Pathways To and Through the MD/PhD Program at the University of Alberta

Three routes of entry to the program are possible, numbered 1), 2), and 3). Note that with route 2) a minimum of two, and preferably three undergraduate years are required. Note that with route 3) the graduate student must be accepted into the MD program before entering the MD/PhD program, and that acceptance into the MD/PhD is provisional until MD years 1 & 2 are completed.

- Summer Student research experiences -- If these are all done in the same lab, or at least in the same subject area, it can be expected that the length of time required to obtain a PhD will be reduced.

* Students entering via route 2) (i.e. without a degree) must apply for the Bachelor of Medical Sciences Degree in their second year of the MD program.

To be in the MD/PhD program students must obtain funding to support their PhD studies. A number of opportunities exist through AHFMR, CIHR, NSERC, and other funding agencies, or through graduate scholarship from the U of A or the home department. The AHFMR MD/PhD stipend is provided for a total of six years, typically four years of PhD studies plus the final two years of the MD program. All MD/PhD students receive a 15% 'top up' to their graduate stipend, which is provided by the Faculty.

** AHFMR MD/PhD funding is not provided in MD years 1 & 2, even if students enter via route 3) with an AHFMR studentship in hand, but this studentship can fund the summer between MD years 1 & 2, and it resumes after the student has completed MD year 2 and is back full time at graduate studies.

§ Except under unusual circumstances, to receive continued MD/PhD funding and remain in the MD/PhD program, students must complete and defend the PhD thesis before returning to year three of the MD program. Students are always guaranteed a place in years 3 & 4 of the MD program, but if they return without completing the PhD they risk forfeiting any further funding.

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