

Duke-NUS Medical School

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1 Faculty's Commitment

Centrally located in a modern facility on the grounds of Singapore General Hospital, Duke-NUS is Singapore's first US-style graduate-entry medical school. We draw on the rich medical training and research at Duke University in North Carolina and the outstanding resources at the National University of Singapore (NUS). In addition, Duke-NUS partners with Singapore Healthcare Services (SingHealth) to form an Academic Medicine Institute which integrates three pillars of medicine - clinical care, education and research. We also collaborate with a number of strong research institutions in Singapore, including the National Cancer Centre, the National Heart Centre, the National Eye Centre, the National Neurosciences Institute, and the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

Offering innovative MD, PhD, and MD-PhD programmes with a focus on medical research, Duke-NUS prepares doctors who are not only skilled in patient care, but who are also well equipped to practise in the rapidly changing world of medicine. We prepare physician leaders who are problem solvers committed to improving the health of individuals and communities through research. At Duke-NUS, we are committed to helping our graduates transform medicine in the 21st century. The Duke-NUS MD degree is jointly awarded by Duke University and the National University of Singapore, while the PhD degree is awarded by the National University of Singapore.

For more information, please visit our website at: <https://www.duke-nus.edu.sg/about>

2 Key Contact Information

Senior Management

TITLE & NAME	DESIGNATION/RESPONSIBILITY	EMAIL (XXXX@NULLNUS.EDU.SG)
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Prof. Sandy COOK	Interim Vice Dean (Education) & Interim Co- Director of AM.EI	gmscs
Prof. Robert K. KAMEI	Professor (Education)	gmsrkk
Prof. WONG Tien Yin	Professor and Vice Dean (Clinical Sciences)	gmswty
Ms. Karen CHANG	Group Director and Senior Vice Dean (Corporate Services)	gmsclck
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Student Recruitment and Admissions

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Financial Aid

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Student Affairs

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Registrar Services

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Medical Education, Research and Evaluation (MD Programme)

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Graduate Studies (PhD Programme & MD-PhD Track)

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3.1 Degrees Offered

Duke-NUS Medical School offers the following programmes:

1. MD programme

The Duke-NUS MD programme is distinctively designed to prepare physician leaders in medical research, education, and patient care. This programme spans 4 years, and graduates are awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD) jointly by Duke University and NUS.

For more information on our MD programme, please click [here](#).

2. MD-PhD Track

Duke-NUS also offers a combined MD-PhD track that is unique to Singapore. This option is most appropriate for students who are committed to intensive research-oriented careers, combining biomedical research with the practice of clinical medicine. The duration of the MD-PhD track varies, but is approximately 7 years. MD-PhD students start their PhD component after completing the 2nd year of the MD program. Upon completion of PhD, students will complete the final year (4th) year of the MD program.

For more information on our MD-PhD programme, please click [here](#).

3. PhD programme in Integrated Biology and Medicine

The Duke-NUS PhD programme in Integrated Biology and Medicine provides training in translational bioscience, covering a broad spectrum of disciplines including cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, physiology, and health policy. The main research areas that are offered include cancer stem cells, neuroscience, cardiovascular and metabolic disorders and infectious disease. The goal of this programme is to train PhD scientists across multiple disciplines with the skills and ambitions of translating basic scientific discoveries into useful therapies for patients. The education and training of the students is supported by award-winning research faculty. The PhD degree, takes on average 4 to 5 years to complete and is granted by NUS.

For more information on our PhD programme, please click [here](#).

3.2 Curriculum Information (MD Programme)

MD Programme

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) programme at Duke-NUS is a 4-year course comprising of the following phases: pre-clerkship, clerkship, research and advanced clinical.

The programme begins with the pre-clerkship curriculum, introducing students to basic sciences and the fundamentals of patient care. Courses cover the basic science content fundamental to clinical core, including: biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, microanatomy, anatomy, physiology, neurobiology, behavioural sciences, pharmacology, microbiology, pathology and immunology. The pre-clerkship curriculum is covered in one year.

In their second year, students go through a series of clerkship rotations, gaining broad exposure to core specialties such as Paediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Neurology, Psychiatry, Surgery and Medicine. Students are required to complete 6 blocks of 8-week clerkship rotations. In 2014, the school launched the new Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) which runs core clerkships in an integrated manner throughout the year with greater exposure to outpatient care. The LIC is currently offered as an alternative programme to the regular clerkship rotations for a small number of students.

The research and advanced clinical phases span the third and fourth years of the MD programme.

Students spend approximately 9 months on scholarly research activities. They get to select a research area of their interest and carry out a research project in that area under the supervision of a research mentor. At the end of the research experience, they are required to submit a thesis based on their research project. Students may carry out their research locally or at our affiliated institution, Duke University.

The advanced clinical rotations in the final two years of the MD programme provides students with opportunities to participate in patient care with increased responsibilities. Besides core specialties such as Emergency Medicine, Surgery, Medicine, Musculoskeletal and Critical Care, students are also given elective time to explore areas based on their career interest.

Below is a more detailed breakdown of our MD curriculum.

<p>Year One</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations Course • Molecules, Cells & Tissues • Normal Body • Brain & Behaviour • Body & Disease • Practice Course 1 <p>Other year one modules since 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigative Methods & Tools • Evidence Based Medicine
<p>Year Two</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation to Clinical Year • Medicine Clerkship • Surgery Clerkship • Paediatrics Clerkship • Obstetrics & Gynaecology Clerkship • Neurology Clerkship • Psychiatry Clerkship • Practice Course 2 <p>Other year two modules since 2008:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Anaesthesia Programme • Anaesthesiology Programme • Clinical Core 1 to 5 • Cardiology Programme • Radiology Programme • Musculoskeletal Year 2 Programme • Clinical Reflections • Geriatric Medicine/Medical Oncology/Palliative Care • Oncology, Geriatric Medicine & Palliative Care Programme • Geriatrics & Nutrition • Clinical Oncology • Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship

<p>Year Three and Four (Research)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Experience Part 1 • Research Experience Part 2 • IRB Modules • Research Thesis <p>Other Research modules since 2009:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation to Research Year • Research Methods and Analysis
<p>Year Three and Four (Advanced Clinical)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine Sub-Internship • Surgery Sub-Internship • Musculoskeletal Rotation • Critical Care Rotation • Emergency Medicine • Family Medicine Clerkship • Practice Course 3 <p>Other Advanced Clinical modules since 2010:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice Course 4 • Capstone Course • Student as Future Educator • Independent Study • Advance Clinical Practice

3.3 Curriculum Information (MD-PhD Track)

Duke-NUS offers a combined MD-PhD track to students who wish to further their academic training. The programme combines medical education with research training to develop clinician-scientists who interface between medicine and science. Students embark on the PhD component after completing their second year of the MD programme. Upon completion of the PhD component, students will complete the final (fourth) year of the MD programme. Students admitted into the programme will be offered a full scholarship for the PhD component, as well as financial support to cover the tuition fee for their final year of MD training. Interested students can either apply directly to the MD-PhD programme at the time of initial application or after matriculation into the MD programme. Every year, approximately 15-20% of the MD cohort may be offered a place in the MD-PhD track.

All applicants for the MD-PhD programme are required to sit for the MCAT. This programme does not accept GRE scores. Assuming successful fulfillment of requirements, students in the MD program will be awarded a joint Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from Duke University and the National University of Singapore. For those having completed the MD-PhD option, the PhD degree will be awarded by the National University of Singapore.

Duke-NUS MD-PhD Option			
	YEAR 1	MD	Basic Science
	YEAR 2	MD	Clinical Rotations
In lieu of MD Year 3 ResearchYear	YEAR 3	Start PhD	Coursework, Labs, Choose Mentor
	YEAR 4	PhD	Identify Thesis, Qualifying Exam
	YEAR 5	PhD	Research
	YEAR 6	PhD	Research
	YEAR 7	MD	Clinical Rotations

3.4 Curriculum Information (PhD Programme in Integrated Biology and Medicine)

PhD Programme in Integrated Biology and Medicine

The Duke-NUS PhD programme in Integrated Biology and Medicine provides training in translational bioscience, covering a broad spectrum of disciplines including cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, physiology, and health policy. During the first semester students complete a core course entitled “Molecules to Medicines” where they learn fundamentals in biomedical research, while simultaneously conducting two laboratory rotations. Subsequently, students choose a thesis mentor and complete their advanced training in one of five specialty tracks:

- Cancer and Stem Cell Biology
- Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders
- Neuroscience and Behavioral Disorders
- Health Services and Systems Research

The degree, which will take on average 4 to 5 years to complete, culminates with the development of a written thesis and a successful oral dissertation defense.

Like the Duke-NUS MD programme, the Ph.D. core course incorporates a novel education strategy which rapidly transitions students to a mode of learning better suited for a lifelong career in biomedical research. From the first week in the programme, students are introduced to scientific literature searches, evaluation and critique of seminal scientific papers. The core curriculum is delivered in a small group collaborative learning environment that reinforces critical thinking and public debate. An overview of the curriculum follows.

YEAR 1			
Semester 1			Semester 2
Lab Rotation 1	Lab Rotation 2	Lab Rotation 3	Start of Thesis Research
IBM Class: Molecules to Medicines			SRP Specific Courses
			Student Research Seminars

YEAR 2	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Thesis Research	Thesis Research
SRP Specific Courses	PhD Qualifying Exam (PQE)
Student Research Seminars	Student Research Seminars

YEARS 3-5		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Completion of PhD
Thesis Research	Thesis Research	Successful Dissertation Defense
Student Research Seminars	Student Research Seminars	

Year 1 - Required coursework and lab rotations

All PhD candidates participate in the 15-week core course called “Molecules to Medicines” during their first semester of the PhD programme. This course introduces students to translational research, and provides training on experimental models, methods and mechanisms that drive current investigations into human disease. Scientific ethics training is woven throughout the course. This course is taught by a range of Duke-NUS faculty and staff who introduce their expertise to the students. This is not a lecture course, but an interactive learning course that requires significant preparation and participation.

Students will also conduct three 6-week lab rotations from among the Duke-NUS Signature Research Programmes. Mentors for the rotations must be regular ranked faculty and be on the approved mentor list. These rotations are structured to provide students with first hand exposure to the labs where they may choose to conduct their PhD research. At the end of the rotations, students will be asked to commit to a thesis mentor and a specialty discipline.

During the second semester, students may continue with coursework and/or begin primary research.

Specifics will be dependent on the specialty areas students choose to pursue.

Year 2 - Developing a thesis and qualifying exam

At the start of the second year, students will work toward developing their thesis projects. Students may or may not continue with formal coursework, however, all PhD candidates are expected to actively participate in Duke-NUS research seminars and Journal Clubs sponsored by their Signature Research Programmes. These seminars provide students with a forum to give oral presentations, evaluate literature, analyze competitive science, and share ideas on major breakthroughs and future directions for their research field. This activity provides a critical foundation for a career in translational research.

In the first semester, all PhD students take a qualifying or preliminary exam. Successful students will defend a mock grant proposal, providing the faculty with the opportunity to evaluate their fundamental knowledge and ability to pursue hypothesis-based research.

Years 3 & 4 - Research and thesis

After the qualifying exam, the remainder of the PhD training consists of the execution of the thesis project and regular participation in Research Seminars and Journal Clubs. The thesis mentor will guide the student and act as the chair of the student's Graduate Thesis Advisory Committee. Success of the thesis will be judged by the publication or anticipated publication of two quality first author papers, with the emphasis being on quality.

4 Admissions and Financial Aid

4.1 [Admissions](#)

4.2 [Financial Aid and Awards](#)

4.1 Admissions

At Duke-NUS, we utilize a holistic admissions review process that is individualized to each applicant. Broadly speaking, the admissions process takes into account a combination of personal attributes, experiences, and academic accomplishments. In keeping with our School's mission, as well as our Academic Medicine partnership with SingHealth, our ambition is to make significant contributions to improving the practice of medicine in Singapore and beyond. As such, we enthusiastically look forward to having promising applicants from diverse academic backgrounds join our community and help realise our vision.

For details on the admission requirements for our MD, MD-PhD, or PhD programmes, please visit <https://www.duke-nus.edu.sg/admissions/admission-requirements>

4.2 Financial Aid and Awards

To ensure that financial difficulties or economic circumstances do not hinder students from applying to Duke-NUS, we provide financial aid to our students in the form of merit scholarships, need-based scholarships (bursaries) and loans. Details on financial aid can be found [here](#).