

Doctor of Medicine (MD)

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree at HYMS is a research programme open only to qualified medical practitioners (those with an MBBS degree or equivalent) who have been practising medicine for at least two years after graduation. The full-time degree takes two years but you can also opt to study for an MD on a part-time basis.



As part of this research programme, you will be required to conduct a substantial independent research project, which will lead to an original contribution to knowledge. Your project should address diagnosis or management in a clinical environment. If your proposed project does not cover this, you should consider doing a PhD instead.

All research at HYMS is conducted within strict ethical guidelines. Before starting your MD research you will need to get ethical approval from your university of registration and the NHS, through the appropriate ethics committees. You need to take this into account when planning your project and writing the proposal.

A wide range of MD projects can be undertaken at HYMS. Current students are researching topics as diverse as HIV microbicides and outcomes of bariatric surgery.

Applying and fees

All HYMS research centres and units are able to take MD students. If you would like to apply to do an MD at HYMS you are strongly encouraged to discuss your proposed project with the appropriate head of centre or unit or potential supervisor before putting in an application. Further information about HYMS centres and units can be found on the HYMS website: <http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-programmes.aspx>

To be eligible for admission onto the HYMS MD, you must be medically qualified. If English is not your first language, you must also have an average IELTS score of 7.0 or higher.

Applications should be made through the online admissions system, which can be accessed via the HYMS website: <http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/applying-for-postgraduate-study.aspx>

For information on annual fees for the HYMS programmes, please visit: <http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/fees-bursaries-funding.aspx>

Doctor of Medicine (MD) at HYMS – Student perspective



“The HYMS Postgraduate Centre has been very supportive and understanding of the different pressures and demands of conducting research in a clinical setting, and of balancing the needs of training with academic progression.”

I am a HYMS MD student and a Specialist Registrar in Genitourinary Medicine. My qualifications include MA (Pathology) (Cambridge); MBBS (London), MRCP, Diploma in GU Medicine, Diploma of Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health, Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Research (Leeds).

I have four years experience looking after people with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. My interest in HIV began as an undergraduate at the University of Cambridge, where I studied virology and immunology as part of a degree in Pathology (Natural Sciences). I went on to study Clinical Medicine at Royal Free and University College Medical School, University of London, and qualified as a medical doctor in 2002.

Although I enjoy my clinical NHS work, I have a strong desire to be involved in active research and have a special interest in HIV prevention. I was fortunate to obtain 'out of programme research' leave from my training via the Yorkshire and the Humber Deanery, and have been registered for an MD degree with HYMS since October 2009.

I work as a Clinical Research Fellow for Professor Charles Lacey (HYMS, and Centre for Immunology and Infection, University of York) and the York HIV Research Group. Our research concentrates on the development of mucosal vaccines and microbicides that are designed to protect women from HIV infection. Despite increased awareness and prevention strategies, there are still over 2.3 million new HIV infections per year. Young women aged under 25 are disproportionately affected, accounting for over a quarter of new HIV infections worldwide. Social factors, gender inequalities and innate biological susceptibility all play a role, with women in high risk countries often unable to negotiate condom use.

I am currently the primary physician on a phase 1 clinical trial of a topical microbicide being carried out on the HYMS Experimental Medicine Unit in York Hospital. This study aims to assess the pharmacokinetics and safety, in healthy female volunteers, of a gel containing 3 monoclonal antibodies that have been shown to bind and neutralise HIV. In addition, I am involved in developing an HIV mucosal vaccine study, in conjunction with St George's University of London and the Medical Research Council, that aims to assess the safety and immunogenicity of a recombinant env vaccine administered via different routes (nasally, vaginally and/or intramuscularly).

I very much enjoy my time working and studying at HYMS and find it a friendly and stimulating place to work.

Dr Georgina Morris
HYMS MD student and Specialist Registrar