3.4 Curriculum Information (PhD Programme in Clinical Sciences)

PhD Programme in Clinical Sciences (CS)

The aim of the PhD Programme in Clinical Sciences (PhD CS) is to educate and train medical doctors and other health science professionals to perform clinical and translational research. The proposed programme will focus on the interface between clinical, biological and social research methods by bringing together experts in quantitative sciences (biostatistics, epidemiology, and bioinformatics), biological basic sciences (genomics, immunomics, metabolomics), ethics, clinical therapeutics, health services and systems research.

The goal is that clinician scientists trained in this PhD programme will lead research efforts in Singapore in the future and will enhance Singapore’s international reputation in medical research.

Candidates may be admitted on a 3-year full-time or 4-year part-time basis. The programme is self-supporting and the candidates are encouraged to apply for NMRC Research Training Fellowship.

Mentorship
Each student will be supervised and guided by one main mentor who is an established clinician-scientist. The mentor will provide the research environment and research support to the student. Further, a thesis advisory committee (TAC) comprised of up to four faculty will meet with the student and mentor on a regular basis to provide expert guidance.

Mentor Eligibility
1. Medically qualified and leads a successful research programme in translational and/or clinical research.
2. Evidence of national competitive funding such as NMRC Clinician-Scientist Awards (STaR, CSA, IRG)
3. Sufficient funding to support the students’ research project
4. Provide track record of peer-review publications in international journals.
5. Faculty appointment with Duke-NUS

Curriculum

Year 1
1. Principles of Clinical Research
2. Foundations of Precision Medicine
3. Forums/Workshops
4. Good Clinical Practice Course
5. Graduate Seminar

Year 2
1. Study Initiation Visit
2. Graduate Seminar

Coursework
1. Research Methods from Medicine to Population Health
2. Protocol Submission
3. Research grant application for thesis project
4. Graduate Seminar

Thesis research (start)

PhD Qualifying Exam (PQE)
(either in Year 1 or Year 2)

Year 2
1. Elective
2. Forums and Workshops
3. Attend 2 IRB meetings
4. Graduate Seminar

Thesis research (continued)

Coursework
Year 3

1. Attend 2 IRB and 2 grant review committee meetings
2. Graduate Seminar

1. Assist in reviewing 2 grants under the mentorship of the official reviewer
2. Graduate Seminar

Thesis research (continued)
Preparation of Manuscript
Successful Dissertation
Defense