

Project proposal template – Faculty studentships Summer 2014

<i>Project title</i>	Effects of training on communications skills and clinical outcomes.	<i>Director of Study</i>	Dr Elizabeth Opara
<i>Second Supervisor</i>	Dr Hilda Mulrooney	<i>School</i>	Life Sciences <input type="button" value="v"/>
<i>Other members of supervisory team</i>	Prof Andrea Petroczi	<i>Any requirements from applicant (eg degree in specific subject area)</i>	First class honours healthcare-related science degree. Higher degree is an <input type="button" value="v"/>
Project summary (max 1,000 characters)			
<p>Communication skills in healthcare are important, and clinical guidelines recommend that healthcare professionals receive appropriate training. However it is unclear which specific components of skilled communications enhance patient care and how best to assess the use of these skills in practice.</p> <p>The aim of this project is to define the essential components of training which enhance interactions with patients, and to develop competencies in effective communications.</p> <p>Initially a validated tool to assess specific communication skills will be developed and piloted. It will be used to assess effects of training on communication skills, and the impact of these skills on clinical practice. This is a collaborative project with potential to impact upon national clinical guidance. It will enhance our understanding of the specific dynamics of helping relationships which most enhance patient wellbeing and influence their willingness to change unhelpful behaviours.</p>			