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 2026

Suggested PhD Start Date: Monday 28 September 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: Tuesday 10 March 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	☐

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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

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

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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)
We would like to know your motivations for wanting to do a PHD and what your long-term goals are beyond a PhD.
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. Please note that your application will be viewed by ALL recruiting supervisors and not just the ones selected below.
Team Science PhD Projects
Luis Aragon, Pedro Ballester & Jesus Gil - AI-Driven Discovery of Modulators of Nucleic-Acid Sensors in Inflammation and Ageing ☐
Petra Hajkova, Suchira Gallage & Juanma Vaquerizas - Metabolic and Immune Regulation of the Gonadal Niche: Decoding Germline-Soma Crosstalk in Fertility ☐
Enrique Martinez-Perez, Channa Jayasena & Joris Veltman - Identifying the genetic causes of human infertility ☐
Juanma Vaquerizas, Dennis Wang & Steven Niederer - AI-Driven Decoding of the Male Regulatory Genome@ Predicting Infertility and Ageing Trajectories ☐
MRC Core Funded PhD Project ☐
Andre Brown & Karen Sarkisyan - Engineered proteins to protect plants and animals from parasites ☐

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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):			

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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 form 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.

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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: