

School of Public Health and Community Medicine

PG Coursework - Research Projects



Why do a research project?

- Research experience
- Gives students insight into conducting public health/health management research
- Apply what you have learnt in the program
- A confirmed pathway to a PhD @ SPHCM
- A potential publication in peer-reviewed journal

What is a research project?

- Individual primary research
 - Defined and within the scope of 6UOC/18UOC
- Research can be:
 - Analysis of existing data (6OUC) or your own data collection (18UOC) – quantitative or qualitative
 - Systematic review – must be a piece of research (i.e. critical analysis/synthesis of studies)
 - Program evaluation

OPTIONS – 6UOC and 18UOC

6UOC

- Any Masters student
- Hours: ~10 hours per week, 14 weeks
- Ethics must be in place prior to enrolment; data collection should be complete before enrolment

18UOC

- Masters extension students only
- Can be taken part time (9UOC/9UOC)
- Hours: 30 hours per week, 14 weeks
- Ideally, ethics in place prior to enrolment.

EXAMPLES – 6UOC and 18UOC

6UOC

- Analysis of publicly available data on factors associated with use of skilled birth attendants, Nepal.
- Review of patient records surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis in reducing surgical site infections and prevalence of antibiotic resistance
- Focus group analysis – acceptability of contraceptive implants in Tonga
- Analysis of qualitative interviews of frail older patients and their companion to explore their experiences with shared decision making around medicines.
- Aboriginal health promotion program evaluation

18UOC

- Analysis of publically available data on cause of death and influenza surveillance - sophisticated time series analysis to determine how influenza-attributable mortality estimates differ when different proxies of influenza circulation are used
- Double burden of malnutrition in Indonesia study - joined a team to assess one aspect of the study - validation of child feeding practices questionnaire in one province.

OPTIONS – choosing a project

BYO data

- Suitable for students able to access data in their workplace
- Suits students

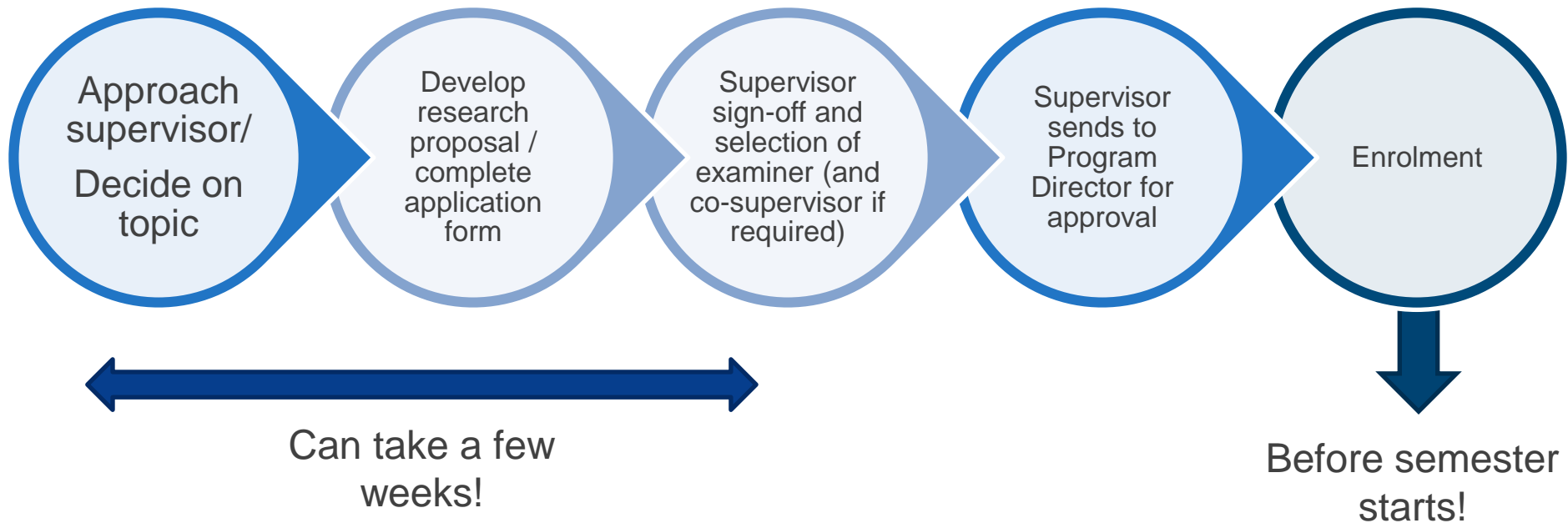
Seek project from academics

- Align with academics research program
- SPHCM or affiliated centres

Negotiate a project

- Bring your own idea, developed in consultation with supervisor
- Identify academic whose research areas or methodological expertise aligns

Timeline



Affiliated research centres*

- The Kirby Institute
- CPHCE
- Co-supervisors – SPHCM conjoints, e.g. NSW Health, POW hospital etc.

* Requires SPHCM co-supervisor

Confirmed Pathway from SPHCM Masters to SPHCM PhD

- Complete 12 UOC in Research focussed courses.
- Research Project, Independent Study, or 6 UOC research-related course, such as Qualitative Research Methods, Advanced Biostatistics, Advanced Epidemiology or Applied Research Methods.
- **Credit average** or above for Masters coursework and project.
- A letter of support from the Head of School or delegate.
- <http://sphcm.med.unsw.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate-research/articulation-masters-phd>