

BRC 2022-2023 Further Guidance for Core PhD Studentship Call

Background

The call for all BRC PhD studentships to start September 2023 was circulated on Friday 14th October. This document provides further guidance on the four core PhD studentships available to start in September 2023, and addresses the questions raised in a Q&A session.

Approach

This is an open call for core-funded PhD projects, however, only four will be funded. We expect more than four project proposals to be submitted following the call guidance, and these will then be reviewed and prioritised for inclusion into the advert by a BRC panel chaired by Professor Georgina Moulton and including the BRC Director, Professor Ian Bruce and other scientific leads (tbc).

Research Priorities

We are looking for PhD project proposals that will focus on seven cross-cutting research priorities identified from across BRC themes to lead the development of new research within the BRC and partners. Projects that fall into these research priorities can be methodologically driven, have a cross-clinical focus, and be based in any setting. These projects will look to support the current investment and shape the future research priorities of the BRC. Please refer to call documentation for BRC broad strategic objectives.

The Research priorities identified are:

- Inclusive Research/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
- Adherence
- Polygenic Risk Scores
- Infection
- Functional Genomics
- Multi-morbidity
- Fatigue

Core PhD Studentship Criteria

Project ideas should meet *some* of the following criteria that have been devised in alignment with NIHR and BRC strategies, and are in order of priority.

- i. research to sit across *at least* two BRC research clusters;
- ii. incorporation of a range of collaborators such as partner Trusts/HEIs (e.g. Blackpool, Preston NHS Trusts, MMU/University of Salford); other NIHR infrastructure (e.g. Manchester CRF, ARC or PSRC); industry and partnerships)
- iii. reflective of the core themes of the BRC (e.g. PPIE, data science, paediatrics/transition medicine, industry involvement);
- iv. a clear project impact plan including details of how such a project will support leverage of external funding (grants, commercial links) to take this new area of research forward.
- v. having EDI at their core and where possible, a focus on health inequities and/or recruitment from areas of high unmet need; and

- vi. a mixed supervisory team (if possible to include rising stars or those earlier in their careers)

Next Steps for Development of Core PhD Project Proposals

If you have a project proposal, then please consider the following next steps before submission:

1. Contact the relevant Lead or Theme Lead to discuss your idea further and approach other Theme Leads and Project Managers to make connections (see below)
2. Should you wish to have a brief review or discussion of a PhD proposal we will hold a clinic on **14 November at 10am-12 noon** (contact jane.crosbie@manchester.ac.uk to book a 10-minute slot)
3. Should you need links to particular areas such as PPIE, data science, industry, then please do contact the leads for these (see below).
4. Submit an email with an intention to submit to jane.crosbie@manchester.ac.uk by **Thursday 17 November 2022**

Completion of the form

- There is one form for *all* PhD project proposals.
- When writing proposals for the core PhD studentships please consider highlighting how you have met the research priority and core PhD studentship criteria in the '**LINK WITH MBRC STRATEGY**' section. In some cases this will also be evident through the supervisory team and themes involved in the project. Where it isn't, please do provide two or three sentences to address the criteria.

Studentship Fees

As specified in the call documentation we are able to provide the following support for a core PhD studentship:

- Home tuition fees at the standard UKRI rate (UK applicants only)
- Annual stipend at the minimum UKRI rate (2022/23 rate £17,668)
- An annual Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) towards project running costs/consumables, conference/workshop attendance, career development opportunities (up to £5,000 pa pro-rata).
- RTSG for CASE projects is £5,000pa pro-rata. Exceptional RTSG is not applicable

This does not include clinical salaries that sometimes can be attached in those cases. We are looking for the best student and so in cases where there is a need for additional monies we may ask for some funding contribution from the NHS Trust or Theme.

International Candidates

These will be reviewed on a case-by-case by supervisors, recruitment panel and dependent on available funding.

Contacts across the BRC

Cluster	Themes
Cancer	Prevention and Early Detection Theme Lead: Gareth.Evans@mft.nhs.uk

	<p>Project Manager: emma.thorpe@nhs.net</p> <p>Advanced Radiotherapy tim.illidge@manchester.ac.uk PM: rebecca.m.elliott@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Precision Medicine caroline.dive@manchester.ac.uk PM: ekram.aidaros-talbot@cruk.manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Living with and beyond cancer John.Radford@manchester.ac.uk PM: louise.james22@nhs.net</p>
<p>Inflammation</p>	<p>Rheumatic Musculoskeletal Diseases anne.barton@manchester.ac.uk PM: Eloise.Cook@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Respiratory Medicine Jorgen.Vestbo@manchester.ac.uk PM: Zoe.Talks@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Dermatology: Cutaneous Inflammation and Repair Christopher.Griffiths@manchester.ac.uk PM: Eloise.Cook@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Integrative Cardiovascular Medicine bernard.keavney@manchester.ac.uk</p>
<p>Disease Complexity and Multi-morbidity</p>	<p>Next Generation Phenotyping and Diagnostics Rachel.Lennon@manchester.ac.uk PM: Stuart.Ingram@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Next General Therapeutics maya.buch@manchester.ac.uk</p>
<p>High Burden Under researched conditions</p>	<p>Hearing Health kevin.j.munro@manchester.ac.uk PM: Cath.Wright@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Mental Health gillian.haddock@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Rare Conditions william.newman@manchester.ac.uk</p>
<p>Cross Cutting / Other Themes</p>	<p>Inclusive Research, Equality Diversity and Inclusion, PPIEP</p>

	<p>IR: Arpana.Verma@manchester.ac.uk PPIEP: Bella.Starling@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Biomarkers graeme.black@manchester.ac.uk PM: stuart.ingram@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Informatics Data Science/Digital Infrastructure niels.peek@manchester.ac.uk PM: ruth.norris@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Core-team/Project Management Lisa.Miles@mft.nhs.uk</p> <p>Capacity Building Georgina.Moulton@manchester.ac.uk jane.crosbie@manchester.ac.uk</p> <p>Industry and Partnerships richard.body@manchester.ac.uk PM: colette.inkson@mft.nhs.uk</p>
Partners	
Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	dr.galasko@nhs.net angela.parker19@nhs.net
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Paul.Brown@LTHTR.nhs.uk Pierre.Martin-Hirsch@lthtr.nhs.uk
Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	Damien.Longson@gmmh.nhs.uk
The Christie NHS Foundation Trust	sian.hanison@nhs.net
Northern Care Alliance	Phillip.Kalra@srft.nhs.uk
Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust	Iain.McLean@mft.nhs.uk
GM NIHR Infrastructure and Schools	
NIHR Clinical Research Facility	sarah.fallon@nhr.ac.uk
NIHR Greater Manchester Patient Safety Translational Research Centre	Darren.Ashcroft@manchester.ac.uk
NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Greater Manchester	nicky.cullum@manchester.ac.uk
NIHR School for Primary Care Research	t.m.blakeman@manchester.ac.uk