

Response to Student Feedback –Introductory Module – 31st batch

Committee/Department – Community Medicine

Batch -31st Batch

Year -2025

Number of responses: 26

Response rate – 13.5%

S/N	Student Comment/Suggestion	Decision (valid/Invalid /Need further Information)	Proposed Action	Responsible Person
1	Supervisors were really helpful (1).	Valid	Thank you for the feedback	
2	The lectures which were done by the department were so much valuable and we were able to gain lots of knowledge (2).	Valid	Thank you for the feedback	
3	Lectures should be done according to research topics, taking a complete research as an example section-wise according to the topics taught. So at the end of the research lectures, students will have a complete idea of how to do the research. (2)	Valid	Thank you for the suggestion. It will be considered for the future batches.	Department of Community Medicine
4	It's better to start lectures before data collection, so it's easier to understand (3).	Invalid	Lectures on developing the objectives and methodology which are required at the data collection level, are done before the REC submission and subsequent initiation of data collection. Data analysis will be taught following that, around the time the students will be involved in the data analysis.	

5	We're not open to clinicals at the beginning of the research topic selection. So it's harder to choose an appropriate topic, to do a successful research (2).	Invalid	Even though clinicals have not started the students can search for literature on their interested areas of study and the lists of previous studies done by the senior batches have been made available, to come up with some potential topics. These can be refined with discussions with the supervisors and at the seminars held by the department. Previous surveys indicated that majority of the students prefer to complete the research project by the 9 th term.	
6	Supervisors help regarding choosing a good topic, which is easier & possible to collect data is not sufficient. We don't have enough knowledge, so it's better if they can look into this & guide students with their preferred topics (1).	Invalid	Students are expected to go through the previous studies done and do a literature search to come up with some potential topics/ areas for research when they meet the supervisors, so that they could guide the students in selecting the best out of the suggested topics. We encourage students to come up with their research ideas.	-
7	Would have been helpful if we had lectures on literature review before deciding the research topic (1).	Invalid	With the start of the research module, an introductory lecture on 'Introduction to research and Identifying knowledge gaps and research areas through literature' is conducted before asking to submit tentative topics. This introductory lecture is helpful in selecting the topics tentatively. The topics can be refined with further knowledge gained through lectures, discussions with the supervisors and at the seminars held by the department. Tentative topics need to be submitted by the students early, for the Department to identify the potential supervisors to be allocated.	

8	It was really difficult to collect data due to time constraints. Couldn't balance data collection with clinicals and lectures. Clinicals till 12 pm and then lectures sharp at 1.30 For some appointments, we had them in another hospital so we couldn't go to the relevant hospital for data collection (2).	Partially valid	It is understood that the schedule is tight, but it is unavoidable. Planning to collect the data during vacation periods is one option, and the department will provide maximum support for the students to obtain REC approval as early as possible, giving more time for data collection. This challenge is well explained at the introductory session to research and students are advised to consider this when choosing a study population. We have proposed a research block in the new curriculum to address this issue.	Faculty Board
9	My research grp did not have members from my same clinical grp thus it was extremely difficult to get everyone at once to collect data. This wasn't an issue for other research groups as their members were part of the same clinical group thus it was much easier for them (2).	Need further information	When research groups are allocated, students from the same clinical groups are considered. However, according to the numbers in the clinical groups, a few groups can have a few students from another clinical group. However, the situation mentioned is not possible. We will try to gain further details.	Research module coordinator
10	Too much rush in clinic setting in CSTH (1).	Invalid	This is to be expected in clinic settings at hospitals. The students can use certain remedies to overcome this up to a certain extent, by visiting the clinics early, discussing with the staff and getting their maximum support, etc.	
11	Hands on training was only a little helpful Some computers were not working at the IT lab and also the physical lecture we had for making tables did not help, as the screen was small and we couldn't see the letters and table If it was held online it would have been more helpful (1).	Valid	Only 15 computers were in working condition at the IT lab. The department will consider this request next time.	HoD & Research module coordinator

12	No lab access and SPSS was not provided free of charge so had manage with only 2 laptops (1).	Invalid	The department has requested the students to inform if they face problems with accessing computers. SPSS is provided from the department. However, we would like to request the university to provide us with the licensed version of SPSS.	-
13	need more support from supervisors (2).	Need further information	This statement is not specific enough to provide input.	
14	Would appreciate if all the groups had a uniformity in getting their research supervisors. Such as all the groups have a lecturer from the department as their internal supervisor (2).	Invalid	Considering the number of lecturers at the Department of Community Medicine, and the UGC quality standards, it is not possible to allocate a department member for each of the approximately 40 research groups. Therefore, each group was allocated to two supervisors, one subject expert and one Consultant Community Physician. In addition, all groups were allocated an academic member from the department to oversee and students were informed to contact them if they have any problems with their supervisors.	-
15	Even with the group members support, the principal investigator has to do 60% of the work and its very stressful (1).	Valid	This is understood, and could be rectified if the students prepare a plan of action at the beginning according to the Gantt Chart and divide the work among themselves equally as much as possible, without giving most of the burden to the leader. The leader him/herself can initiate this, and have frequent discussions among the group members to see the progress and identify any challenges. Any issues/ challenges beyond the scope of the students can be brought to the attention of the respective supervisors without delay, who would be able to guide the students to overcome them. The supervisors will also be informed of this situation and requested to indicate the work done by each member of the group during the research process from proposal development to submission of the report.	Students

16	I would like if we were given a specific time period for research module without clinicals and para clinicals (1).	Valid	The department has proposed a research block in the new curriculum to address this issue.	Faculty Board
17	giving a thorough understanding of the whole research project prior to the research is appreciated because we had to face so many difficulties due to the lack of awareness. Our final report had several mistakes that we were able to correct at the last minute. At the time of submitting each part, we couldn't understand it properly, but once all the research lectures were completed, we were able to identify our mistakes. As an example, we had already started data collection, once the data analysis lecture was done. So, we couldn't change the questionnaire afterwards (1).	Valid	The suggestion (example) is somewhat valid but, however, based on the teaching slots available, it is not possible to conduct all the lectures during one term before starting the research project. Maximum effort is taken for the lectures to be conducted in line with the research process (i.e. to have the lecture around the same time a particular research step is being practically carried out.)	Department of Community Medicine
18	The documents we sent for corrections were not corrected properly (1). They haven't mentioned our mistakes, prior submitting the proposal. We knew some of them only at the Viva (1).	Need further information	It is implied that the student is referring to the submission of the research report, not the proposal. Further information is required to address this comment. One reason for this situation could be that the students sometimes don't stick to the deadlines set by the supervisors for submitting the research report/ chapters for correction, and share them with the supervisors only a couple of days before the submission deadline. This results in the supervisors being unable to optimally correct the reports within a very short period of time, due to their other commitments.	

19	It would be better to provide more clarity to the students than what was given to our batch (1).	Need further information	This statement is not specific enough to provide input. Instructions are provided in the research SOP uploaded to the Faculty website and a research guideline book is also provided. On the first day of the research module and from time to time, students are instructed to refer to these documents.	
20	Submission deadlines shouldn't be closer to exams/ SGD/ tutes. Hard to give priority with all these academics & clinicals. If research related questions are asked in part 2 exams, better after CA 9, not closer to CA 10, like week after CA 9(1).	Invalid	Submission deadlines are decided by the department at the beginning of the research module and informed to the students well in advance. Maximum effort is made to avoid the submission deadlines overlapping with exams. However, it is impossible to avoid overlaps with tutorials and SGDs. Previous surveys indicated that majority of the students prefer to complete the research project by the 9th term.	
21	Getting the experience of research. Group project rather than doing everything individually, like competing with others every time. Good to develop team spirit & reduce selfishness of students (1).	Valid	Thank you for the feedback.	
22	Not compatible lecture allocation, according to the time & not suitable examples. Time is not compatible, also deadlines (1).	Invalid	Lectures of the research module are scheduled as much as possible to go in parallel to the research steps the students are practically following during that particular time (eg. lectures on developing objectives are conducted at the time they start the development of objectives). Deadlines for submission of the report and particular chapters, as well as submission for ethics approval, are informed to the students well in advance.	

23	Couldn't find many research related to our topic (1).	Invalid	The students start searching for literature to identify potential topics for their study, at which stage they may identify that not much research has been done on their topic of interest previously. This need not be considered as a constraint, and in fact it increases the importance of their study with a view to producing evidence in an unresearched area. For their literature review, and when writing the discussion chapter, they can use literature on related studies if the exact topic they have chosen has not been studied much earlier. Further, improving their search strategy and using multiple avenues and databases/ platforms in searching for literature will increase the possibility of identifying more related research.	
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