

**The University of Manchester** **MRC Doctoral Training Partnership**

**Call for PhD Project Proposals - 2024 studentships**

***See accompanying document:*** *2024 MRC DTP Criteria & Timeline*

**General information about the University MRC DTP**

* The University of Manchester’s MRC Doctoral Training Programme supports MRC’s strategic commitment to basic science and its translation by offering research projects that align with at least one of the following themes:

- Disease Mechanisms

- Detection & Diagnosis

- Developing Interventions

* PGRs entering the 4-year programme will be supported by a core programme of training in: Patient and Public Engagement/Involvement; Enterprise; Informatics and Computing, Professionalism and Leadership
* In addition to the annual Research Training Support Grant allocated to each project, additional competitive internal DTP schemes are offered to fund exceptional training opportunities (Flexible Training Supplement Award) and clinical or industrial research placements (Innovation and Translation Springboard Fund).
* MRC-funded PGRs can also apply for funding for a post-submission project designed to enhance transition to the next stage of their career (Pathways to Impact). This programme also involves a programme of career coaching and opportunity for mentorship by leaders in the fields relevant to the PGR’s future career.

**Research project criteria**

All projects must be interdisciplinary (operationalized as supervisors from different divisions, but this is flexible), plus an element of training in either or both of the MRC’s Skill Priorities: Whole Organ(ism) Physiology and Quantitative Skills.

All projects must include at least two of the overarching DTP themes:

* Discovery of Disease Mechanisms,
* Detection and Diagnosis
* Development of Therapeutic Interventions

**Supervisory Criteria**

The Primary Supervisor must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the accompanying document ‘*2024 MRC DTP Criteria & Timeline’.*

**MRC DTP3 offers three avenues for Project Proposals:**

**Supervisor Led Project Proposal:** The supervisors collaborate to write the project proposal. Subject to MRC DTP Board approval, this is advertised, the supervisor then screens applicants to select the best candidate who would be competitive in the MRC DTP interview pool and submits a student nomination form.

**CASE Supervisor Led Project:** The academic supervisors collaborate with industrial supervisors to create a project proposal, which is submitted along with a CASE Partner Support Form. Subject to MRC DTP Board approval, this is advertised, the supervisor then screens applicants to select the best candidate who would be competitive in the MRC DTP interview pool and submits a student nomination form.

**Student Led Project:** Supervisors indicate their willingness to collaborate on projects that consider topics within the MRC DTP’s remit, which is advertised. The supervisor then screens the applicants who approach them to propose their own project to ensure that they are competitive in the MRC DTP interview pool, after which they work together to formulate a project, with that student being nominated for that project. Subject to MRC DTP approval that project and candidate will proceed to interview.

**Funding**

Each studentship will run for 4 years and provide funding for:

* Tuition fees at the standard UKRI rate (OS candidates accepted, up to a maximum quota of 30%, to be managed by the Board)
* Annual stipend at the minimum UKRI rate (2023/24 rate = £18,622)
* An annual Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) towards project running costs/consumables, conference/workshop attendance, career development opportunities (up to £5,000 per annum).

The recruitment of students and award of MRC studentships will be coordinated by a cross-faculty MRC DTP Management Board, chaired by Dr Anna Woollams.

**Financial contributions (CASE Project Proposals only) see MRC** [**guidance**](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/mrc/doctoral-training-partnership-dtp/)

In addition to the contribution to the research training of the student, a company with >250 employees is required to contribute:

* an annual cash contribution to the academic partner towards the cost of the project of at least £1,400 per year
* a mandatory cash payment of at least £2,500 per year as a supplement to the stipend

Small to medium size enterprises (SMEs) are exempt from making cash contributions to stipends and project costs. The MRC DTP flexible supplement can be used to meet these additional costs where the collaborating partner is an SME.

All companies, regardless of size, should offer a constructive and welcoming student placement and cover additional expenses, such as the cost of travel and accommodation incurred by the student as a direct result of attendance at the premises of the company (no minimum amount). Companies are also expected to pay for provision of in-kind contributions, e.g. coverage for all supervision, reagents/consumables and equipment use, etc.

Please complete the following proforma and return this to the FBMH Doctoral Academy Admissions team [FBMH.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:FBMH.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk) with ‘MRC DTP project proposal’ in the subject line.

Do not convert the completed document to pdf. The deadline for submission is **5pm,** **Monday** **25 September 2023, for supervisor led project proposals and CASE project proposals and 5pm, Tuesday 12 December 2023, for student led project proposals**. Approval will be sought on your behalf as outlined in the accompanying eligibility document: ***2024 MRC DTP Criteria & Timeline.***

All queries should be directed FBMH Doctoral Academy.

**MRC DTP PhD Research Project Proposal**

**2024 studentships**

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| **MRC Project Proposal** | | |
| (select one X) |  | **Supervisor led project** (Deadline 5pm, Monday 25 September 2023) |
|  | **CASE project** (also submit a CASE Partner Support form, deadline 25 September 2023, 5pm) |
|  |  | **Student led project** (Deadline 5pm, Tuesday 12 December 2023) |

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| **Supervisory Team** (add/remove rows for co-supervisors if necessary) | |
| **Primary Supervisor Name** |  |
| Faculty/School/Division/Department |  |
| Email |  |
| % split of supervision (20-80%) |  |
| Position | **Substantive / Honorary (**delete one)  **Confirmed / Probationary** (delete one) |
| Are you an Early Career Researcher and/or independently (externally) funded fellow | **Yes / No** (delete one) |
| Does your contract extend beyond the PGR’s expected registration period (i.e. September 2028) | **Yes / No** (delete one) |
| Number of currently registered PGRs (as Primary Supervisor) |  |
| Number of currently registered PGRs (as co-Supervisor) |  |

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| **Please ensure the expected contribution for each Co-Supervisor to justify their inclusion within the Supervisory Team is stated** | |
| **Co-Supervisor 1 Name** |  |
| Faculty/School/Division/Department |  |
| Email |  |
| % split of supervision (20-80%) |  |

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| **Co-Supervisor 2 Name** |  |
| Faculty/School/Division/Department |  |
| Email |  |
| % split of supervision (20-80%) |  |

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| **Co-Supervisor 3 Name** |  |
| Faculty/School/Division/Department |  |
| Email |  |
| % split of supervision (20-80%) |  |

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| The MRC DTP prioritises training in Interdisciplinary Skills, which is a mandatory component for the University of Manchester. This is operationalised as a project involving supervisors from different academic Divisions or Departments. If this is not the case, please outline here how this project meets the Interdisciplinary skills requirements. |
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**DTP Strategic Theme (select at least two X)**

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| Disease Mechanisms |  |
| Detection & Diagnosis |  |
| Developing Interventions |  |

**DTP Skills Priority Area(s), in addition to Interdisciplinary Skills (select at least one X)**

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| Quantitative Skills |  |
| Whole Organ/Organism Physiology |  |

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| **Publications** |
| List the supervisory team’s five most **RECENT** (2021 onwards) AND **RELEVANT** peer-reviewed publications. Please state author(s); title; journal name; date of publication. |
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| **Finance** | | | | | |
| Outline active research grants awarded to the Manchester Supervisory Team   * Include start/end dates and value, credit split between PI and co-I for each grant | **Name of grant** | **Name of grant holder** | **Start date of grant** | **End date of grant** | **Value of grant** |
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| Outline any additional funds that may contribute to the studentship |  | | | | |
| List *externally* funded studentships **(name of PGR and funding source)** awarded to the Primary Supervisor since 01/10/22.  Awards secured through Research Council/charity schemes managed by the University should ***not*** be included. |  | | | | |
| Does the Primary Supervisor have a PhD project advertised online via FindAPhD (or similar) to attract self-financed or sponsored PGRs? | Yes / No  *If no please arrange this asap to avoid any delays with project approval* | | | | |

#### Research Training Support Grant request

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| Required level of RTSG (Research Training Support Grant). This should include consumables **and** anticipated travel/conference attendance expensesfor the PGR |  | **Low** - £1,000 per annum |
|  | **Medium** - £2,500 per annum |
|  | **High** - £5,000 per annum |
|  | **Exceptional** – above £5,000 per annum  **Explicit justification for Exceptional RTSG requests must be provided below, with an indicative project budget. RTSG above £5,000 per annum cannot be guaranteed and will only be paid exceptionally if agreed by the Management Board.** |

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| If exceptional costs cannot be supported please confirm whether the project can proceed on the higher RTSG of £5,000 per annum. |
| **YES / NO** (delete one) |
| Exceptional costs are not guaranteed, therefore please state how the research associated with the exceptional costs requested for this project will be funded if the DTP cannot meet these fully. |
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| Has this project been submitted elsewhere (this does not necessarily preclude it from being advertised for the DTP)?  **YES / NO** (delete one) |

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| If the project has been advertised elsewhere, please indicate that the project can proceed even if the other scheme results in a studentship  **YES / NO** (delete one) |

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| It is assumed that all MRC DTP projects (including CASE) could be made available part-time. If this is **NOT** the case, please explain why the project cannot be offered part-time below. |
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| **Programme title** (select from this [list](https://www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/study/research/programmes/)) for subsequent offer (if successful) |
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| **Does the project have ethical implications or involve highly sensitive work?  If yes, provide further details on approvals required** (150 words maximum) |
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| **Title of Project** |  |

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| **Provide a short abstract of the project** (for advertising purposes), 400 words maximum, plus up to 5 references (if different from ones listed previously in the Publications section) |

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| Potential for MRC skills priorities to be addressed <*200 words* |
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| If you would like to include web links to the lab group / supervisory team personal pages, please provide these here to include on the project advert: |
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| **Project Outline** |
| Provide details on the project, outlining the objectives, methods, potential outcomes and training indicating which aspects of training are provided by each member of the supervisory team (1-page maximum). |
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**Complete the table below detailing the areas you would like your project to be advertised under on FindAPhD** (maximum of 10 areas)

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| **Biological Sciences** |  | Genomics |  |
| Bacteriology |  | Human Genetics |  |
| Behavioural Biology |  | Immunology |  |
| Biochemistry |  | Marine Biology |  |
| Biodiversity |  | Microbiology |  |
| Bioinformatics |  | Molecular Biology |  |
| Biophysics |  | Molecular Genetics |  |
| Biotechnology |  | Neuroscience |  |
| Cancer Biology |  | Parasitology |  |
| Cell Biology |  | Plant Biology |  |
| Developmental Biology |  | Plant Cell Biology |  |
| Ecology |  | Reproductive Biology |  |
| Ecotoxicology |  | Structural Biology |  |
| Entomology |  | Systematic Biology |  |
| Environmental Biology |  | Virology |  |
| Evolution |  | Zoology |  |
| Genetic Engineering |  | Other |  |
| Genetics |  |  |  |
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| **Chemistry** |  | Petrochemical Chemistry |  |
| Analytical Chemistry |  | Pharmaceutical Chemistry |  |
| Applied Chemistry |  | Physical Chemistry |  |
| Computational Chemistry |  | Polymer Chemistry |  |
| Environmental Chemistry |  | Structural Chemistry |  |
| Industrial Chemistry |  | Synthetic Chemistry |  |
| Inorganic Chemistry |  | Other |  |
| Organic Chemistry |  |  |  |
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| **Computer Science** |  | Human Computer Interaction |  |
| Artificial Intelligence |  | Internet of Things |  |
| Computer architectures |  | Machine Learning |  |
| Computer Vision |  | Networks |  |
| Computer Graphics |  | Quantum Computing |  |
| Cyber Security |  | Software Engineering |  |
| Data Science |  | Videogames |  |
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| **Geology** |  | Hydrogeology |  |
| Applied Geology |  | Marine Geology |  |
| Geochemistry |  | Palaeontology |  |
| Geophysics |  | Seismology |  |
| Geosciences |  | Volcanology |  |
| Geotechnology |  |  |  |
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| **Mathematics** |  | Medical Statistics |  |
| Applied Mathematics |  | Operational Research |  |
| Applied Statistics |  | Probability |  |
| Computational Mathematics |  | Pure Mathematics |  |
| Data Analysis |  | Statistics |  |
| Engineering Mathematics |  | Stochastic Processes |  |
| Mathematical Modelling |  | Other |  |
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| **Medicine** |  | Optometry |  |
| Anatomy |  | Pathology |  |
| Audiology |  | Pharmacology |  |
| Biomechanics |  | Pharmacy |  |
| Cardiology |  | Physiology |  |
| Complementary Medicine |  | Physiotherapy |  |
| Dentistry |  | Podiatry |  |
| Endocrinology |  | Radiology |  |
| Epidemiology |  | Speech Science |  |
| Neural Engineering |  | Tissue Engineering |  |
| Neurology |  | Toxicology |  |
| Nutritional |  | Other |  |
| Ophthalmology |  |  |  |
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| **Nursing & Health** |  | Mental Health Nursing |  |
| Adult Nursing |  | Midwifery |  |
| Community Nursing |  | Occupational Health |  |
| Counselling |  | Occupational Therapy |  |
| Dental Nursing |  | Paediatric Nursing |  |
| Environmental Health |  | Paramedical Sciences |  |
| Health Informatics |  | Surgical Nursing |  |
| Medical Nursing |  | Other |  |
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| **Physical & Material Science** |  | Nuclear Physics |  |
| Acoustics |  | Optical Physics |  |
| Astronomy |  | Particle Physics |  |
| Astrophysics |  | Quantum Mechanics |  |
| Chemical Physics |  | Semiconductors |  |
| Computational Physics |  | Solid State Physics |  |
| Electromagnetism |  | Space Science |  |
| Environmental Physics |  | Theoretical Physics |  |
| Experimental Physics |  | Other |  |
| Medical Physics |  |  |  |
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| **Psychology** |  | Forensic Psychology |  |
| Child Psychology |  | Health Psychology |  |
| Clinical Psychology |  | Neuropsychology |  |
| Community Psychology |  | Occupational Psychology |  |
| Counselling Psychology |  | Organisational Psychology |  |
| Developmental Psychology |  | Psychotherapy |  |
| Educational Psychology |  | Sports Psychology |  |