

Specialist Certificate in Clinical Trials (Clinical Trials Coordination)

A Clear Pathway For Your Career

Are you new to the study coordinator role?

Like most study coordinators, you are probably learning your trade on the job. If you want to enhance your performance and take control of your trials, ARCS Australia and the University of Melbourne have developed a Specialist Certificate in Clinical Trials (Clinical Trials Coordination) to help you progress your career. This program will provide you with the information, requirements, techniques, tips and inside knowledge you need to effectively coordinate and manage trials at your investigational site and to take your trial from ethics submission to managing multi-centred studies for a range of clinical trials.

For employers, this new course will provide your clinical trial coordination staff with the technical knowledge required to understand their roles, responsibilities and obligations under the regulations, ICH-GCP and institutional procedures.

Using flexible delivery to meet the needs of busy clinical research professionals, each student will work with ARCS Australia to develop a personalised program to meet their learning needs. Modules can be undertaken nationally through ARCS Australia and are combined with relevant professional work experience in the workplace.

Students who successfully complete this program will understand:

- The drug development pathway and its link to clinical research
- The role of the research coordinator in clinical research
- The purpose and operational responsibilities of a coordinator in maintaining the quality standards defined by Australian legislation and international Good Clinical Practice guidelines
- The purpose and role of regulatory documents for initiating and running a clinical trial
- How to effectively coordinate clinical research sites
- The role of project and risk management in good clinical practice
- How to provide input in the implementation of clinical research studies within Australia

Who should attend:

This program is designed for clinical research professionals wanting to improve their capabilities in clinical trial site coordination. This includes science graduates, nurses and allied health workers involved in studies that must comply with ICH-GCP and relevant Australian legislation.

All students must meet the following Entry Requirements:

- Be a full member of ARCS Australia Ltd
- Have an undergraduate degree or equivalent qualification in medicine, nursing, an allied health profession, science or social science which is recognised by the University of Melbourne
- Have documented evidence of at least 6 months full-time relevant professional work experience
- Have documented evidence that they will be able to undertake relevant professional work experience during the course



Career Development Programs



If you are a new clinical trial coordinator, this Specialist Certificate in Clinical Trials (Clinical Trials Coordination) will prepare you to effectively coordinate and manage clinical trials at your investigational site.

The success of the program relies on the identification of a coach or mentor who will provide support for you and continue the learning back in the workplace for the duration of the course.

Program Structure

- Subject 1: Clinical Trial Site Establishment
- 6 months relevant work experience
- Subject 2: Clinical Trial Site Coordination

Subject 1

Clinical Trial Site Establishment

During this subject, students will be provided with an overview of the drug development process and the critical role the coordinator plays in this process. Structured lectures and practical workshop sessions will provide the opportunity to learn the fundamentals of coordinating a clinical trial effectively. There are three workshops in this subject which are compulsory for all students.

Subject 1 Assessment

- One open book test representing 20% of the total mark
- Two 1000 word assignments, each representing 25% of the total mark
- One 1500 word workplace assignment representing 30% of the total mark

Students must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each assessment to achieve a pass grade for this subject

Overview of Drug Development (7 hours)

- The process of discovering and developing new pharmaceutical products
- Description of the organisation of the Australian regulatory authority, their requirements and interactions with sponsors
- The activities associated with conducting clinical research and reporting the results and responsibilities of various departments in accomplishing these activities
- Ethical considerations underpinning clinical studies
- Knowledge about concepts and functions associated with ensuring overall quality of studies

CCR: Essential GCP Training for New Coordinators (14 hours)

- Types of research and understanding protocols
- Starting a study and putting together an ethics submission
- Participant recruitment
- Informed consent
- Planning study visits
- Managing source documents, investigational product, laboratory data
- Safety reporting
- Quality management
- Communication strategies with your key customers

Essential Documents and Good Documentation Practices (GDP) (3 hours)

- What is Good Documentation Practice (GDP)?
- Why is GDP important in clinical research?
- Managing Essential Documents using GDP

Subject 2

Clinical Trial Site Coordination

During this subject, students will build up the knowledge and requirements to more effectively coordinate multi-centred clinical trials at their investigational site. Student will have the option to select a minimum of 10 hours of electives, depending on their needs, followed by the compulsory capstone topic.

Subject 2 Assessment

- One assignment for each elective, with a combined word count of at least 2000 words and a total contribution of 40% of the marks for the subject.
- One 2000 word assignment for the capstone module, representing 40% of the total marks
- One 1000 word overall workplace assignment representing 20% of the marks

Students must achieve a mark of at least 50% in each assessment to achieve a pass grade for this subject.

Fees

For the Specialist Certificate are A\$4,700. (\$2,350 per subject)

Time Commitment

Each subject of the Specialist Certificate involves 24 hours of lectures. In addition to face-to-face teaching time, students should expect to undertake a minimum of 120 hours research, reading, writing assignments and general study to complete this subject successfully.

Electives & Capstone



Electives

Fundamentals of Project Management (7 hours)

- Decide when work effort should be treated as a project
- Use a simple model to manage projects
- Apply motivational and team building techniques to gain support and buy-in
- Employ practical leadership and communications skills to ensure coordination and collaboration during the project

How to Effectively Select Investigational Sites (4 hours)

- Identify the typical steps and phases in an effective investigational site selection
- Risk management during site selection
- Outline challenges and strategies during investigator site selection

Effective Management of GCP Issues (4 hours)

- Deconstructing clinical processes and GCP issues
- Using evidenced based problem solving and causality assessment
- Developing appropriate corrective and preventative actions

Introduction to Pharmacovigilance (3 hours)

- How adverse events are defined and managed
- The difference between Causality, Seriousness and Expectedness
- Local regulations and reporting requirements for adverse events

Clinical Statistics for Non-Statisticians (14 hours)

- Basic statistical concepts
- Hypothesis testing
- Study designs
- Analysis plan
- Survival analysis
- A trial for superiority
- A trial for equivalence
- Meta analysis

Either Assertive Negotiation (7 hours) Or Managing Conflict Situations (7 hours) (subject to availability)

Assertive Negotiation

- Assertiveness - What it is And Why it matters
- Assertiveness v. Aggressive v. Passive
- Honesty is The Best Policy
- How to say "No"
- What is Negotiation?
- Characteristics of a Successful Negotiator
- The Six Basic Steps in Negotiating
- Identifying Objectives
- Negotiators Guide to Preparation
- Strategies and Tactics
- Negotiating for a win-win outcome

Managing Conflict Situations

- What is conflict?
- What are the appropriate skills
- Barriers to effective communication
- Improving active listening skills
- What does your body say
- Checking for understanding
- Being empathetic
- Case studies and skills development
- Personal action plan

Getting the most from the CRO – Investigator – Sponsor relationship (4 hours)

- Identifying the differing priorities between CRO, Investigators and Sponsors
- Identifying common obstacles to a successful relationship, and their underlying causes
- Build strategies to deal with these obstacles and to further develop better relationships in this symbiotic partnership

Introducing GCP Audits (4 hours)

- Identify the purpose and explore the process of the GCP Audit/Inspection
- Understanding the role of the Auditors and how to effectively interact with them during the Audit process
- Dealing with common audit findings and how to avoid them.

Recruitment Planning (4 hours)

- Identifying recruitment planning as an active process that begins at study feasibility
- Preparing and utilising a recruitment and retention plan
- Looking at a range of patient recruitment strategies that can be used

Capstone

CCR2 - Coordinating research more effectively at site (14 hours)

- Things to consider when planning your study
- Importance of study feasibility assessments
- Resource management
- Managing clinical trial budgets
- Implementing systems and processes for successful and quality site operation, including how to be prepared for regulatory and sponsor inspections.
- Preparing for the Multi-site ethics review
- Relationship building with external sponsors

Go to www.arcs.com.au for more detailed information on these modules

About the University of Melbourne

The University of Melbourne is a research-intensive University, with a strong connection between global research outcomes and our teaching and learning programs. With a reputation for excellence, the University is consistently ranked as Australia's leading university and one of the top 40 institutions in the world, according to the latest Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

The University's Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, a leader in biomedicine in Australia, is located at the centre of one of the world's most concentrated biomedical research precincts, close to Medical Research Institutes, tertiary referral hospitals with University Departments of clinical medicine and private sector biomedical businesses. The Faculty is renowned for the breadth and depth of its research, the application of this research to clinical practice and public health, and the development of new and innovative treatments to reduce mortality and improve quality of life.

About ARCS Australia Ltd

ARCS Australia Ltd is a professional development association for people working in the development of therapeutic goods. Founded in 1984, ARCS is a "not for profit" company governed by an elected Board. ARCS has approximately 2,500 members who are involved in regulatory affairs, clinical research, health economics, medical devices, diagnostics, medical devices, data management, statistics, medical writing, pharmacovigilance, and the provision of medical information in the Australian pharmaceutical and health care industries.

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More Information

For information on University enrolment, please contact the Program Manager.

For all other enquires, please contact the Subject Coordinator.

For further information please go to our websites

www.mccp.unimelb.edu.au/CT

www.arcs.com.au

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DISCLAIMER

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of printing. The University reserves the right to make changes as appropriate. Changes may be made to such things as course content and presenters. Students will be advised of changes as soon as practicable.

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