

How can you get  
involved in research  
during your  
MBChB degree?

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DEBBIE MARAIS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OFFICE

2017

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## Undergraduate Research Office

in the Research Development and Support Division, FMHS

[www.sun.ac.za/health-undergradresearch](http://www.sun.ac.za/health-undergradresearch)



<http://www.facebook.com/FMHSundergradresearch>



@UnderHealthRes

# Why would you want to do research during your MBChB degree?

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- ❖ Get exposure to both clinical and research experience in area of interest
- ❖ Help to clarify your interests and decide whether to pursue research further
- ❖ Puts you ahead of the game...stand out among peers and among other graduates
- ❖ Gives you valuable (early) experience in working towards a skripsie (research project)
- ❖ Specialisation requirement: compulsory requirement for MMed (specialisation)
- ❖ You can publish in academic journals and present at conferences...your name in lights!
- ❖ Can make you famous
- ❖ Can get you money to find out more cool stuff (research funding)

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Don't take our word for it. Here's what  
other students had to say...

## In the words of previous students...

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“Presenting my research about the experiences of medical students who develop TB as undergraduates was exciting....One of the highlights was that I was able to connect with other researchers also interested in qualitative research about developing TB disease as health care professionals and to exchange ideas about methods to analyse qualitative data.”

# In the words of previous students...

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“A couple of weeks ago we received the analysis of our data. Who knew data could be so exciting! It was very interesting to see how statistical significance is determined and what an impact sample size can have! Now we just need to write up the last little bit and our study will be completed!”

# In the words of previous students...

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“The last few months have been very exciting... I could not have asked to be part of a better project. It only reaffirms my passion for academic medicine and I hope to delve into more research projects in the future.”

# Watch previous students speak about their research experiences

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- ❖ What were your initial thoughts and experiences about doing research? ([video link](#))
- ❖ What has your experience been now that you have completed research? ([video link](#))
- ❖ How has doing this project changed how you think about research? ([video link](#))
- ❖ What experience did you have with publishing or presenting your research? ([video link](#))
- ❖ What advice do you have for future undergraduate student researchers? ([video link](#))



# How and when can you *do research* during your MBChB degree?

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- ❖ Join the [Q Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society](#)
- ❖ Attend FMHS [Annual Academic Day](#) in August (and find our stand for free smarties!)
- ❖ Approach a lecturer who inspires you to see if you can assist on their project/s
- ❖ Approach someone working in a field that interests you and see if you can get involved
- ❖ Use your [electives to do some research](#): 4<sup>th</sup> year research elective, 5<sup>th</sup> year research elective
- ❖ Do a final year research project (“skripsie”) (could get 5% extra added to final year marks!)

<https://www.facebook.com/qtygerberg/>



The image shows a screenshot of the Facebook page for the Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society. The page features a large profile picture with the text "Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society" and a magnifying glass icon. The cover photo is a large magnifying glass with the word "Tyger" inside it. The page name is "Q - Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society" with the handle "@qtygerberg". The page has 95 likes and 96 followers. The page is categorized as an "Organisation in Cape Town, Western Cape". The page also has a "Community" section with a link to "Invite your friends to like this Page" and a "About" section with a link to "Send message". The page is currently displaying two photos of members of the society.

**Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society**

Q - Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society  
@qtygerberg

Like Follow Share ... Sign Up Message

Status Photo/Video

Write something on this Page...

**Photos**

Organisation in Cape Town, Western Cape

Community

Invite your friends to like this Page

95 people like this

96 people follow this

Hermien Nel likes this

About See All

Send message

Organisation · College and university

People Also Like Chat

The Undergraduate Research Office has developed a guideline for students who may want to use their electives in 4<sup>th</sup> and/or 5<sup>th</sup> year to get some exposure to research.

[Click here to download the guidance document](#)

## Research Electives: MBChB IV and MBChB V

If you have an interest in doing research at some point in your degree or career, now is the time to start. The table below shows how, by doing research electives in your fourth and fifth years, you can arrive at your final year already well on the way to completing your skripsie – which leaves you more time to develop it into a publication ready for submission to a peer-reviewed journal before you graduate.

This is intended as a guideline for how you might use all or part of your electives in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year to do research. Students have chosen to structure this in different ways depending in their goals and interests.

	4 <sup>th</sup> year elective 4 weeks	5 <sup>th</sup> year elective* 4 weeks	Skripsie 1 year
Register elective / topic	July	April	End of 1 <sup>st</sup> semester
Identify internal & external supervisors	September	May	August (research supervisor only)
Start date	October	July	August
Submission deadline	January following year	August	August following year
Potential starting point	Interest in research	Ethical approval obtained	Data ready for analysis
Suggested activities	Week 1: Contact time and workshops coordinated by Undergraduate Research Office <sup>†</sup>  Protocol development	Data collection in field	Analysing data and writing up skripsie Preparing paper for publication
Suggested assessment outcome/s	Draft protocol for full research project and associated outcomes  Reflective summary on experience	Demonstration that empirical work has been conducted (i.e. data collected) and associated outcomes  Reflective summary on experience	Skripsie – ready for publication

# UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OFFICE

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RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT DIVISION  
Tygerberg campus



<http://www.sun.ac.za/health-undergradresearch>

The Undergraduate Research Office aims to be a one-stop shop of services and resources for undergraduate students as they navigate through the research process.

Find these resources online at <http://www.sun.ac.za/health-undergradresearch>

## RESEARCH CAPACITY

- Research Resources
- Undergraduate Research Committee
- Student Annual Academic Day
- Find a Research Project
- Past Student Research
- Q Tygerberg Undergraduate Research Society

## FUNDING

- Undergraduate Research Project Fund
- Undergraduate Conference Presentation Fund
- Undergraduate Publication Incentive Fund

## ETHICS REVIEW

- Undergraduate Research Ethics Committee (UREC)
- Quick Guide to Applying for Ethics Approval
- Ethics Application Package
- Forms & Instructions
- UREC Submission Dates
- UREC Members
- Health Research Ethics Office

Contact: **Debbie Marais**  
[debbiem@sun.ac.za](mailto:debbiem@sun.ac.za)

There are lots of resources available through the Undergraduate Research Office.

Click the links below to find out more

- ❖ [Undergraduate Research Ethics Committee to help with ethical approval of research](#)
- ❖ [Funding:](#)
  - ❖ [Undergraduate Research Project Fund](#)
  - ❖ [Undergraduate Conference Presentation Fund](#)
  - ❖ [Undergraduate Publication Incentive Fund](#)
- ❖ [FMHS Annual Academic Day: find past student abstracts on website](#)
- ❖ Find inspiration on our website:
  - ❖ [Past student projects](#)
  - ❖ [Staff projects](#)
- ❖ [Guidance & one-on-one support](#)

Support available for undergraduate students interested in doing research

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<http://www.sun.ac.za/health-undergradresearch>

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