



## Overview of Research Project and Practicum Courses

### Research Project Course (PCL2200Y)

The Major Research Project (PCL2200Y) is a required course worth one full-credit (1.0 FCEs). Students enroll in this course for each semester until it is completed. Students secure their own supervisor under the guidance of Dr. Woodland. The supervisor does not have to be a member of the Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, but all research projects must be approved by Dr. Woodland. Research projects are primarily clinical in nature and must be related to pharmacology.

Students typically start looking for supervisors in the Fall of their first year. By January, students should be interviewing with supervisors and may begin to conduct literature searches, get safety training, apply for ethics approval, etc. Most students begin their research project in May of year one. Students are expected to work on a full-time basis for July and August of year one. The duration of the project varies depending on the nature of the study, but typically data collection is complete by the end of August of year one. Some projects extend into the Fall of year two. Students must submit a written research project report in the form of a mini-thesis.

Students are not paid for their work in PCL2200Y. Dr. Woodland must return a copy of the signed contract provided with the course syllabus before the student begins the research project.

### Extended Research Project Course (PCL2201Y)

Students wishing to further their research experience may wish to take the elective course offered under the course code PCL2201Y. This course was designed for students who intend to pursue further academic studies and involves a continuation of the project initiated in PCL2200Y under the guidance of the same supervisor and. Students typically examine other endpoints of the same study or expand their collection of patient data.

Students interested in taking PCL2201Y should discuss this with their supervisor before beginning PCL2200Y. Both the student and the supervisor must agree to the continuation of the research following the completion of PCL2200Y. Students taking the Extended Research Project Course must write a separate report for PCL2200Y and PCL2201Y and must deliver an oral presentation of their work.

Students are not paid for their work in PCL2200Y. Dr. Woodland must return a copy of the signed contract provided with the course syllabus before the student begins the research project.

### **Practicum Courses in Clinical Pharmacology (PCL2101H and PCL2102H)**

Students wishing to gain work experience in applied clinical pharmacology may wish to complete a work placement under the elective course code PCL2101H. The placement is typically an opportunity to work on a full-time basis for 4-12 months in a pharmaceutical or biotech company, clinical research organization (CRO), hospital-based clinical trials centre, government agency, or consulting firm. Students who successfully complete four months at a placement receive a half-credit (0.5 FCE). Students continuing for at least eight months at the same site or four months at a distinct site can gain an additional half-credit under the course code PCL2102H.

Placements are negotiated up to a year in advance of the start date. Students are encouraged to meet with the Course Coordinator, Dr. Laposa, to discuss their interest in this course. Students are welcome to secure their own placements or to recommend contacts to the Course Coordinator or the ACP Program Director. In addition, the ACP program has a number of existing employer affiliations. Participation in this course involves signing contracts with the employer that are legally binding.

Participation in PCL2101H and PCL2102H is subject to availability. Most placements involve financial compensation at the discretion of the employer. In order to qualify for a practicum course, students must successfully complete all required ACP courses and demonstrate an appropriate level of professionalism. While the ACP program may recommend students for placements, the final decision on hiring is completely at the discretion of the employer. Students who intend to apply for a practicum are encouraged to attend all professionalism sessions provided through the ACP program and to participate in networking opportunities.