Committee on
Science & Technology

Research Matching Program

ProgramGuide

Project Background

The **Students Research Matching Program (SRMP)** aims to bridge the gap between students and supervisors by facilitating their communication and to provide students with research opportunities based on their interests, previous experiences and academic achievements. If implemented properly, this process is going to be the main driving engine behind the approach of the Committee on Science & Technology (CST) to revitalize research in RAK Medical & Health Sciences University.

Through its processes, the SRMP will facilitate the communication between students and their faculty supervisors and enables the CST to monitor their work continuously. The project provides a student-faculty mutual benefit, giving the students the opportunity to perform research, while providing faculty with help from interested and eager students.

The Students Research Match Program aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. Promote the students' research skills and experiences and expose them to different research methodologies.
2. Provide the faculty with highly reliable research volunteers to help in their projects and publications.
3. Enhance teamwork, self-confidence skills and clarify career paths for students. 4. Improve the students' compliance by direct monitoring and reports submitted to the SRMP.
5. Encourage the students to move beyond textbook learning and work on more complex tasks.
6. Ultimately increase RAKMHSU's publication output

Acknowledgment:

This program is based on the Medical Students Research Program (MSRP), which is being implemented in the University of Sharjah's College of Medicine since September 2018. We acknowledge the role of Mohammad Bakri Hammami, President of the R&D association, UOS.

The main program idea was adapted from a successful project done in the American University of Beirut from 2013 till now. Details of their project are documented, and the reference is added to the footnote[1].

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[1] Dagher, M., Atieh, J., Soubra, M., Khoury, S., Tamim, H., & Kaafarani, B. (2016). Medical Research Volunteer Program (MRVP): innovative program promoting undergraduate research in the medical field. *BMC Medical Education*, *16*(1). http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s12909-016-0670-9

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General Rules:

- The SRMP will be monitored by dedicated members of the Committee on Science & Technology selected by the officer and agreed upon by the Student's Affairs Department.

- Projects that are accepted by the SRMP can be from any field of medicine, but we recommend the following types of research:
  - Literature reviews
  - Cohort studies
  - Case reports and Case series
  - Systematic reviews & Meta-analysis
  - Basic research
  - Community Based Research

- Lab-based studies *can* be included but are not recommended at this stage. • Projects that require funding will not be included in the SRMP program *unless* there is a guaranteed grant.

- The maximum number of volunteers for any project is 3 students, and the maximum time frame is 1 year.

- The CST will announce an application period at the start of each semester. Students can complete their application within this period. No applications will be taken after this period.

- Students will be matched in the SRMP based on specific criteria agreed upon by the CST. *Please refer "Student Rules", pg. 5*

- Students who fail to submit the required documents, show inappropriate behavior, or are reported by their supervisors/team members will be dropped from the SRMP and replaced by other students as needed.

- Students who succeed in publishing papers will be rewarded by the CST and their respective colleges on the following Awards Day.

Students' Rules:

• In order to be considered for the SRMP, students should provide the following information:

  o Social information (name, age, sex, nationality)

  o Academic information (year of study, college)

  o Research experience (publications, ongoing projects, previous projects, grants applied to, grants won)

  o Research interests

  o Expected hours of commitment (2 hours to 8 hours weekly)

• Matching process will depend on criteria that will be agreed upon by the CST. Each item of the criteria will be given a mark, and the score of the student will determine his/her matching odds. Rules of first-come-first served might apply in case of equal scores among students.

• Application of students doesn't guarantee their matching and is subject to the availability of positions.

• Students are required to report to their supervisors within a week of their acceptance, and then submit a monthly progress report regarding achievements during that period. Failure to do so without a valid reason will result in being replaced or dropped.

• Failure to submit the report on 2 consecutive occasions without a direct signed paper from the supervisor results in the drop of the student from the program. • Students who do not attend SRMP's Orientation will be dropped from the program immediately, with a chance of appeal for legitimate excuses.

• The CST will be holding regular courses on various aspects of research from writing styles to publication stage. Those courses will be given by qualified instructors and opened for all the students from all colleges. Students who do not appear for 3 sessions at least will **not** be chosen for the next SRMP in the coming year.

• Students who get accepted in the SRMP must be aware that the research project they will be working on will not be presented in the university's Scientific Conference of that year (main aim of SRMP is to publish the research work).

• Students who provide false or incorrect information in the above form will be dropped out immediately from the program and will not be able to enroll for the next SRMP rounds.

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I agree to participate in this program as a supervisor and I agree to the rules mentioned in this document:

X
Name

Faculty Guide

- Participating faculty are requested to provide publishable titles based on their awareness of openings in the literature. These titles can be modified later as the project progresses. Examples:
  - ▪ "Comparative Analysis Between Outcomes of Intervention A and Intervention B in Diabetic Patients"
  - ▪ "Incidence of Asymptomatic Bacteriuria in ICU Patients in Local Hospital, UAE" ▪ "Colistin: A Literature Review"
- Students interested in the faculty's respective fields will be matched to titles that fit their qualification and interest.
- Supervisors are free to demand any requirements\experiences of their required students.
- Supervisors can report any unacceptable behavior on any of the students, and the SRMP directors will take proper measures and action.
- Participating faculty members can decide how many projects in the SRMP they want to supervise.
- We recommend that supervisors have a maximum of 3 projects in the SRMP per semester.
- Supervisors are requested only to guide the students through regular meetings (preferably a minimum of one meeting per month), to monitor their progress and help them achieve the objectives of the project. The bulk of the work should be done by the students.

Students' Rights:

- The students retain certain rights that the CST will monitor, which include: o **Learning:** SRMP is a learning tool for the students. Students who don't find their experience beneficial have the right to report to the committee and proper actions will be taken.

  - o **Acknowledgement:** Students have the right to be acknowledged for their work. Their acknowledgement will be both by having their names on any research they are involved in, in order of involvement (PI or otherwise) and a certificate from the SRMP committee in appreciation for their work. Attendance of every course, whether the student is matched or not, will be also acknowledged through a certificate of participation.

  - o **Resolution of conflicts:** Any conflicts between students or inefficient communication with the supervisor will be resolved by the SRMP committee as appropriate.

- This program is designed, built and is being run by students from RAKMHSU and for the students of RAKMHSU, without any regards to the origin, color or gender of the participants.

- All complaints and comments are welcome against any of the CST members anonymously through the office of Dr. Manal Sami, Dean of Student Affairs.