

Medical Sciences Graduate Program (MSGP) – Shantou

Outline: 3-year doctoral program that involves co-supervision of Chinese doctoral students. Students work on a collaborative project developed by researchers at UAlberta and Shantou University Medical College (SUMC). Students initiate research at SUMC (2 years) and complete their doctoral research at UAlberta (1 year). Extension for a fourth year will require formal application. Upon requirement completion, students receive a PhD from UAlberta in Medical Sciences-Shantou – home department.

Projects: Collaborative projects should be well-defined enough to allow completion by trained student in 3-year time frame. Must develop critical thinking skills of trainees and have potential to yield important results. Requires pre-approval by UAlberta -Shantou Steering Committee.

Admission: Elite students with a minimum of 2 years of research experience in a MSc program will be pre-selected at SUMC on the basis of academic performance and productivity. Students will then identify a pair of UAlberta -Shantou supervisors with a pre-approved collaborative project. Upon satisfactory interview by co-supervisors, the graduate coordinator of the home department of the UAlberta supervisor recommends the student for acceptance in MSGP-Shantou. The program of each student will then follow FGSR guidelines and meet UAlberta standards

Timeline. Y-1 Students enroll in 2 or 3 courses at SUMC and initiate research. Students prepare a PhD proposal package that includes a 4-page description of their project for submission to the MSGP Committee-Shantou for approval. Y-2 Students continue research work and sit a candidacy exam at SUMC. Y-3 Students move to UAlberta campus to complete research work and take part in a graded seminar course. Extension to 4th year possible upon application. Y3/4 Students write and defend their thesis.

Funding UA tuition costs and student stipend while at UAlberta are covered by a generous donation from the Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation. Funding period is guaranteed for a total of up to 24 months. Stipend and tuition costs beyond that period must be covered by the UAlberta co-supervisor. Funds will be made available to UAlberta mentors to cover travel to visit their student at SUMC once a year. UAlberta supervisors will be responsible to cover consumables for work performed at UAlberta.

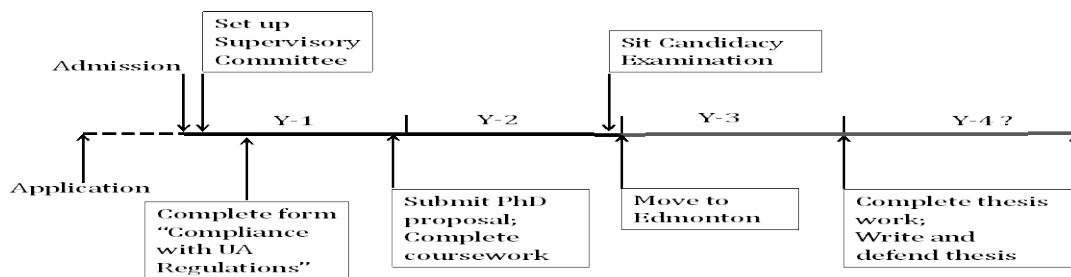
Administration. A UAlberta-Shantou Steering Committee will oversee pre-selection of students and collaborative projects, as well as rule on requests for program extension. A Medical Sciences Graduate Committee–Shantou that includes graduate coordinators of participating departments will approve PhD proposal package and monitor student's progress.

Advantages. The MSGP-Shantou will contribute to the internationalization of UAlberta, facilitate the development of collaborations with Shantou University and open up access to advanced facilities to both collaborators. This program will increase the number of award-holding students in our Faculty, boost the research programs of several UAlberta research teams, and enhance the profile of both Universities and participating departments.

Monitoring of progress through the graduate program To ensure success, progress through the graduate program is monitored through several mechanisms that include:

1. Regular meetings of a Supervisory Committee
throughout the program; usually 2-3 per year
2. Submission of a PhD proposal
at the end of Year 1
3. Candidacy examination
before the end of Year 2
4. Final doctoral examination
following submission of thesis in Year 3 or 4

Example of a standard timeline



Note that in addition to the major events listed above, students are expected to participate in regular meetings of their Supervisory committee as well as complete appropriate course work (Y1-3) and Ethics training (Y1 and Y3).