review to at least two potential supervisors at Flinders University. Aspects being reviewed include the:

- quality and merit of the proposed research project
- demonstrated capacity of the candidate to undertake a HDR
- alignment with Prideaux Centre's areas of research, supervisor interests and expertise
- supervisor availability

Based on the review of your proposal, a recommendation will be made as to whether you:

- a) Are to be accepted into the MCE/R program. *Please note that you will still need to submit a formal online HDR application to the university.* The committee will recommend potential primary supervisors. You will need to discuss your research project with the recommended primary supervisor and get their sign off before submitting the university online HDR application,
- b) Need to do more work on your research proposal or undertake preparatory work before you can be considered for the MCE/R,
- c) Are not to be accepted into the MCE/R. Alternative recommendation is to undertake the MCE coursework program.

STEP 4

If you are accepted into the MCE/R program, you will need to contact your assigned supervisor and get their written confirmation to supervise. Then submit a formal online HDR application to the University. Please refer to [How to Apply](#) for information and the steps involved in applying.

Contacts

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