MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences
Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College
Hammersmith Hospital Campus
Du Cane Road
London W12 0HS
United Kingdom

APPLICATION FORM FOR LMS PHD STUDENTSHIP   **2025**

PhD Start Date: October 2025

This form should be completed electronically and e-mailed to students@lms.mrc.ac.uk. Mac users should NOT complete the form in Mac Preview. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Application form deadline: Wednesday 11 December 2024 at 9am UK time
You will receive a confirmation email within ten business days of submitting your application, or three business days after the deadline date if earlier. If you do not, please email students@lms.mrc.ac.uk to enquire about the status.

Section 1: Applicant

Family Name	Forename(s)	Title (e.g. Mr, Ms, Dr)
Home or Permanent Address	**Address for Correspondence (if different)**	**Telephone Number**
		Email Address
Gender	**Preferred Name**	**Nationality (State if UK settled)**
Gender:		
Gender Pronouns:		
Country of Birth	**Country of Residence (if different from birth)**	**Date you took up residence in that country**

What is your ethnic background or ancestry? (Please select all that apply)	
Native American and Inuit	Asian Other (Central Asian/East Asian/ Pacific Islander)
White/Caucasian	Middle Eastern/Arab/Persian
Black	Hispanic
South Asian	Mixed
Other (Please specify):	
Are you the first generation in your family to attend university? Yes No	

Section 2: Referees

Please contact TWO referees and ask them to send a letter of support directly to students@lms.mrc.ac.uk by the deadline date of **Wednesday 11 December.** Please request that they remove any gender specific wording from their letter and use only they/them where necessary. All letters must be on an institute headed template or from an institute email account (rather than yahoo, gmail, hotmail, etc). Please note that it is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the referees; we will not contact them directly until they miss the deadline.
We can only invite candidates with two supporting references to interview

Referee 1		Referee 2	
Name		Name	
Address		Address	
Tel		Tel	
Email		Email	
I have contacted this referee		I have contacted this referee	

Section 3: Case for Support

1. Tell us why you want to pursue a PhD and why you are applying to the MRC-LMS. (300 words)
We would like to know your motivations for wanting to do a PhD, what your long term goals are beyond a PhD and why you want to pursue a PhD particularly at MRC LMS (rather than an alternative institute/university for example).

2. Tell us which research fields interest you most and why. (300 words)
You should tick as many projects/supervisors that you are interested in. You should then state what it is about these projects/areas of research that you find interesting and why you would be well-suited to those projects.
Lila Allou & Petter Brodin - Identification of potential SV-derived therapeutic targets in cancer
Alexis Barr & Julia Sero - Non-genetic mechanisms of resistance to cell cycle inhibitors in cancer
Dave Carling & Graeme Birdsey – Investigating the role of AMPK in endothelial cell function
Helena Cocheme & Ed Tate - Dysregulation of redox signalling by pH imbalance in age-related disease
Louise Fets & Chris Rowlands – Probing drug distributions with fast Raman inamging
Petra Hajkova & Camille Dion - Epigenetic reprogramming in the germ line: the role of an unusual chromatin composition in the pre-meiotic germ cells
Boris Lenhard & Alexis Barr - Uncovering novel rules of cell cycle stage-specific transcriptional regulation
Vicki Metzis & Omer Karin – Modelling Cellular Differentiation during Neural Crest Development
Will Scott & Jesus Gil - Single cell genomics to advance treatments for human adipose tissue dysfunction.
Christian Speck & Yuriy Chaban – Developing AI Approaches to Uncover Regulatory Protein Dynamics in DNA Replication
James Ware & Sean Zheng - Profiling the isoform-resolved transcriptomic landscape of human cardiomyopathy

Why you have selected these projects…

3. Tell us about the technical and analytical skills that you have acquired so far and about those that you would like to acquire during your PhD. (200 words)

You should tick the boxes for skills that you have already acquired and explain briefly how you acquired those skills. Also discuss skills that you would like to acquire during your PhD. We do not expect students to have all the skills necessary required to do a particular project, but you should show a capacity and an eagerness to learn new skills when required.

Bioinformatics	Statistics
Epidemiology	Screening
Molecular biology	Working with model organisms
Gene-editing	Working with non-model organisms
Biochemical assays	AI
Biophysical assays	Development-based systems
Protein purification	Quantitative biology
Tissue culture	Genomics
Imaging	Chemical synthesis
Mass spectrometry	Mathematical modelling
Other (please specify):	

How you acquired them and what you hope to learn…

4. **Describe a research project that you have worked on. Please outline the research question, why it is important to address, how you tried to answer the question and what you conclusions were.** (300 words)

We are looking for your ability to articulate a research question to scientists from a broad range of fields and to justify approach(es) you took to answer the question. You should also be able to briefly summarise your findings and conclusions in a fair and balanced manner.

5. **A PhD requires many skills. Describe three of your personal attributes that will make you a successful PhD student.** (300 words)

We are looking to see if you are aware what personal attributes are required to pursue a PhD and if you can define what a successful PhD is.

6. Outside of your degree programme(s) or employment, what have you done that shows your interest in science or that has prepared you for doing a PhD? (300 words)	
We are looking for students that have demonstrated a passion for science beyond their course or to demonstrate how other activities/hobbies that they are involved in could help in their PhD studies.	

7. *Optional Question*– If there are any circumstances that have prevented you reaching your full potential so far that you would like to tell us about, please do so here. Examples include (but are not limited to) financial difficulties, health problems and caring responsibilities. (300 words)	
Anything written in this space will be used to ensure your application is considered fairly in comparison to other applicants who may not have had the same barriers.	

Section 4: Education & Employment history

1. A-Levels (or equivalent)				
Subjects	**From (mm/yy)**	**To (mm/yy)**	**School**	**Grade**

2. Undergraduate Education		
University	**Course**	**Grade**

3. Postgraduate Education		
University	**Course**	**Grade**

4. Employment history				
List any relevant posts you have held, including vacation work, starting with the most recent.				
Employer	**From (mm/yy)**	**To (mm/yy)**	**Position held**	

5. Prizes/notable achievements	
Award Year	**Name/Details**

Section 5 – Monitoring

How did you hear about PhD opportunities at the MRC Laboratory of Medical Sciences?		
Email from my university/course organiser	My University careers centre	Findaphd.com
LMS Website	Other (please specify):	

UKRI supports research in areas that include animal health, agriculture and food security, and bioscience for health, which includes research on animals, genetic modification and stem cell research. Whilst you may not have direct involvement in this type of research, you should consider whether this conflicts with your personal values or beliefs. We will conduct a full and comprehensive pre-employment check as an essential part of the recruitment process on all individuals offered a position with UKRI. This will include a security check and an extreme organisations affiliation check.

Section 6 – Declaration

I certify that the information given in this form is complete, up-to-date and correct.	
Electronic signature required. If not available please type to certify (you may then be required to sign this form if invited to interview)	
	Date: