

1) Research Frontiers 2

Aim: To extend a candidate's knowledge of research innovations in their discipline

Outcome: By the end of this component of the program, a candidate will be able to develop their individual research project in the context of the latest research developments in the field of chiropractic research.

Required Activities:

- 1) MRes students will attend a Faculty level MRes year 2 induction
- 2) MRes students will be asked to identify and read key research papers from their research area:
 - a. A discussion of these papers will be held between the student, fellow research students and their supervisor/s. This will consist of students meeting once a fortnight for one hour with their respective supervisors. These sessions will continue up until the end of April.

Recommended Activities:

- 1) MRes students will attend the Department of Chiropractic research seminars.
- 2) MRes students will attend 2-3 seminars outside the University that are relevant to their chosen research topic. Seminars should include cutting edge research/recent advances in the student's chosen research area from either a research institute or other university.

Assessment: Students will prepare a 3000-4000 word paper outlining the recent advances/perspectives/criticisms/reflections on their chosen field of research based on the current literature. **(Weighting 10%)**. This piece of work will be assessed by a review panel that does not include the student's supervisor/s.

Time Frame: This assessment task is to be completed by the end of Semester 1.

2) Literature Review

Aim: Candidates will survey the current literature relating to their individual research topic.

Outcome: Candidates will be able to demonstrate knowledge of their research topic by situating their individual research project within a broader field or paradigm, including a structured review of associated issues, debates and methodology. Candidates will identify gaps in the literature which their research project seeks to address.

Required Activities:

- 1) MRes students will attend one session on “Writing a Literature Review” run by the Department of Chiropractic.
- 2) MRes students will complete online sessions:
 - a. The use of reference management software e.g. endnote.
 - b. Utilizing the library databases.
- 3) MRes students will familiarize themselves with the document supply facilities.
- 4) Students will produce a 5000-6000 word review of the literature on their chosen topic. The contents of this literature review will contribute to their MRes thesis. This piece of work will be assessed as being either satisfactory or unsatisfactory by the student’s supervisor/s. The MRes supervisory panel will meet with each student at the end of February to discuss the progress of the student’s literature review.

Time Frame: To be completed by the end of April.

Assessment: Both the draft and the final versions of literature review will be assessed, as being either satisfactory or unsatisfactory, by a review panel that does not include the student’s supervisor/s.

Recommended Activities:

- 1) MRes students will attend a writing course provided by HDR Learning Skills Support Macquarie University (Semester 1):
 - a. Science Intensive Writing Course (9 Classes):
 - i. Students will be given writing tasks by their supervisor/s based on the information gained during the writing courses

3) Research Methods

Aim: Candidates will learn about the latest research methods in their field of research.

Outcome: Candidates will be fully equipped to make strategic decisions about how to approach their individual research hypothesis.

Required Activity:

- 1) MRes students will attend 6 workshop sessions on research methods specific to their discipline. These sessions will be presented by both academics from the Department of Chiropractic and/or researchers from the field.
- 2) After completion of the research methods workshop series, MRes students will be required to present the proposed methodology for their project with a justification and critique of the methods chosen and a comparison with alternative methods. These presentations will be assessed by a review panel that does not include the student's supervisor/s.

Time Frame: To be completed by the end of March.

Assessment: The proposed methodology and critique will be assessed, as being either satisfactory or unsatisfactory, by a review panel that does not include the student's supervisor/s.

4) Research Planning

Aim: Candidates will receive training in project management and plan a major research project.

Outcome: Candidates will develop a major research plan, for a project of up to four years scope. A pilot project will be completed during the MRes year, as a preliminary to a new but related three year research project undertaken for PhD.

Required Activity:

1. MRes students will attend a centrally taught program on project management in the first-half of the year.
2. MRes students will attend 2 sessions on research planning run by the Department of Chiropractic. Various topics will be covered: time management; establishing milestones; threats to progression; ethics; supervision; resource management; research questions; writing and preparing research. These sessions will be held in February.
3. MRes students will present their initial research idea to the Department of Chiropractic academics for the purposes of identifying potential supervisors, project viability, plausibility and suitable expertise. Students will discuss research ideas with potential supervisors before the end of January in year 2. Ideally students should consult with potential supervisors during their final year of their course work masters and prior to the commencement of the 2nd year MRes program.
4. MRes students will work with their supervisory team to produce a detailed research plan (3.5 year plan), to be submitted in written form and also presented to a panel of academics and postgraduate students from the Department of Chiropractic:
 - a. Submitted written plan (2000-3000 words) including: background, research question; proposed methodology and statistical analyses by the end of April.
 - b. Presentation of the material from the written plan to the Department and other HDR students at the end of April.
5. MRes students will complete a pilot project between May and September.
6. MRes students will submit a final PhD plan by November.

Assessment: The proposed research plan and presentation will be assessed, as being either satisfactory or unsatisfactory, by a review panel that does not include the student's supervisor/s.

5) Thesis

Aim: Candidates will complete a significant individual research project of their own design.

Outcome: Candidates will complete research project in order to demonstrate individual research capability to conduct Major (PhD-scale) Research Project.

Activity:

- 1) Candidates will complete an individual research project, as outlined in Activity 4.
- 2) Candidates will complete a thesis equivalent to 15,000-20,000 words, subject to disciplinary standards (**worth 90% of second year assessment**). The thesis will be due October 10, 2014.

Assessment: Thesis to be externally examined by an approved panel.