

DISCIPLINE OF MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Outline of structured programme for MSc and PhD candidates

Within the first six months of candidature

1. Students will be introduced to the requirements and expectations for successful postgraduate research, including formal University and School administrative structures and procedures as outlined in the “Red Book”; formal examination procedures; and legislative and practical requirements regarding OH&S, ethics and biosafety.
2. The student will attend the first Induction Program, held by the Adelaide Graduate Centre, following the date of their enrolment. These programmes are normally held on the last day of Orientation Week, and are repeated in Semester II.
3. Supervisors will inform students of relevant policies and procedures to be considered in developing a research topic, including, structure and content of the research proposal; timetable; budget; intellectual property issues.
4. The student, in consultation with the supervisors, will identify a research topic for discussion, and consider the academic feasibility, resource requirements, and intellectual property implications of the proposed research
5. The student will prepare a draft Research Proposal of the research to be undertaken, in consultation with the supervisors and other relevant scientists, and submit this to their Principal Supervisor and the Postgraduate Coordinator for the Discipline.
6. The student will prepare a detailed Literature Review of the area of their proposed research and submit this to their principal supervisor
7. The student will lodge with the Adelaide Graduate Centre the required documentation for satisfactory completion of the Core Component of the Structured Programme. This includes the Completion Form, a copy of the Research Proposal, the Minimum Departmental Resources Proforma, and, where necessary, ethics clearances, commercial and/or confidentiality agreements or contracts, and the Student Project Participation Agreement.

Before the end of twelve months' candidature, a formal review of progress will be undertaken, after which the enrolment will be confirmed, cancelled, or a further provisional period will be set. This review comprises

1. Review and updating of the Literature Review and Research Proposal in conjunction with the principal supervisor.

2. Formal presentation of the area of research and the proposed work to a Discipline seminar, followed by discussion with an expert panel of the proposed work to identify possible improvements and/or problems and to offer constructive help.

3. If the review panel recommends confirmation of candidature, the student will submit the Major Review of Progress form to the Adelaide Graduate Centre by the last day of the month twelve months from the commencement of candidature. If further provisional enrolment is recommended, documentation setting this out will be prepared in conjunction with the student, supervisor and postgraduate coordinator and forwarded to the Adelaide Graduate Centre.

Personal goals during candidature

1. Students are expected to fully immerse themselves in the academic life of the Discipline. This includes attendance at Discipline and School Seminars where relevant, not just on topics related to the candidate's research but on more general topics of interest to scientists working in the general area.

2. Students should fully take part in regular meetings of their laboratory, including the regular presentation of their work to co-workers and taking part in critical discussion of others' work

3. Students should consider becoming expert in the background and practice of a specialised technique that is sought after in other laboratories.

4. Students should attend, and present their work where possible, at one or more national and ideally one international scientific meeting, with the aim of beginning to become known by colleagues working in the same area.

5. Students should be encouraged to aim to have one or more manuscripts published by completion of their study.

6. Perform successfully one administrative role within the Discipline organisation, or for your local scientific organisation, eg ASM, ASI.

7. Gain experience of University teaching by attending Tutor Training sessions and undertaking tutoring or demonstrating (after consultation with your supervisor).

8. Begin developing a relationship (by correspondence or direct meeting) with one or more leading international figures in your field, leading to the possibility of a good postdoctoral appointment.