

APPLICATION FORM FOR LMS PHD STUDENTSHIP

2025

Suggested PhD Start Date: October 2026

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: Thursday 20 November 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 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		
White/Caucasian	Asian Other (Central Asian/East Asian/ Pacific Islander)	
Black	Middle Eastern/Arab/Persian	
South Asian	Hispanic	
Other (Please specify):	Mixed	
Are you the first generation in your family to attend university? Yes No		

Section 2: Referees

Give the names, addresses, email and telephone numbers of two academic referees. Please contact TWO referees and ask them to send a letter of support directly to students@lms.mrc.ac.uk. Please request that they remove and gender specific wording from their letter and use only they/them where necessary. 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: 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			
<i>List any relevant posts you have held, including vacation work, starting with the most recent.</i>			
Employer	From (mm/yy)	To (mm/yy)	Position held

5. Prizes/notable achievements	
Award Year	Name/Details

Section 4: Case for Support

1. Tell us why you want to pursue a PhD and why you are applying to the MRC-LMS. (300 words) <i>We would like to know your motivations for wanting to do a PhD and what your long-term goals are beyond a PhD.</i>
2. Tell us which research fields interest you most and why. (300 words) <i>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. Please note that your application will be viewed by ALL recruiting supervisors and not just the ones selected below.</i>
Core PhD Projects
Luis Aragon, Jesus Gil & Juanma Vaquerizas - Chromatin Regulation of cGAS Activity: Single-Molecule Reconstitution, Drug Discovery, and Senescence Models
Andre Brown & Karen Sarkisyan - Engineered proteins to protect plants and animals from parasites
Carl Jenkinson & Petter Brodin – Investigating vitamin D and estrogen metabolism in sex-specific health outcomes
Enrique Martinez-Perez & Alexis Barr - Targeting cancer cell proliferation by inhibition of HORMA-domain proteins
Declan O'Regan, Michael Inouye & Ewan Birney – Causal machine learning of genetic and environmental mechanisms in heart disease
Mikhail Spivakov – How gene enhancers control cell state transitions, with applications to autoimmunity and cancer
Dominic Withers, Jesus Gil & Petter Brodin – Inflammation and ageing: converging mechanisms underlying age-related multimorbidity
tPhD Projects
Luis Aragon & Thomas Ouldrige – The interplay of structural transitions and protein binding in DNA stress response
Andre Brown & Jason Micklefield – Mining the human microbiome for new antimicrobials
Matthias Merkenschlager & Thomas Hofer – Quantitative, predictive, and actionable models of cellular decision-making in the immune system

Mikhail Spivakov, Srinjan Basu & Thomas Ouldrige - Visualising and Modelling Enhancer–Gene Communication in Human Pluripotency

CRUK Funded Project

Jesus Gil & Iain McNeish - Enhancing Immune Surveillance and Targeting Senescence to Treat Ovarian High Grade Serous Carcinoma

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 your 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. 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.

6. This question optional – 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 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: