GW4 BioMed2 MRC Doctoral Training Partnership: Supervisor Project Proposals 2025/26

GW4 BioMed2 Project Application - October 25/26 - Cohort 2.4

Please refer to the FAQ document when completing your project proposal. This form should be submitted by **17:00 on Friday, 19th July 2024**.

Please note that this form can be saved and completed in stages BUT cannot be shared with other people. If you wish to collaborate and share your answers before submission, then you will have to do this via a Word document then cut and paste your answers into this form at a later stage.

Once you have submitted the form it cannot be revised or amended. If you realise you have made a mistake after submission (clicking on the 'Finish' button) you will need to re-do the whole form and let us know so that we can delete the previous version.

Please download your submission receipt and save a copy of your answers at the end of the form.

Project Details

Project Title (no word limit): *

[ ]

The title is important for attracting applicants. Please take care to make your title understandable to those who are not yet experts in the area.

Research Theme: Please indicate the research theme that is most appropriate for this project: *

( ) Infection, Immunity, Antimicrobial Resistance & Repair

( ) Neuroscience & Mental Health

( ) Population Health Sciences

Please provide a summary of your project which will attract students to apply, if your project is shortlisted and advertised. This should be written for a general science audience to ensure broad reach of your project description (maximum 100 words). *

[ ]

We use this section on our website to advertise your project. Try to avoid descriptions which are jargon laden and impenetrable to those who are not yet experts in the field.

The Supervisory Team: Lead Supervisor

Please ensure and confirm that you meet the requirements for supervisor eligibility by your lead HEI.

Lead Supervisor Title: *

○ Professor

○ Dr

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

[   ]

Lead Supervisor First Name: *

[   ]

Lead Supervisor Surname: *

[   ]

Lead Supervisor University Affiliation: *

○ Bath

○ Bristol

○ Cardiff

○ Exeter

College / Faculty: *

____

Department / School: *

____

Lead Supervisor Email: *

____

Lead Supervisor Telephone Number

____

Please indicate if there are any existing associations between the supervisory team members outside of a work capacity.

____

Does one or more members of the supervisory team identify with the following? Please tick all that apply. *

☐ Early career researcher
☐ Minority ethnic or gender identifying group
☐ Other area of diversity
☐ None

The Supervisory Team: Co-Supervisor 1

Co-Supervisor 1 Title: *

○ Professor

○ Dr

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

[   ]

Co-supervisor 1 First Name: *

[   ]

Co-supervisor 1 Surname: *

[   ]

Co-supervisor 1 University Affiliation: *

○ Bath

○ Bristol

○ Cardiff

○ Exeter

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify: Please check your University regulations regarding co-supervisor eligibility.

College / Faculty: *

[ ]

Department / School: *

[ ]

Co-supervisor 1 Email: *

[ ]

Add another supervisor: *

◯ Yes

◯ No

The Supervisory Team: Co-Supervisor 2

Co-supervisor 2 Title:

○ Professor

○ Dr

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

[ ]

Co-supervisor 2 First Name:

[ ]

Co-supervisor 2 Surname:

[ ]

Co-supervisor 2 Affiliation:

○ Bath

○ Bristol

○ Cardiff

○ Exeter

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify: Please check your University regulations regarding co-supervisor eligibility.

College / Faculty:

Department / School:

Co-supervisor 2 Email:

Add another supervisor: *

◯ Yes

◯ No

The Supervisory Team: Co-Supervisor 3

Co-supervisor 3 Title:

○ Professor

○ Dr

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

[   ]

Co-supervisor 3 First Name:

[   ]

Co-supervisor 3 Surname:

[   ]

Co-supervisor 3 Affiliation:

○ Bath

○ Bristol

○ Cardiff

○ Exeter

○ Other

If you selected Other, please specify: Please check your University regulations regarding co-supervisor eligibility.

[ ]

College / Faculty:

[ ]

Department / School:

[ ]

Co-supervisor 3 Email:

[ ]

The Proposed Project

Please refer to selection criteria and the FAQ's and consider how your project offers high quality doctoral training and research.

Describe the proposed project. Please include a brief background, the key research question that the project aims to address and a breakdown of the specific objectives that the student will work towards over the course of the studentship. Please also indicate areas where the student will be able to take ownership and steer the project. (maximum 800 words). *

Descriptions will be considered by the Theme Panel, which may include non-specialist members, and will be advertised on HEI websites to potential applicants, so must be written in a style/language understandable to both audiences.

Without reference to the characteristics of the supervisory team, please provide details as to whether equality, diversity and inclusion are considered within the design or scope of the project, or the intended training of the student (no word limit). *

Has this project received ethical approval? *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Other

If you selected Other, please specify:

Project Costs

This section asks you to describe how the project costs will be met year by year. Please note that you do not need current or previous MRC funding to be eligible for these studentships.

Would you consider the project to be wet-lab or dry-lab based? If you have selected Other, please provide further details. *

- ◯ Wet lab
- ◯ Dry lab
- ◯ Other

If you selected Other, please specify (no word limit):

[   ]

We provide a Research Support Training Grant (RTSG) of £2,000 per year for dry lab projects and £5,000 per year for wet lab projects. Please describe how these funds will be used. Please note these costs are for training only, additional consumable costs are not covered (no word limit). *

[   ]

What are the anticipated additional project costs per year (e.g. for consumables)? Please provide an indication of the nature of the costs. (no word limit). *

[   ]

Please indicate how you as a project team, plan to fund these additional costs. Please note that funds can come from any member of the supervisory team if it is relevant to their participation, but this should be indicated (no word limit). *

Describe how you propose to support the student to tailor the project and take ownership of it, during the initial 3 month 'Prep' period (maximum 500 words). *

Can this project be completed on a part-time basis (minimum 50%)? *

○ Yes
○ No

Excellence of the Research and Training Environment

Please refer to selection criteria and FAQ document and consider publication record; PhD submission rates; and critical mass; both in terms of the named supervisors and their wider research group(s)/network(s), of relevance. Please limit to 4 supervisors TOTAL.

LEAD SUPERVISOR: How many students are currently being supervised as 1st supervisor?

LEAD SUPERVISOR: How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2014/15 onwards).

LEAD SUPERVISOR: Of those, how many completed within 4 years?

CO-SUPERVISOR 1: How many students are currently being supervised as 1st supervisor?

CO-SUPERVISOR 1: How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2013/14 onwards).

CO-SUPERVISOR 1: Of those, how many completed within 4 years?

CO-SUPERVISOR 2: How many students are currently being supervised as 1st supervisor?

CO-SUPERVISOR 2: How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2014/15 onwards).

CO-SUPERVISOR 2: Of those, how many completed within 4 years?

CO-SUPERVISOR 3: How many students are currently being supervised as 1st supervisor?

CO-SUPERVISOR 3: How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2014/15 onwards).

CO-SUPERVISOR 3: Of those, how many completed within 4 years?

Comments on above (optional but explanation encouraged - no word limit).

Please provide evidence of the quality of the research and training environment, including how the training experience will contribute to the students' future career development. This includes illustration of the research profiles of all members of the supervisory team which could include publications, funding, public engagement, other measures of research quality or impact (maximum 1,000 words): *

As outlined in the 'Supervisor Expectations' document, the DTP requires Lead Supervisors and Co-Supervisors to contribute to the training environment of the DTP during the course of the studentship. Please tick the box/es to indicate that you agree with the following, *

- [ ] The Supervisory team have read the 'Supervisor Expectations' document
- [ ] We will complete a termly online student progression survey
- [ ] We will attend at least one Supervisor training session each year
- [ ] Supervisors and co-supervisors agree to have their engagement with the DTP monitored

Supervisors are required to take part in at least one additional role during their allocated studentship. Please indicate the roles that you may be interested in (select all that apply). *

- [ ] Participation in project shortlisting
- [ ] Participation in student shortlisting
- [ ] Delivering training at one of our events
- [ ] Standing as a Deputy for theme or institutional lead
- [ ] Participating as an online CORE training tutor

Please suggest the title of a training seminar that you or a member of your Supervisory team could deliver to our students, if applicable.

Alignment of the Project with Relevant Strategic Priorities

Please refer to selection criteria in the FAQ document (point 20), and describe how the project will address, as applicable: one or more of the DTP's strategic skills priority areas - data science skills, interdisciplinary skills, in vivo skills, translation and innovation collaboration across GW4 partner institutions the strategic aim to increase diversity in our supervisory teams (including early career researchers, gender, ethnicity and other areas of diversity)

Please indicate by tick-box(es) which of the strategic skills areas will be developed through the project. *

- [ ] Data Science skills
- [ ] Interdisciplinary skills
- [ ] In vivo skills
- [ ] Translation and Innovation

Please indicate if there is an element of collaboration across the GW4 institutions. *

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

If yes, please indicate which GW4 institutions will be involved. Please tick all that apply.

- [ ] Bath
- [ ] Bristol
- [ ] Cardiff
- [ ] Exeter

Please describe how the project will address the strategic skills as listed above, including collaboration within the GW4 (maximum 600 words). *

Identification of Project-Specific Training Needs

Please identify high-level/high-cost training needs that will need to be supported by the DTP for this project to be feasible (e.g. in vivo biology, human brain scans, high performance computing or large data set storage, international collaboration). **NOTE:** High-level/high-cost training needs not identified at this stage cannot be financially supported later in the studentship. Please also state use of existing courses/resources across GW4 that can be accessed to provide specialist training (maximum 120 words). *

Approvals

I confirm that I have institutional approval, eg from Head of School/Faculty/Dept, to submit this project proposal.

○ Yes

○ No

A GW4 BioMed Studentship includes a UKRI level stipend, fees, RTSG of up to £5k per annum (depending on nature of project) and a travel grant of £300 per annum. Studentships are funded for 4 years with the submission deadline at 4 years. Additional awards can be made to cover the cost of high cost or exceptional training needs via a bi-annual competitive bidding process. There are NO additional DTP funds for enhanced project costs. Note the RTSG is for research training and support and in line with UKRI and MRC policy, must be made available to the students for costs of, for example, training workshops, conference attendance and travel associated with attending development activities and placements. It must not be used solely for the purchase of consumables and MUST NOT be used at all for the purchase of items which would reasonably be expected to be provided by the institution including laptops. Project costs must therefore be covered by laboratory or programme grants.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS THE LAST QUESTION. CLICKING 'FINISH' WILL SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL AND IT CANNOT BE UNDONE.