

Medical Humanities SSC
University of Aberdeen: Medicine (Year 3 MBChB)
Alternative Project ME33A1/2
GUIDE FOR SUPERVISORS

At the University of Aberdeen our medicine students undertake a Medical Humanities block or student selected component (SSC) during their third year. It aims to give students an **alternative perspective on medicine**, healthcare, illness, or disability.

This is achieved by opportunities to study in an extensive range of Humanities subjects including anthropology, economics, history, sociology, educational studies, divinity, art and music. The students can choose to sign up for a course Or **the alternative project option** which enables individual students to identify an area of study of personal interest, not offered currently within the Medical Humanities course options, to undertake a project on.

Further information on the medical humanities is available on our website

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/medical/humanities/>

Alternative project

The project can be carried out in the North of Scotland (including Aberdeen and Inverness), other locations if required and approved. Each student will have a 6 week period to undertake this project. The SSC period of study is a compulsory component of the third year.

All students will have had to undergo a project approval process to ensure the project is appropriate for the Medical Humanities SSC and is achievable. The first step is to submit a proposal by beginning of June which will be discussed at an approval panel a couple of weeks later. Students are advised to have, if possible, found a suitable supervisor with expertise in the area or discipline of their project.

The block runs for 6 weeks end of October to beginning December during which time the student should have considerable flexibility to do this project as they will not usually be undertaking other academic study. It is expected that these students will be able to work independently and on their own initiative and the supervisor's role is to support, guide and facilitate them. The supervisor must have expertise in the field of study the student has chosen to investigate and be in a position to offer academic guidance.

Assessment of project

The student will be required to submit work and complete assessment by the end of the block which the supervisor will be asked to mark by mid-January. The format of the assessment depends on the discipline and for a 30 credit project usually takes the form of a 3500 written work (80%) and an oral presentation or reflective piece 1500 words (20%). As supervisor you

will be asked to mark using marking criteria to University of Aberdeen common grading scale, if the project is approved confirmation of the assessment and mark schemes will be sent to both the student and supervisor.

In order to maintain academic rigour we will arrange second marking of written work. If there is a student presentation and if you have an appropriate audience they can give that with you but we also have a presentation event and provide a second marker.

Further information is available on the alternative project course page 30 credits <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/medical/humanities/course/view.php?id=11> where you can download a course guide with example mark schemes etc...

Role of Supervisor

- support students to develop their project ideas
- may be able to provide or facilitate useful contacts
- provide academic guidance on approaches and resources
- liaise with the student and SSC coordinator on any changes to the project after initial submission and approval
- provide advice on consideration of any ethical aspects of the project and approval requirements (although we advise students generally to avoid undertaking projects that require ethical approval)
- support the student during the project, usually weekly contact
- review plan for written work and if appropriate provide feedback on partial draft but it is not expected you will read full draft(s)
- undertake marking of assessed written work and if available presentations

Approval of the project will depend on supervisors confirmation of ability and willingness to undertake appropriate academic supervision as described above

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with the SSC coordinator; Dr Leeanne Bodkin leeannebodkin@abdn.ac.uk or the Year 3 MBChB Administrator Ryan Watson Ryan.watson@abdn.ac.uk