

Students are required to take the compulsory course (3 credit hours) and at least one of the elective courses (minimum of 3 credit hours) plus a minimum of another 6 credit hours of elective courses from elsewhere in the programme.

## **Programme Description**

The programmes are highly structured with clear learning objectives. Fixed hours will be assigned for classroom, practical and other teaching and learning activities. A full-credit system based on semesters as being practiced by the rest of the university is used. The academic year consists of two regular semesters and one short semester. The regular semester have 14 weeks of lectures each while the short semester has only 7 weeks. The duration of leave or holiday within and between each semester is determined by the university with some discretion given to each department.

Students can opt to do their programme as either Full-time or Part-time. There is some amount of flexibility to the duration and status of the study period but it has to follow the university's Postgraduate Policies and Regulations.

Programme Required courses can either be compulsory or elective as prescribed in the programme of study. Compulsory courses must be taken and passed before a student can graduate from the programme. Elective courses are taken as necessary from any of the courses offered as deemed appropriate by the Kulliyah.

A Prerequisite Course is a specific course that is required to be completed prior to registering for a relevant postgraduate course. Students may also audit a course as deemed appropriate by the Kulliyah provided it is not at the expense of the Programme Required courses. Postgraduate students may be required to attend specific courses that are being conducted for the undergraduate medical students, according to the programmes pursued.

Potential postgraduate students can choose to do the programme either by the Coursework and Research or the Research Only mode. The Kulliyah will recommend a suitable course structure to the student after considering the student's prior academic achievement and the availability of an appropriate supervisor. In suitable cases practical research work and experience can be done in an approved institution outside Kuantan or IIUM.

Students opting for the Research Only programme will be required to send in a preliminary research proposal in an area of interest when applying for the programme. At the end of the programme students are expected to produce a substantive thesis showing some amount of originality. A minimum of 7 credit hours in basic research knowledge (from the Core Required Courses) will be required to be audited by students doing the Research Only programme.

For the Coursework and Research programme, students are required to take a minimum of 21 credit hours in total of the relevant courses among the Discipline Required Courses. The research component will contribute another 15 credit hours to a MMDS candidate, or 33 hours for a Ph.D candidate, as part of the requirement to obtain their degree.