

THE RESEARCH SKILLS QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire is adapted from a questionnaire developed by the Centre for Excellence in Teaching & Learning in Applied Undergraduate Research Skills (CETL-AURS) at Reading University. It will help us assess the teaching of research skills in the School of Medicine at University College Cork.

We would be grateful if you could take time to answer this questionnaire, which is in FIVE short sections.

SECTION 1 - will allow you to provide us with some demographic information.

SECTION 2 - will assess your understanding of research, the research process and the skills required to do research.

SECTION 3 - will examine your perception of your research abilities and which skills you would like to improve

SECTION 4 - will gauge your knowledge of research activities at University College Cork, and your personal views of research.

SECTION 5 - will ask for your thoughts on your career after you have completed your degree.

Your answers to this questionnaire are **very important** to us. They will help us to improve our teaching in Medicine.

Your answers to this questionnaire will remain **confidential**.

We will inform you of the general findings of this questionnaire by e-mail in due course.

During the course of your medical training you will be asked to complete another questionnaire in which you will reflect on your answers this year. To allow you to identify your Part 1 questionnaire, you are asked to provide your ***Student Identification Number*** which will be kept confidential by the School of Medicine Staff. Your identity will not be made known to the people analysing the questionnaire data without your permission.

Please write your ***Student Identification Number*** in the box below.

Student Identification No.	
-----------------------------------	-------

SECTION 1 – YOUR DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Q. 1. Your gender

a) male

☐

b) female

☐

Q. 2. Please specify your age.

years

Q. 3. What is your nationality?

.....

Q. 4. Did you complete a degree before medical school?

a) Yes

☐

b) No

☐

Q. 4 a. If you answered 'Yes' to question 4 please give the title of your previous degree

.....
.....
.....

Q. 5. Please give the name of any special studies modules involving research that you have taken or are currently taking.

(Please give full name of module/s. If this question does not apply to you please write N/A)

.....
.....
.....

Q. 6. Have you undertaken [a](#) summer research [placement during as part of](#) your medical training [so far](#)?

a) Yes

☐

b) No

☐

Q. 6 a. If you answered 'Yes' to question 6 please give details of your summer research

.....
.....
.....

SECTION 2 - YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Q. 7. In one or two sentences can you describe what you understand by the term '**research**'?

.....
.....
.....

Q. 8. Please indicate whether you think the following statements about research are true or false. (circle as appropriate)

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| a) Research must always have the aim of providing a practical benefit to humanity. | TRUE / FALSE |
| b) Research should always be original. | TRUE / FALSE |
| c) Research requires clear articulation of a goal. | TRUE / FALSE |
| d) Research does not need to follow a specific plan or procedure. | TRUE / FALSE |
| e) Research usually divides the principal problem into more manageable sub-problems. | TRUE / FALSE |
| f) Research does not always have to be guided by a specific research problem, question, or hypothesis. | TRUE / FALSE |
| g) Research must always involve the collection of experimental data. | TRUE / FALSE |
| h) Research must always involve the interpretation of data. | TRUE / FALSE |
| i) Research does not have to be written up as a report to be effective. | TRUE / FALSE |

SECTION 3 – YOUR SKILLS

Q. 9. Please indicate what you feel is your **level of competence** in the following skills.

A score of 10 indicates the highest level of competence, while 1 is the lowest score representing the minimum level of competence.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Communication skills – writing										
b) Communication skills – oral										
c) Information gathering and handling										
d) Information evaluation										
e) Numeracy										
f) Teamwork										
g) Ability to work independently										
h) Project management skills										
i) Time management skills										
j) Problem-solving										
k) Critical thinking										

Q. 10. Please state which of the skills in Q.9 you would like to improve. Briefly state *why* you want to improve your competence in this skill. Briefly state *how* you intend to achieve this.

Skill	Why would you like to improve this skill and how do you intend to do so?
1.....	Why? How?
2.....	Why? How?
3.....	Why? How?

Q. 11. Please indicate what you feel is your **level of competence** in the following medical research-specific skills and give a **justification** of your score. A score of 10 indicates the highest level of competence, while 1 is the lowest score representing the minimum level of competence.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
a) Designing a Study										
b) Study Sampling										
c) Participant recruitment										
d) Data collection										
e) Biological statistics										
f) Paper preparation/reporting										
g) Paper presenting (to an audience)										

Q. 12. Please state which of the skills in Q. 11. you would most like to improve. Briefly state *why* you want to improve your competence in this skill. Briefly state *how* you intend to achieve this.

Skill	Why would you like to improve this skill and how do you intend to do so?
1.....	Why? How?
2.....	Why? How?
3.....	Why? How?

SECTION 4 – RESEARCH AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK AND YOUR INTERESTS

Q. 13. Please indicate on a scale of 1-4 how aware you are of the research activities currently being undertaken in Medicine and Health Sciences at University College Cork? (1 = totally unaware, 4 = very aware)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐

If you are aware, please give an example of the types of research that you are aware of?

.....
.....

Q. 14. Is there an area of medicine that you are particularly interested in? (circle as appropriate)

YES / NO

If YES, please state what it is?

.....
.....

In your final year you are required to do your own research project (dissertation).

Q. 15. Do you know what area of research you want to be involved in for your project?

YES / NO

If YES, please give details?

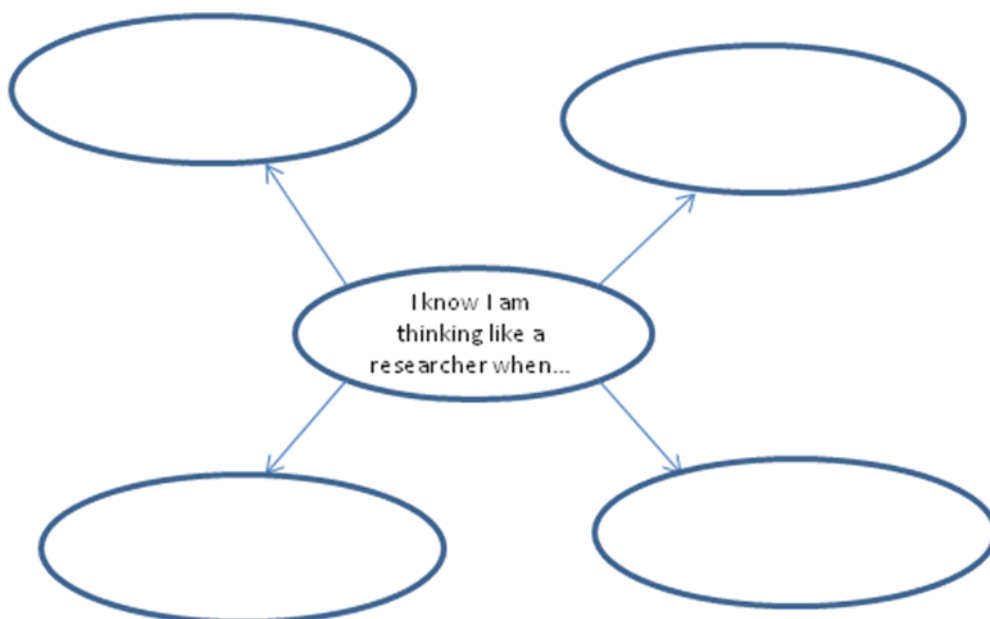
.....

.....

Q. 16. Please circle the number toward either word which best represents your general feelings about doing research.

a) Motivated	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unmotivated
b) Interested	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Uninterested
c) Involved	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Uninvolved
d) Not stimulated	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Stimulated
e) Don't want to study it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Want to study it
f) Inspired	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Uninspired
g) Unchallenged	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Challenged
h) Un-invigorated	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Invigorated
i) Unenthused	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Enthused
j) Excited	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Not excited
k) Aroused	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Not aroused
l) Not fascinated	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Fascinated
m) Dreading it	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Look forward to it
n) Important	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unimportant
o) Useful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Useless
p) Helpful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Harmful

Q. 17. "I know I am thinking like a researcher when...". Please write your answer/s in one or more of the circles below.



SECTION 5 – YOUR FUTURE CAREER

Q. 18. Do you know what type of medical career you will pursue after you have completed your degree?

YES / NO

If you do, please give details?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Q. 19. Following your degree does a career incorporating medical research appeal to you?

YES / NO

Please explain why you have answered this question in the way you have.

.....

.....

.....

Your answers to this questionnaire are **very important** to us. It will help us to further improve Medical teaching.

Your answers to this questionnaire will remain **confidential**.

We will inform you of the general findings of this questionnaire in due course.

Thank-you for your time.