

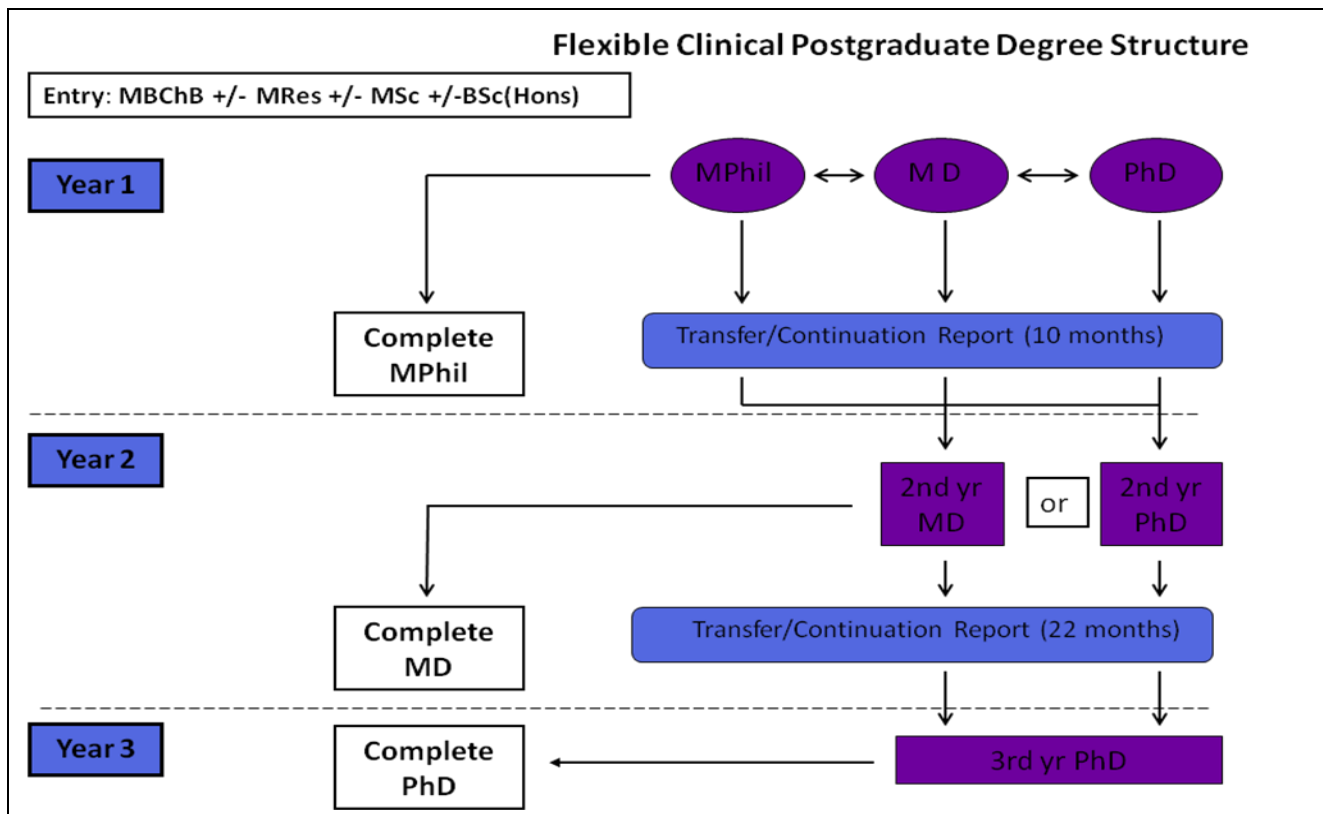
## Research Degrees at The University of Manchester – Information for NW Deanery Trainees

The University of Manchester (UoM) and its partner NHS Trusts have a wide range of research opportunities for NW Deanery trainees. While some trainees may wish to undertake a research project with the aim of publishing their findings in academic journals others will be keen to undertake a higher research degree programme. The UoM requires that registration on a research degree programme is prospective (i.e. registration cannot be backdated) and that trainees complete the full term of their research degree programme within their out of programme for research (OOPR) period. In order to register on a UoM programme, an application process needs to be successfully completed and a formal and unconditional UoM offer of a place received. If applicable, the NW Deanery will request a copy of the UoM offer letter prior to their approval of a trainee's OOPR period. To fulfil the requirements for registration on a UoM programme and to dovetail this with approval and timing of an OOPR period requires careful planning. This planning should commence at least six months prior to the proposed OOPR period. Although brief advice and guidance is provided below, it is strongly suggested that trainees contact the UoM Postgraduate Office (email [pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk)) at the outset of planning an OOPR period if they are considering registering for a UoM higher research degree.

### Duration of research degree programmes

- MPhil – duration 1 year full time attendance (2 years part time)
- MD – duration 2 years full time attendance (4 years part time)
- PhD – duration 3 years full time attendance (6 years part time)

Trainees need to have sufficient time OOPR to fulfil the specified time commitment required for registration on a higher research degree programme. This means that trainees who wish to undertake, for example an MD, will need to apply for a minimum of 2 years OOPR and will need to register on an MD programme at the outset of their OOPR period. The UoM offers a number of different pathways through research degrees of 1-3 years full time (2-6 years part time) duration and trainees can transfer or progress through these programmes as their research develops (see below) provided that they have sufficient time remaining within their OOPR period to complete the programme. Trainees registered on a full time research programme may, with approval from their supervisory team, undertake clinical duties limited to one clinical session per week and occasional weekend on-call duties.



### Requirements and registering for a UoM research degree programme and applying for OOPR

The detailed specifications of postgraduate research degree programmes within Medicine at the UoM and how to register are available at: <http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/postgraduate/>. Arrangements to register on a research programme at the UoM include:

**Research project approval:** The research proposal should demonstrate the potential of that research to generate outcomes that are of sufficient quality, depth and breadth to reach the standards required for award of a higher research degree. The research proposal should be designed such that all data collection, data analysis and thesis submission can be achieved within the OOPR period. In view of this it is essential that trainees plan their research project well in advance of applying for OOPR. If relevant trainees need to ensure that ethical approval and realistic patient recruitment strategies are in place prior to their OOPR period so that their research commences at the outset of their research degree programme. Trainees need to ensure that they (or their supervisory team) have sufficient research funding, appropriate infrastructure and expertise to support the research they propose to undertake. The UoM enrolls students in September, January, April and July and so the research project must be ready to start at one of these registration points.

**Identification of an appropriate supervisory team:** Postgraduate tutors within the Medical School can assist in the identification of an appropriate supervisory team (email [pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk) for PGR Tutor contact details). Supervisors should normally have a full-time contract with the UoM. It is best practice to have at least two supervisors. Supervisors must have experience of supervising postgraduate degrees to completion. If they have not had prior experience then they can act as co-supervisors provided a suitable main supervisor is

appointed. Supervisors must be familiar with the standards and progress requirements of the UoM and must have time to supervise students.

**Identification of an advisor:** All postgraduate research students require a nominated advisor prior to registration. Postgraduate tutors within the Medical School can assist trainees in the identification of an appropriate advisor (email [pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:pg.medicine@manchester.ac.uk) for PGR Tutor contact details). Advisors should have successfully supervised a postgraduate degree previously and be fully conversant with the rules and regulations pertaining to research degree standards, progress requirements and examinations. The advisor should normally be a member of UoM academic staff but external to the research group/discipline of the supervisor. The advisor's role is to support both the trainee and supervisor and assist in monitoring the trainee's research progress. The advisor takes part in all progress meetings and liaises with the supervisor to address issues that require attention.

**Applying to undertake a UoM degree:** Trainees planning to enroll on a higher degree should ensure that they have gone through the University [online application process](#) and have received an offer of a place on a programme prior to commencing their OOPR period. The NW Deanery will require a copy of the UoM formal offer letter as part of the OOPR application process and at least three months prior to the start of the OOPR period.