

Data Fellowship Project 2022

MRC – Evaluation and analysis of biomedical research funding

Organisation and Team

Medical Research Council (MRC) Evaluation and Analysis Team (part of UK Research and Innovation, UKRI)

- Polaris House, Swindon SN2 1FL
- 58 Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y 0DS

Selection Method

Written CV and cover letter followed by an interview

Application Criteria

Essential:

- A basic understanding of how UK research funding works
- Willingness to try programming, statistical tests and Excel approaches

Desirable:

- An interest in research policy
- Basic knowledge of biomedical sciences

Project Outline

The MRC is the largest public funder of biomedical discovery research in the UK, and since 2018 has been part of UK Research and Innovation, which in total allocates over £7.5 billion of Government funding to research each year.

The MRC aims to take evidence-based decisions, supported by the best information available. It needs to know what is happening in the UK and internationally, what works, what doesn't in various areas of health research and innovation (not only the areas where we are currently active), and to be able to measure and communicate progress against its strategic and delivery plans. The Evaluation and Analysis Team works to compile, quality assure, present and interpret this evidence to support MRC and wider UKRI advocacy, accountability, assessment, efficiency and openness.

The Evaluation and Analysis team are in the process of recruiting new project leaders, via secondments to the team. These project leaders will supervise internships this summer. The project leaders will be working on studies that cover i) MRC's training and career funding schemes, for example looking at how MRC supported PhD students develop their careers ii) the evidence that MRC uses to communicate its impact, by building a new database of case studies iii) comparisons of the output from research supported via different MRC funding schemes.



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Practical Considerations

UK Research and Innovation is beginning to adapt to a hybrid working environment. The Evaluation and Analysis team is based both in the Swindon and London MRC offices, although still in the main working remotely. We can support the internship largely working remotely, although would like to ensure that successful candidates got to meet the team in person and had opportunity to visit the office and contribute to relevant meetings and cross UKRI events.

The successful candidates will be provided with a UKRI email address and limited access to UKRI systems to carry out the work.

The placement would last 8 weeks, although there may be flexibility in this depending on the project.

The MRC will meet the costs of travel where this is necessary and approved in advance.

Support and Training

The successful candidate will be supervised by one of the secondees joining the Evaluation and Analysis team this summer and supported by the permanent analysts in the MRC team. They will be assisted to organise the plan of the work to be carried out, identify the type of information needed to be gathered and discuss ways in which this can be done. Guidance will be given as to appropriate online training that may be useful and there will be opportunities to join cross-UKRI discussions and training.

You will find the MRC Evaluation and Analysis team a welcoming, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable group that look forward to encouraging interns to get the most out of this opportunity.

Supporting Information

The studies will be aimed at producing peer-reviewed publications and so the intern will have the opportunity to be a named author on any resulting publications.