

Getting Started Guide

Develop your research skills and get published

Research to Publication is a e-learning programme to help you design, conduct and report on research that journal editors will want to publish. Developed by BMJ and UCSF for doctors and healthcare researchers, particularly early in their careers, it comprises eight courses containing 200 hours of expert tuition. [See appendix 1 for essential modules for PHCC staff.](#)

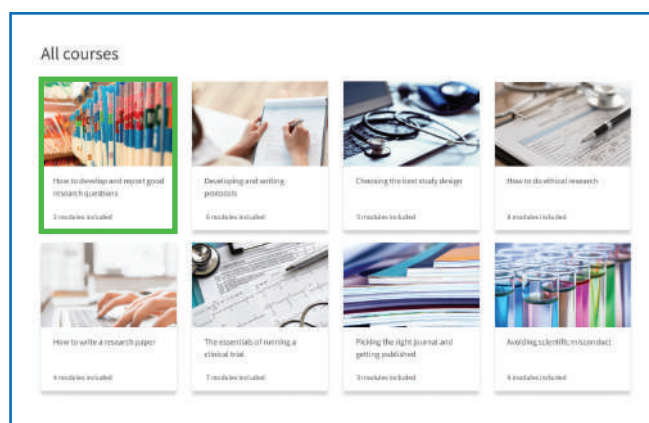
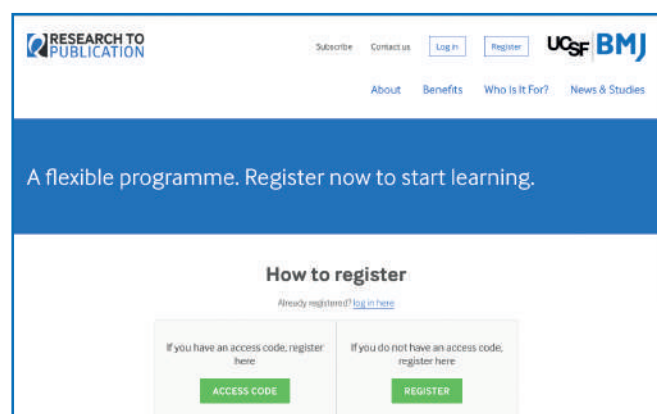
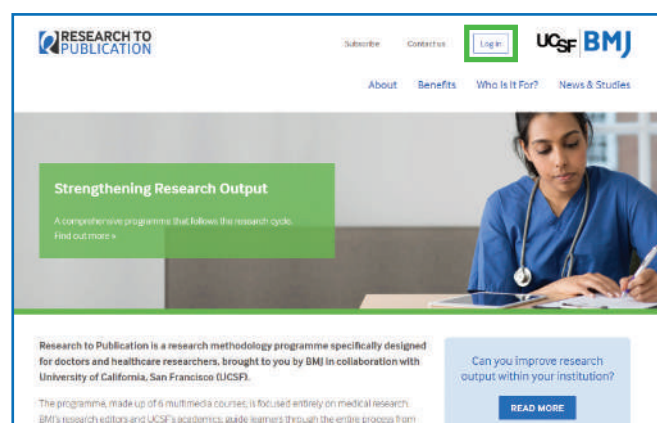
REGISTERING

To start, please visit PHCC's Department of Clinical Research website (icon on all PHCC computer desktops). Go to 'Research Support' page. Follow instructions provided in the 'Research to Publication (RtP)' section *.

*Registration is restricted to PHCC network and email addresses.

COURSES & MODULES

All courses appear on the main homepage, when you click on your desired course the drop down bar will show you all modules within that specific course.



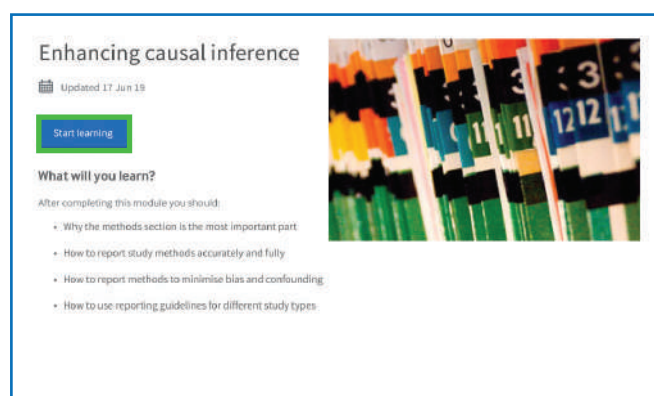
Simply click on the module title to take you through to the module overview page.

The courses are:

1. How to develop and report good research questions
2. Developing and writing protocols
3. Choosing the best study design
4. How to do ethical research
5. How to write a research paper
6. The essentials of running a clinical trial
7. Picking the right journal and getting published
8. Avoiding scientific misconduct

VIEWING MODULE INFORMATION

When you select any module, you will be taken to a page of information to help you decide if the module is of interest to you.



The page will show:

- Learning outcomes
- Who the module is written by
- To start the module, click “**module**”

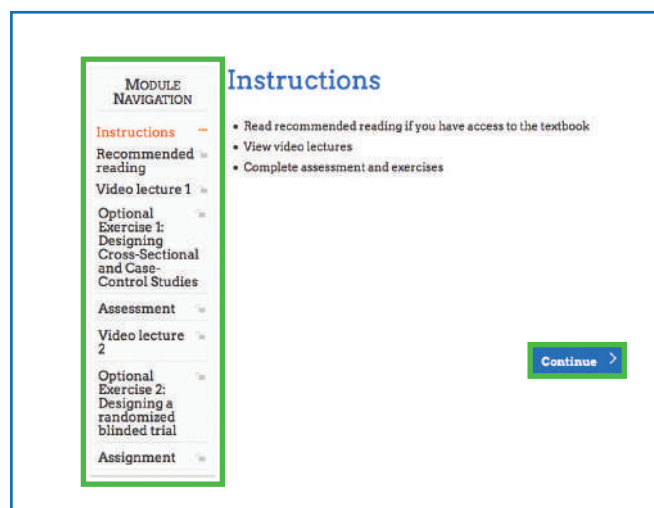
All materials include real examples, including policies and case studies about doing and publishing research.

COMPLETING MODULES

After you have clicked the “**module**” you can then work your way through the module pages by clicking on the “**continue**” button at the bottom of the screen.

Your progress is automatically saved and you can resume the module from where you got to if you don't complete it by going back to 'start module' at any time.

Audio begins automatically so if you're using headphones be sure to plug them in prior to starting.



Navigation

You can navigate to different parts of the module using the 'MODULE NAVIGATION' panel on the left. Completed parts will show a green tick. The page you are on will appear in **orange**.

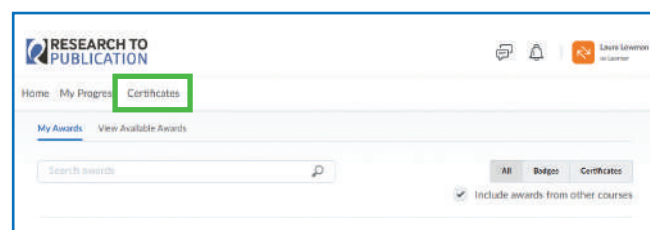
Getting your certificate

When you have completed a module you will be shown your score for the multiple choice questions. If you score less than 80% you will need to go back and answer the questions correctly in order to collect your certificate.

When you have successfully passed a module or course you can collect your certificate by 'visiting 'Certificates' in the navigation bar where all certificates will be stored. Which can be printed, or downloaded and saved in your records.



A “Certificate of Completion” will be provided from BMJ and UCSF for every module or course passed as well as for completing the entire programme.



Appendix 1:

Research to Publication program core courses

Making the best start to your research and publishing

Course 1: Choosing and citing references

Learning outcomes:

- Search published literature for appropriate references
- Pick and read relevant references to support key statements
- Cite accurately and fully, avoiding plagiarism
- Beware of web references
- Ignore or contest journal requests for “self citation”
- Follow journal advice, using Vancouver or Harvard style

Developing and reporting good research questions

Course 2: Developing a good research question

Learning outcomes:

- Identify and describe the characteristics of a good research question
- Explain three key ingredients for developing a research question
- Name and briefly describe the FINER criteria
- Describe several sources from which good research questions arise
- Draft a one-sentence research question and 1/2 page describing the significance of your research question

Course 3: Reporting the research question in your paper

Learning outcomes:

- Report the study's research question clearly in the protocol and paper
- Explain what was known and not known about the study's topic and about the specific research question
- Use clear, effective writing to introduce the study

Choosing the best study design

Course 4: Study design

Learning outcomes:

- Define cohort studies
- Distinguish between prospective and retrospective cohorts
- Explain the nested case-control design and strategy
- Describe the multiple-cohort design
- Define cross-sectional studies
- Explain why cross-sectional studies yield weaker evidence for causality than cohort studies
- Define case-control studies and their benefits and problems
- Describe case-crossover studies.
- Define randomized blinded trials
- Explain how to design RBTs
- Describe how to choose the intervention and control conditions
- Describe how to define outcomes and adverse effects
- Describe how to select participants
- Describe how to measure baseline and outcome variables
- Evaluate approaches to randomising and blinding

Course 5: Subjects and variables

Learning outcomes:

- Define sample and population, and describe how sample and population inform all clinical research
- Identify criteria for a target population
- Compare and contrast approaches to sampling
- Describe several strategies for recruiting a sample of subjects.

Course 6: Questionnaires and qualitative research

Learning outcomes:

- Describe steps an investigator can take to ensure that questionnaires and interviews are as valid and reproducible as possible
- Define open-ended questions and closed-ended questions and devise several examples of both types of questions
- Identify desirable question elements as well as pitfalls to avoid
- Design a one-page instrument that is easy to read, easy to understand, and suitable for data entry

Course 7: The methods: matching study designs to research questions

Learning outcomes:

- Why the methods section is the most important part
- How to report study methods accurately and fully
- How to report methods to minimise bias and confounding
- How to use reporting guidelines for different study types

Developing and writing protocols

Course 8: How to write and publish a study protocol: overview

Learning outcomes:

- Understand different meanings of the term “protocol”
- Communicate the value of planned research
- Appreciate the characteristics of a good research question
- Match research questions to appropriate study designs
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of published protocols

For help and support

Visit: rtop.bmj.com | Email: support@bmj.com | Call: +44 (0)207 383 6180