MSc Clinical Research

Tata Memorial Centre
Information Sheet

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Clinical Research and Tata Memorial Centre

Clinical research is a branch of healthcare science that studies the safety and efficacy of medications, treatment regimens, diagnostic tests and medical devices intended for human use. Research should be done with strict adherence to the international and local regulations and guidelines, with the patient at the centre of all research efforts. Cancer care and clinical research in cancer is one of the avowed objectives of Tata Memorial Centre.

We seek to promote high quality research for the advancement of healthcare by:

- Adopting the best research standards through adherence to university and government research policies and regulations
- Supporting our investigators and research teams through process improvement, innovative technologies, and education and training initiatives
- Leveraging the best operational practices to maximize the efficiencies of research activities
- Collaborating with the pharmaceutical industry, university organizations, public health organizations and government bodies to drive innovation in healthcare

MSc in Clinical Research

We launched our post graduate MSc degree in Clinical Research in September 2014, with a goal to build capacity for trained clinical research personnel in India. We hope to accomplish this by equipping researchers with class room training and hands-on training in the principles of good clinical practice regulations and guidelines, to excel in the current dynamic research environment.

The MSc degree will be awarded by the Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI) Deemed to be University, a grant-in-Aid Institute, Department of Atomic Energy. **The two-year course will be conducted at the Tata Memorial Centre and will be followed by a mandatory one-year internship at the Tata Memorial Centre and its outreach centres.**

Objectives:

- Educate students on the ethical issues involved in human participants in
- Equip students with the practical tools and skills needed to foster excellence in design and execution of clinical research
- Develop an understanding of the guidelines and regulations associated with clinical research: ICH-GCP, ICMR Guidelines, Schedule Y of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, FDA Guidelines, etc.
- Comprehension of study design, trial conduct, data management and clinical operations
- Familiarize students with the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in clinical research

Our comprehensive curriculum covers the following topics:

- Therapeutic areas and basic physiology
- Bioethics and the history of clinical research
- ICH-GCP and Indian GCP
- Regulations in clinical research
- Clinical research operations
- Study design and statistics
- Roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders
- Pharmacovigilance and drug safety monitoring
- Clinical data management
- Medical writing
- Communication and soft skills

What makes us unique?

- Full time and visiting faculty comprising eminent academicians and members of the pharmaceutical industry with experience in various disciplines across healthcare, research and clinical operations.
- An emphasis on skill-based training through working with clinical research teams that handle clinical trials across various specializations in oncology at Tata Memorial Hospital
- As a part of the hands-on training, students will have a posting in the institutional review board and ethics committees at TMC to gain exposure and a better understanding of the stringent quality standards of clinical research
- External postings - Multinational pharmaceutical companies, drug development laboratory (ACTREC), central laboratories (all subject to availability of positions)
- Practical clinical trial monitoring experience

Minimum eligibility criteria

Graduation with minimum 50% marks in aggregate in any of the following subjects:

- B.Sc in Bioscience/Life Sciences (Botany, Zoology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Genetics, Biotechnology)
- B.Sc in Chemistry
- B.Sc in Clinical Nutrition
- Pharmacy or Pharmaceutical Science (B.Pharm)
- Graduate in Medicine (Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha)
- Graduation in Dentistry (BDS)
- Occupational therapy (B.Sc)
- Physiotherapy (B.Sc)
- Nursing (B.Sc)
- Paramedical technology

Selection of candidates

Selection will be based on the evaluation of performance in written test followed by interview. Only those candidates who score at least 50% marks in the written entrance exam are eligible to be called for interview. A fixed number of candidates (not exceeding 3 times the number of seats) will be called for the interview from those who have scored 50% and above. A maximum of 25% of seats may be reserved for in-house candidates from the Tata Memorial Centre.

The entrance test will be conducted in Mumbai and consists of multiple choice questions. The syllabus for the exam includes 12th standard level biology, physics, chemistry, mathematics, basics of computer science, and logical thinking.

Career prospects after MSc in Clinical Research

Clinical research is a dynamic field with opportunities in many research-based industries. The demand for trained professionals in the industry in growing, particularly in India. There is a wide scope of job opportunities for clinical research professionals based on their interests and skill set.

Employment options

- Hospitals
- Contract Research Organizations (CRO)
- Pharmaceutical Industries
- Biotechnology and medical device companies
- Government agencies
- Academic / Research Institutes

Career paths

- Clinical research coordinator
- Pharmacovigilance
- Clinical study monitoring
- Clinical data management
- Drug safety associate
- Regulatory affairs
- Clinical site management
- Project management
- Medical writing
- Medical science liaison

Please note:
Admission and completion of this MSc Clinical Research degree does not guarantee employment at Tata Memorial Center or any allied institutes.

Fee structure and stipend

Course fees will be charged from selected candidates as per institutional policy, on instalment basis, from the stipend. The students also get a stipend during their training period.

Accommodation

Selected candidates from outside Mumbai may be provided hostel accommodation on payment depending on availability.

Concept & Design by Ms. Sonia Rebecca Menezes, MSc Clinical Research batch 2014