

Project proposal

<i>Project title</i>	Association of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and non cervical cancers: Breast and Oesophageal cancers
<i>First Supervisor</i>	Dr <input type="text" value="Hossein Ashrafi"/>
<i>Second Supervisor</i>	<input type="text" value="tbc"/>
<i>School</i>	Life Sciences
<i>Other member of supervisory team</i> (no more than three KU supervisors in total)	<input type="text"/>
<i>Specific requirements</i> beyond 2:1 degree	<input type="text"/>

Project summary (max 4,000 characters)

MSc by Research

Despite the medical importance of Breast Cancer (BC) and Oesophageal Cancer (OEC), few studies have been conducted on the causative factors associated with the development of these cancers. Although it is well-known that multiple risk factors are associated with BC and OEC development, the initiating cause has not been identified.

Infection by human papillomaviruses (HPVs) have been implicated as causative agents in a variety of cancers, but to date studies on the role of HPVs in BC and OEC have not been clear-cut. It's still not clear whether HPVs are consistently present in Breast and Oesophageal tumours, and, when it is, what its role might be. We are therefore aiming to evaluate the possible role of infection by papillomavirus in increasing the risk of these cancers.

This information will pave the way for future studies, including vaccine trials, thus encouraging collaboration between industry and academia. Additionally, this will provide a solid platform for the proposal of a programme grant dealing with the several functional aspects of HPV. The proposed work will not be done in isolation. The environment is conducive to cross-fertilisation and collaboration.