

Appendix to Anna Therese Bjerkreim, Ingeborg Eskerud, Anne Berit Guttormsen, Karl Erik Müller. Are students from the research training programme continuing to engage in research? Tidsskr Nor Legeforen 2019; 139. doi: 10.4045/tidsskr.18.0266.

This appendix is a supplement to the article and has not been editorially processed.

Thank you for participating in this study of former students at the Medical Student Research Programme at the University of Bergen.

The objective of the study is to identify research activity among UiB students who have graduated from this programme.

The survey consists of five parts: background, activities during the research programme, completion, PhD degree and research activity after completion of the programme. The study is undertaken anonymously.

The results of the study will be used for quality enhancement at the Medical Student Research Programme and published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Therese Bjerkreim, Karl Erik Müller, Ingeborg Eskerud, Anne Berit Guttormsen

First, we would like to know something about you.

What is your gender?

- (1) → Man
- (2) → Woman

In what year were you born?

Do you come from an immigrant background?

- (1) → No
- (2) → Yes, western
- (3) → Yes, non-western

In what year did you start studying medicine?

In what year did you complete your medical degree course?

Did you have a higher education (university/university college) before enrolment in the medical degree course?

- (1) → No
- (2) → 1–3 years
- (3) → >3 years

Present family situation

- (1) → Single, with no children
- (2) → Single, with children
- (3) → Married/co-habiting, with no children
- (4) → Married/co-habiting, with children

Did you have a part-time job in addition to studying whilst in the research programme (excluding summer jobs)?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Did you become a parent before completing your medical degree course?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Implementation of the medical student research programme

In this part of the survey we would like to know the focus of your research and how you undertook your research project whilst in the programme.

What motivated you to enrol in the research programme? (Select all that apply)

- (1) → Desire for an academic career
- (2) → To take a doctoral degree
- (3) → To expand my competencies
- (4) → Interest in a specific academic area
- (5) → To go on a student exchange programme
- (6) → To improve my chances of obtaining a junior doctor position or a later clinical position
- (7) → To take a break from studying
- (8) → To change classes
- (9) → Other, please specify _____

How would you classify your research project?

- (1) → Epidemiological/community medicine
- (2) → Clinical
- (3) → Laboratory/pre-clinical/para-clinical
- (4) → Other type of research, please specify: _____

How many hours per week (on average) did you spend on research outside your research programme year?

- (1) → Less than 5
- (2) → 5–8
- (3) → More than 8 (more than a normal working day)

What do you think of the workload in the research programme (both during your research programme year and in parallel to the studies)

- (1) → Too low
- (2) → Appropriate
- (3) → Too large

**When did you do most research work (outside your research programme year)?
Select all that apply.**

- (1) → After lectures
- (2) → Lecture-free days (Wednesdays)
- (3) → Weekends
- (4) → Holidays

Did you spend the lecture-free weekday on research activities?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

How often did you receive supervision?

- (1) → At least once each week
- (2) → Approximately every fortnight
- (3) → At regular intervals, but less frequently than every fortnight
- (4) → Sporadically, but as needed
- (5) → No supervision

Were your supervisors available for supervision and questions throughout your period in the research programme?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

What was your most common form of contact with your supervisor(s)?

- (1) → Email
- (2) → Telephone, Skype or similar
- (3) → Meetings

Were you satisfied with the supervision?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → Partly
- (3) → No

Were there, or had there previously been any other students from the research programme in your research group?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Did the research group to which you belonged hold meetings at regular intervals?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Were you involved in other work in your research group (other research projects, teaching, supervision)?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Did you ever have any conflicts with your supervisors or other members of the research group?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Did you have any ambition or desire for an academic career (a position in a university/university college) during your medical studies?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Are you happy to have attended the Medical Student Research Programme?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → Partly
- (3) → No

Did you complete the Medical Student Research Programme?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

How many semesters did you attend the research programme?

Why did you withdraw? (Select all that apply)

- (1) → Lost interest in the project
- (2) → The project was not suitable for a medical student (for example too comprehensive in scope)
- (3) → The project took too much time away from my medical studies
- (4) → Troubled relationship with the supervisor or the research group
- (5) → Personal reasons
- (6) → Other _____

Did you ever consider withdrawing from the research programme?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Why did you consider to withdraw?

- (1) → Lost interest in the project
- (2) → The project was not suitable for a medical student (for example too comprehensive in scope)
- (3) → The project took too much time away from my medical studies
- (4) → Troubled relationship with the supervisor or the research group
- (5) → Personal reasons
- (6) → Other _____

How did you submit?

- (1) → Published article as lead author
- (5) → Published article as second author
- (4) → Manuscript
- (3) → Did not complete
- (6) → Other, please specify _____

Was the manuscript later published in a peer-reviewed journal?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

How many published/accepted original articles did you publish in peer-reviewed journals as a lead or second author before completing your medical degree course?

- (1) → None
- (2) → 1

- (3) → 2
- (4) → 3 or more

Did you write any other types of articles before completing the research programme (reviews, comments, letters to editors or similar)

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Do you have any other comments about your time as a student in the research programme?

PhD

Some continue to take the PhD degree after completing their medical degree and the research programme. Here we would like to investigate your path through the doctoral programme, if relevant.

Have you applied for a PhD scholarship since completing your medical degree?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Did you apply for a PhD scholarship immediately after completing your medical degree (before becoming a junior doctor)?

- (1) → Yes, and took up the position
- (2) → Yes, and declined the offer of a position
- (3) → Yes, but was not offered a position

- (4) → No

Why did you not apply immediately after completing your medical degree?

- (1) → Preference for clinical work
(2) → Lost interest in the project
(3) → Lacked the motivation for continuing with research
(4) → The project was completed/terminated/not suitable for use in a PhD degree
(5) → Other reasons, please specify _____

What type(s) of scholarships did you apply for?

- (1) → UiB (funds earmarked for participants in the Medical Student Research Programme)
(2) → UiB (funds not earmarked for participants in the Medical Student Research Programme)
(3) → Western Norway Regional Health Authority
(4) → Research Council of Norway
(5) → Other _____

What type(s) of scholarships did you receive?

- (1) → UiB (funds earmarked for participants in the Medical Student Research Programme)
(2) → UiB (funds not earmarked for participants in the Medical Student Research Programme)
(3) → Western Norway Regional Health Authority
(4) → Research Council of Norway
(5) → Other _____

Why did you apply for a PhD scholarship? (Select all that apply)

- (1) → Wanted a career in research/a university
(2) → Wished to improve my chances in the labour market
(3) → Better chance of an earmarked position than of an open scholarship position

- (4) → Encouragement from the supervisor
- (5) → Encouragement from others
- (6) → Suited my life situation
- (8) → A PhD degree would reduce the time needed for specialisation
- (7) → Other reasons

If you have started on or completed your PhD, is this a continuation of your project in the research programme?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Not relevant, did not continue to a PhD degree

When did you submit your thesis relative to the nominal time?

- (1) → Earlier (please specify how many months) _____
- (2) → At the nominal time
- (3) → Later than the nominal time
- (4) → Not yet finished
- (5) → Did not complete
- (6) → Have not started work on a PhD

Why did you not apply for a PhD scholarship? (Select all that apply)

- (1) → Preference for clinical work
- (2) → Lost interest in the project
- (3) → Lacked the motivation for continuing with research
- (4) → The project was completed/terminated/not suitable for use in a PhD degree
- (5) → Lack of progress in the specialisation training (a PhD degree does not count in the specialisation training programme)

(6) → Other reason, please specify _____

Were any earmarked positions announced for your class?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Were you provided with information on the opportunity to apply for a scholarship position at UiB immediately after completing your medical studies?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Where did you obtain this information? (You may select multiple response alternatives)

- (1) → The administration of the Medical Student Research Programme
- (2) → The UiB website
- (3) → Job-search portal
- (4) → Supervisor
- (5) → Other students in the research programme
- (6) → Other _____

Did your supervisor(s) encourage you to continue with a PhD?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

If you could choose again, would you have applied for a PhD scholarship?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No
- (3) → Don't know

Did you complete the PhD degree?

- (1) → Yes, year _____
- (2) → Working on it
- (3) → No

Activity after the Medical Student Research Programme and PhD, if applicable

One of the objectives of the student research programme is to recruit doctors into research. We would therefore like to know whether you have engaged in research after completing your medical studies.

What type of position do you have at the moment?

- (1) → Clinical
- (2) → Combined clinical/research (e.g. a D-type position)
- (3) → University position/research position
- (4) → Other, please specify: _____

Are you in specialisation training?

- (1) → Yes, (please specify) _____

(2) → Trained specialist (please specify) _____

(3) → No

Is your specialisation in the same medical field as your research project?

(1) → Yes

(2) → No

In the following questions, we are asking about publication of original articles in peer-reviewed journals.

How many original articles have you published as lead author?

How many original articles have you published as last author?

How many peer-reviewed articles have you published in total (not necessarily as lead or last author)?

When did you publish your last article?

(1) → This year

(2) → During the last two years

(3) → More than two years ago

(4) → Have not published any articles

Have you published any other types of articles (reviews, comments, discussions, other)?

- (1) → Yes, during the last two years
- (2) → Yes, but more than two years ago
- (3) → No

Have you published any articles or similar related to your research in other types of media (newspapers, weekly publications etc.)?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Are you still active in a research area?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Are you engaged in the teaching of students (in a university or university college)?

- (1) → Yes
- (2) → No

Do you, or have you ever served as a supervisor for students?

- (1) → Project work (medicine)
- (2) → Master's degree
- (3) → PhD degree
- (4) → Other _____

(5) → No

Do you have any ambition or desire for an academic career?

(1) → Yes

(2) → No

(3) → Don't know

Is there anything that you would like us to include in the study, that we have not asked about?

Thank you for participating in the study.