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GW4
BioMed2
Doctoral Training Partnership

GW4 BioMed2 MRC Doctoral Training Partnership Project Call 2026-27

Project Application Call

Frequently Asked Questions



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FAQs for supervisors

The GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP aims to attract and select the best students for training in high quality projects and environments. This document contains guidance for supervisors considering submitting a project for a GW4 BioMed2 MRC funded studentship, commencing in the academic year 2026/27.

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1. HOW MANY STUDENTSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

Up to 16 (notional) MRC studentships are available with the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP for October 2026.

2. HOW DO I SUBMIT A PROJECT PROPOSAL?

Project proposals must be submitted using [the online form](#) from Wednesday, 4th June 2025. The deadline for applications is **5pm on Friday, 11th July 2025**.

Please ensure that you read these FAQs before completing your proposal.

A copy of the survey questions has been attached to the end of these FAQs to help with writing your project proposal. As there is no function within the online system to share partially completed forms, please use this document to prepare your project application and share the answers with your supervisory team before copying and pasting your final answers into the online survey.

You will be able to save and revise your proposal online. However, once it has been submitted, no amendments can be made. Once the deadline for applications has passed, the online form will close, and you will not be able to submit your project proposal.

Due to our recruitment schedule, we are not able to accept late applications.

A check will be made once all applications have been received to ensure that the home institution is content for the project(s) to go forward to the shortlisting stage.

3. WHAT ARE THE KEY DATES FOR THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS?

| GW4 BIOMED2 MRC DTP RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE | | |
|--|------------------|--|
| KEY DATES (2025-26 Intake) | | |
| Date | Time | Deadline |
| Wednesday 4th June 25 | By 9am | Supervisor project proposal submission form opens |
| Friday 11th July 25 | By 5pm | Supervisor project proposal submission deadline |
| Wednesday 23rd July – Wednesday 13th August 25 | By midday | Project panel scores projects and submits scores to DTP |
| Wednesday 20th August 25 | 10.30am – midday | Project selection panel |
| Friday 22nd August 25 | By 5pm | Supervisors notified of project shortlisting outcome |
| Monday 1st September – Monday 20th October 25 | | Projects advertised for student applications |
| Monday 20th October 25 | By 5pm | Student application deadline |
| Wednesday 29 th October – Monday 17th November 25 | By 5pm | Panel scores and shortlists applicants – 1 st triage |
| Monday 24th November – Friday 12 th December 25 | By midday | Panel scores and shortlists applicants – 2 nd triage |
| Thursday 18 th December 25 | 1.00pm – 2.30pm | Student shortlisting panel |
| Tuesday 23rd December 25 | midday | DTP notifies candidates and supervisors of successful applications |
| Friday 16 th January 26 | midday | Supervisor interviews all candidates by this date |
| Friday 16 th January 26 | midday | Candidates sends references and transcripts to the DTP |
| Tuesday 27th January – Wednesday 28th January 26 | | DTP interviews |
| Wednesday 4 th February 26 | 1.00pm – 2.30pm | Student shortlisting panel |
| Thursday 5th February – mid April 26 | | Clearing period |
| w/c Monday 14 th September 26 | | Local induction events |
| 1 st October 26 | | Official funding start date |

4. CAN I APPLY IN MORE THAN ONE YEAR?

Supervisors are only permitted to submit **one proposal per year as lead supervisor** and, if successful, **with no more than two in any three-year rolling period for BioMed2 applications**.

Supervisors can be co-supervisors on an unlimited number of projects in all years.

5. CAN I RESUBMIT THE SAME PROJECT PROPOSAL?

Yes, if you were unsuccessful during previous recruitment rounds, you will be able to submit the same project proposal again.

6. DOES THE PROJECT HAVE TO FIT IN WITH ONE OF THE THREE THEMES?

Yes. The studentships will be awarded against the three key research themes that characterize the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP:

- Infection, Immunity, Antimicrobial Resistance and Repair
 - Neuroscience and Mental Health
 - Population Health Sciences.
-

7. CAN NON-BIOMEDICAL SUPERVISORS APPLY?

Yes. The DTP and MRC are particularly keen to promote interdisciplinarity with particular reference to mathematics, physical sciences, engineering and also social sciences. We also aim to attract excellent students from these disciplines.

The lead supervisor should, regardless of discipline, be the most appropriate person to lead the project.

8. HOW MANY SUPERVISORS CAN BE ON THE PROPOSAL?

The application form allows space for 1 lead supervisor and 3 co-supervisors, so please use those spaces to identify the main supervisory staff and include the remainder as a project team in the later sections.

Those listed as co-supervisors will be required to have a greater level of involvement in the student's progression monitoring than in conventional supervisory teams. Less experienced supervisory teams may include an experienced supervisor to act in a 'mentoring' role.

Further details can be found in the Supervisor Expectations document on our website.

9. HOW WILL THE DTP CORRESPOND WITH THE SUPERVISORY TEAM?

Most communication will be directed via the lead supervisor who will be expected to cascade the information onto the rest of their team. Funds relating to the project will also be paid to the institution of the Lead Supervisor.

10. IS IT ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE SUPERVISORS FROM MORE THAN ONE GW4 PARTNER?

Yes. The GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP aims to show what can be achieved by harnessing the combined power of four research intensive universities. Supervisors are strongly encouraged to seek out partners for training or experience in other GW4 HEIs and include them as co-supervisors. The DTP has given an undertaking that at least 90% of projects will be across two or more GW4 partners.

Please note that collaboration can mean access to laboratories and specific training, rather than just co-supervision.

11. CAN OTHER PARTNERS BE INVOLVED?

Any partners (academic and non-academic) can be involved in the project - not just those within the GW4 partnership. Supervisors should be aware, however, that the DTP seeks to have at least 90% collaborative projects across at least two of the GW4 institutions, so should consider opportunities for 'internal' collaboration as a priority.

12. IS THE DTP LOOKING TO CONVERT PROJECTS TO iCASE?

The GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP has no iCASE conversion target. However, this does not preclude industrial involvement which can take several forms (including placement, co-supervision and financial contribution to project costs).

We have partnerships with the following organisations:

- Certus Technology
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
- Mary Lyons Centre, MRC Harwell Institute
- NIHR Bristol Biomedical Research Centre
- National Centre for Mental Health
- AstraZeneca
- Merck
- Alan Turing Institute
- Cambridge Cognition

- Office for National Statistics
- Takeda

Applications for projects which already have an industrial partnership in place are welcomed.

13. WHAT IS COVERED AS STANDARD FOR ALL STUDENTSHIPS?

UKRI National Minimum Stipend: 4 years stipend payments to support living costs for the student, paid at the UKRI minimum stipend rate. Part-time studentships will also be considered and are usually arranged on the basis of working between a minimum of 50% and 80% of a full-time studentship, over a period of 6 years but can be up to 7 years' duration.

Fees: Standard UKRI home level fees paid directly to the institution of the lead supervisor for the 4-year duration of the studentship or part time equivalent.

Conference and Travel Allowance: An annual amount of £300 per year or part-time equivalent to contribute to travel and conference attendance. This amount is set by the UKRI and can be topped up by using the RTSG.

14. WHAT IS THE RESEARCH TRAINING SUPPORT GRANT (RTSG)?

Each studentship will also include a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) as a contribution towards opportunities that will facilitate training for the student only. The MRC makes a distinction between wet-lab and dry-lab projects and expects wet lab projects to receive a higher amount than dry projects. This could be between £2,000 (dry lab) and £5,000 (wet lab) per year, depending on the project.

The RTSG is not intended to relieve a research organisation of any part of its normal expenditure. The UKRI makes it clear that money cannot be reimbursed for items that would normally be expected to be provided by the institution or research lab. The RTSG can be used as follows:

PERMITTED SPEND

- Consumables incurred during the training of the DTP student in any technique
- Fieldwork expenses
- PPI/E engagement expenses
- Training course attendance not provided by the GW4 institutions
- Conferences where the student is presenting a paper or poster
- Research methods training
- Survey costs e.g. printing, stationery
- Purchase of small items of equipment e.g. cameras, recorders
- Reading materials not available through libraries
- Costs associated with the BH placement

SPEND THAT DOES NOT MEET UKRI APPROVAL

- **Ongoing consumables** – these should be covered by the supervisory team e.g. sample collection kits, reagents, tips
- **Incidental resources** generally available through the department e.g. gloves, stationery, lab coats
- Providing resources prior to the start of the studentship e.g. relocation costs or visas
- RNAScope, gene expression, qPCR, RNA-Seq, or sequencing as these are ongoing project costs not associated with training
- Services provided by a third party e.g. sequencing, blood analysis
- Capital equipment for facilities normally provided by the university e.g. laptop
- Supervisor expenses for visits to fieldwork/off-site placements less than 9 months
- Training that all departmental postgraduate students are required to attend (e.g. Health and Safety courses). RTSG cannot be used to fund these courses, where non-UKRI students are not expected to pay.
- Stationery for home use where these would be available for use on university premises
- Purchase of books or journals available through libraries
- Thesis binding costs
- Anything that takes place after the funding end date e.g. courses, conferences or publication costs

15. WHAT OTHER FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

High-Cost Training Grant: On a project-dependent basis, a further one-off grant of up to £10,000 can be applied for where there are high-cost elements of the project to cover the costs associated with this skill/need, which may include training. High-cost elements may include in vivo biology, brain and other organ scans, high performance computing access, database access or large data set storage. (N.B. this is for the lifetime of the project and cannot be applied for again).

Any high-cost requirements should be indicated in your initial project application response to question 51 on the application form as this funding cannot be requested later.

Biannual Flexible Funding Call: The DTP's grant from the MRC also includes a Flexible Funding Supplement, which is a small budget that aims to support high costs research and/or training needs or transition to post-doc, including costs associated with the Broadening Horizons placement, that arise after the studentship has started. To determine the allocation of this funding the Management Board has set up a funding panel, comprising of the three Research Theme Leads. Calls for funding will be made twice a year (March and October). Supervisors should identify any high-cost training or training-related expenses (including travel) integral to the project in the biannual call application form. This fund is limited to a maximum of £5,000 per student during the lifetime of their studentship.

Conference participation cannot be funded by the biannual flexible fund call unless it is multidisciplinary in nature.

16. WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THE STUDENSHIP?

IMPORTANT: Please note that our MRC studentship funding is expected to cover all **training costs** but **NOT** ongoing consumable or equipment costs for the project; support for ongoing project costs is expected to be provided from the project and programme grants held by the supervisory team. We ask you to indicate how the ongoing project costs not associated with training, or not permitted by the UKRI will be managed in the project application form question 52/53. It is not acceptable if the only answer is that grants will be applied for as there is no guarantee that the student will have sufficient funding.

Please note that **the funding is linked to the successful student**. If the student withdraws at any stage before 1st October 2026, the funding will be re-allocated by the Management Board to the next successful student and their preferred project. As such, supervisors will not be able to re-advertise their project for a new student.

17. WHEN STUDENTS UNDERTAKE RESEARCH AT DIFFERENT GW4 INSTITUTIONS, HOW WILL THEIR RESEARCH BE FUNDED?

Research at GW4 institutions other than the student's home institution will be supported

through the RTSG and Flexible Funding Supplement, which will be made available to the student and the lead supervisor via the host institution.

Please note that it will be the responsibility of the supervisory team to manage the funds across institutions to ensure costs are within budget. Co-supervisory institutions will not receive a portion of the tuition fees.

Costs against these budgets are claimed in retrospect and further information regarding the financial arrangements for the DTP will be sent to the lead supervisor and their student should the project be successful.

18. WHAT TRAINING WILL THE DTP PROVIDE?

A core set of basic research skills consistent with those recommended by the MRC and a training needs analysis form (TNA) has been introduced by the DTP. All students are required to record their projected training plans and progress in completing these on their TNA, which will be shared with supervisors and the DTP Management. Supervisors will be required to undertake a Training Needs Analysis with their student on a regular basis and use the form to record this. Periodic review of the TNA record will be reviewed by supervisors and the DTP to ensure that arrangements and progression are satisfactory.

An Online Core Training Course has been developed with 30 elements over 3 modules which covers all aspects of the agreed DTP research skills. As specified in the Supervisor Expectations document on our website, it is a requirement of the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP that supervisors agree to contribute to student training, including facilitating the online training.

Basic core-skills training as defined by the DTP may be provided at institutional level (research ethics and integrity, statistical approaches, presentation skills, etc.), via the DTP Online Core Training Course modules or through a mixture of both, so long as all areas are covered. Students can request exemption from duplicated elements of the online core skills training programme if they can provide evidence of having completed them elsewhere.

In addition, students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of advanced training offered across the 4 HEIs of the DTP which they can access for free as a GW4 DTP student. The DTP will facilitate access to a range of advanced training across the partnership and will co-ordinate specialist focused training days around the research themes that are aligned to MRC priorities for training.

There will also be induction days, an annual congress, theme days and cohort-building activities and supervisors are required to release students to attend these mandatory events.

Engagement with the DTP training programme is compulsory and continued sponsorship is contingent on that engagement. It is important that supervisors allow time for all these commitments when planning a project.

19. THE 'PREP' PERIOD

For BioMed2 studentships, we have introduced a 'Prep' period at the start of each studentship. The 'Prep' period is a student-led and focused 3-month period allowing each student to take ownership of their project, reflecting on, and revising their PhD project by experiencing other research and training across different themes and connecting with their peers and other researchers. With the support of the BioMed2 community and their supervisors, the students will refine their project plan and establish connections within and beyond their institution. Students will then start their PhD research work in January 2027.

20. BROADENING HORIZONS PLACEMENT

During the third year of (full-time) study, all students are required to complete a 3-month Broadening Horizons placement. This work experience specifically aims to prepare them for careers post-PhD. Students will explore areas relevant to their future careers in a wide range of organisations including our Associate Partners (it may be in an academic or non-academic environment and may be associated with the PhD project but can also be standalone).

21. SHOULD PROPOSALS INCLUDE FULL COSTINGS?

We require an indicative budget for shortlisting projects. You are asked to indicate how the RTSG monies will be allocated and the additional anticipated project costs. Please also demonstrate how the extra costs of the project will be met by the supervisory team. Your own institution may require a more formal budget to ensure that the project will not be underfunded. In addition, the proposals need to outline anticipated high costs and potential funding sources. Please use 'Project Funding' section of [the online application form](#) provide us with the required information.

22. HOW WILL PROJECTS BE SELECTED?

Projects will be reviewed by one of the three research theme panels. Each selection panel will consist of the Theme Lead and will include membership from all four universities. Where conflicts of interest are declared, the panel member will abstain from scoring. Declarations are required where the panel member is part of the project supervisory team or has a close involvement in that research team.

The final scores and recommendations from the three research theme panels will be combined to provide overall rankings for consideration by the Management Board. The Director will chair and overview the process, including removal of scoring biases using a standardisation process.

Project selection will be made based on scientific and training excellence in addition to its alignment with the strategic priorities of the DTP. All projects will be scored against the following criteria. Supervisors are strongly advised to take note of these criteria and consider them in

preparing project applications as the scoring will act as an indicative guide for discussions by the Management Board.

1. Evidence of high-quality doctoral training (weighting 0.5)

- Significance, originality, feasibility and degree of challenge presented by the proposed research.
- Added-value features, e.g. exposure to working across disciplinary boundaries, opportunities for collaboration with other academic centres or industries.
- Strategy for knowledge transfer and maximising the impact of the doctoral research.
- **Feasibility of project resourcing arrangements.**
- Consideration of student's active participation in tailoring the project brief during the 'Prep' period.

2. Evidence of an excellent research and training environment (weighting 0.25)

- Publication of research outputs in high quality journals and track record of the supervisors.
- **Quality of the research environment including PhD completions across the supervisory team in the last 10 years.**
- Consideration of preparation of the student for future career readiness.

3. Evidence of alignment with strategic aims (weighting 0.25)

- Cross-cutting priority and training themes aligned to the MRC Foundations for Excellence and Priority Skills Needs and the training opportunities of our Associate Partners (data science cross cutting priority theme, in vivo biology; interdisciplinarity and translation/innovation cross-cutting training themes).
- The strategic aim to support collaboration across the partner institutions: as the norm, PhD projects are expected to involve collaboration in supervision and/or specialist training.
- **Evidence to support awareness of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusion across the supervisory team including a significant contribution from early career researchers if relevant (e.g. lead supervisor).**
- In preparing for project proposals, supervisors may want to refer to the following:

[UKRI Statement of Expectations](#)

[MRC Review of Vulnerable Skills and Capabilities](#)

[MRC Strategic Plan](#)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Projects will be automatically rejected by the panel if they do not satisfy the criteria relating to the feasibility of project resourcing arrangements, equality, diversity, and inclusion awareness and quality of the research environment, including PhD completions across the supervisory team in the last 10 years.

23. WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF THE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT?

We appreciate there are differences in what the ‘research environment’ encompasses when considering wet and dry lab projects. For ‘wet’ lab projects the research environment might refer directly to a physical lab run by a particular academic and the funding and equipment available. Alternatively, a dry lab research environment could be about a wider network of academics and access to expertise from a range of disciplines.

As the proposals will be shortlisted by theme panels, the panel will assess and score the environment based on markers of excellence relevant to the type of research.

24. WHAT IS YOUR DEFINITION OF AN EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER?

For the purposes of the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP, an ECR is an individual who is either within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment. These durations exclude any period of career break, e.g., for family care or health reasons.

The ‘first academic appointment’ is defined as the first paid contract of employment, either full-time or part-time, which lists research and/or teaching as the primary functions.

25. IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE SUPERVISORS TO HAVE A RECORD OF MRC FUNDING?

Evidence of a high-quality research environment should include (but is not limited to) the research profiles of all members of the supervisory team which may encompass publications, funding, public engagement, other measures of research quality or impact. Supervisors should demonstrate relevance to MRC remit but there is no requirement for MRC funding. Grants and publications should not predate 2013, please select appropriate examples.

Please note that only information such as grants, and awards recorded on the form will be considered – please do not assume that reputation replaces the need to complete this section.

26. HOW MANY PROJECTS WILL BE SELECTED FOR ADVERTISEMENT?

To support our goal of recruiting the best students to the DTP, more projects than available places will be selected for advertisement to ensure that the final selection is based on the quality of the applicant. We aim to advertise as many projects as possible. The selected projects will be advertised on the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP website, on partners’ own local websites and FindaPhD (which will be arranged by each partner institution). Supervisors are also strongly encouraged to use their own networks and spheres of influence to attract good candidates.

The GW4 BioMed2 DTP will also promote the programme in targeted advertising. The title and project description wording you put on the application form will be used on our website to

advertise your project. Therefore, please ensure that it is jargon-free and understandable to applicants who are not yet experts in your field.

27. CAN APPLICANTS APPLY FROM DISCIPLINES OTHER THAN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE?

Yes. The DTP is particularly interested in recruiting students from non-biomedical, but numerate subjects (e.g. from a computing, mathematics, statistics, chemistry, engineering or quantitative social sciences background).

28. WHAT ARE THE STUDENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA?

Students will need to meet the standard academic eligibility criteria. Applicants for a studentship must have obtained, or be about to obtain, a UK degree, or the equivalent qualification gained outside the UK, in an appropriate area of biomedical sciences. However, the DTP also welcomes students from non-medical backgrounds, especially in the areas of computing, mathematics and the physical sciences.

Successful applicants will also need to meet the entry requirements of their home institution.

UKRI fully-funded studentships through the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP are available to applicants who would be classed as an international student. There is a limit to the number of international students we can accept onto our programme (up to a 30% cap across our partnership per annum). The GW4 partner institutions have an agreement that the fee difference between home and international students will be waived by the home institution.

Students will also need to meet the English Language requirements of their home institution. The Management Board will not be made aware of the applicant's English language skills during the shortlisting process.

29. HOW WILL CANDIDATES APPLY?

Applicants will apply via a centralised online application form **between Monday 1st September, and Monday, 20th October 2025 at 5pm.**

The DTP application process aims to select students with excellent potential and motivation and will make an offer of funding to the top ranked applicants. The host institution will be responsible for checking eligibility and making an offer to study once the DTP's offer of funding has been accepted.

The process of applying will be made clear in the advertisements. Documents provided by shortlisted students can be shared by the DTP to speed up the local application process.

30. HOW WILL STUDENTS BE SELECTED?

All studentships will be awarded competitively. Students can apply for up to two projects in order of preference. Theme-specific panels will consider and score all applications before drawing up an interview shortlist of around 60 applicants.

A reserved shortlisting quota of 20% for students from self-declared under-represented groups (including ethnicity, disability, and other protected characteristics) will be used to increase diversity and inclusion. Up to 30% of our awarded studentships can be allocated to international students, thus we will restrict the number of international students on the shortlist to no more than 30%.

Shortlisted applications will then be passed to the lead supervisor of the chosen projects by **Tuesday, 23rd December 2025**. Shortlisted students are required to meet (remotely or in person) for a discussion on the project and their suitability, with all their potential lead supervisors **before Wednesday 21st January 2026**. This discussion should not be arranged in an interview setting as this could confuse the applicant. The onus for arranging these meetings is placed on the students and expenses will not be available for candidates to attend these discussions.

Supervisors will be expected to complete a standardised online report following each interview by **midday on Wednesday, 21st January 2026**. The purpose of these reports is to assist the interview panel with their deliberations, and they are an important part of the recruitment process so that the DTP can ensure a suitable match between project and applicant.

Candidates that have been informed they have been shortlisted for interview will be required to provide their academic transcripts and two references to the DTP by **midday on Wednesday 21st January, 2026**. References should be sent directly to the DTP from the referee.

Supervisors are reminded that the final selection will be based on the qualities and performance of the student and will be competitive between all students according to a set criterion to be published at the time of advertisement.

Candidates will then be interviewed by a centralised DTP theme-based interview panel with representatives from all HEIs. Interviews will be 30 mins in length and will include discussion of a piece of data research that the student was involved with.

Interviews will take place on **27th and 28th January 2026**.

The supervisor report, interviews, academic transcripts, references, and the application form will all contribute to the panel's considerations for allocating studentships. The Management Board will allocate studentships based primarily on candidate quality ranking but will also consider the scientific strategy of the DTP, ensuring balance across themes and strategic skills. Students for

whom their first-choice project has already been taken will be offered their second-choice project.

Supervisors should not interact with prospective students between **Wednesday 21st January 2026**, and the interview sessions (**27th and 28th January 2026**). Students will have been provided with some of the interview questions and support is provided centrally, the interview panel will expect to hear the student's own thoughts.

31. HOW WILL THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE THEMES AND INSTITUTIONS BE ACHIEVED?

The overriding goal of the DTP is to recruit students with excellent potential and motivation. There are no internal quotas and alignment with the research themes should not preclude an excellent project proposal, particularly one which will provide outstanding training in one or more of the vulnerable skills areas. That said, the DTP seeks to recruit students in approximately equal numbers to the three research themes.

The final allocation decisions will focus on the quality of the applicants but also consider:

- balance between themes
- balance between cross-cutting priority and training themes
- balance between institutions
- involvement of diverse groups as supervisors
- inclusion of high-ranking students from non-biological disciplines
- cross-institutional supervision
- protected characteristics such as gender, disability, and ethnicity.

At the project selection stage, some consideration will be given to ensure that the portfolio is not too heavily skewed away from a reasonable representation of theme or institutional balance. Note that balance will be sought over the duration of the DTP, so that imbalances in one year may be redressed later.

We are also monitoring equality and diversity and will act as necessary to redress any imbalance over the lifetime of the DTP.

32. WHO WILL STUDENTS BE REGISTERED WITH?

Students will register for a PhD with the HEI of the lead supervisor. They will be registered with one HEI only but will be registered as visiting students across the other HEIs to provide them with access to all resources and facilities across the DTP.

The monitoring of progression, appraisal and pastoral support will be provided in the first instance by the relevant PGR office of the home HEI. The GW4 BioMed2 Management Board, however, will oversee the progress of all students as well, receiving termly reports from the whole supervisory team as well as the students themselves. Where problems arise, the

Management Board will seek to provide additional support over and above, but in collaboration with that provided by the local PGR/Doctoral office.

33. FURTHER QUESTIONS

In the first instance please contact the DTP Hub at GW4BioMed@Cardiff.ac.uk.

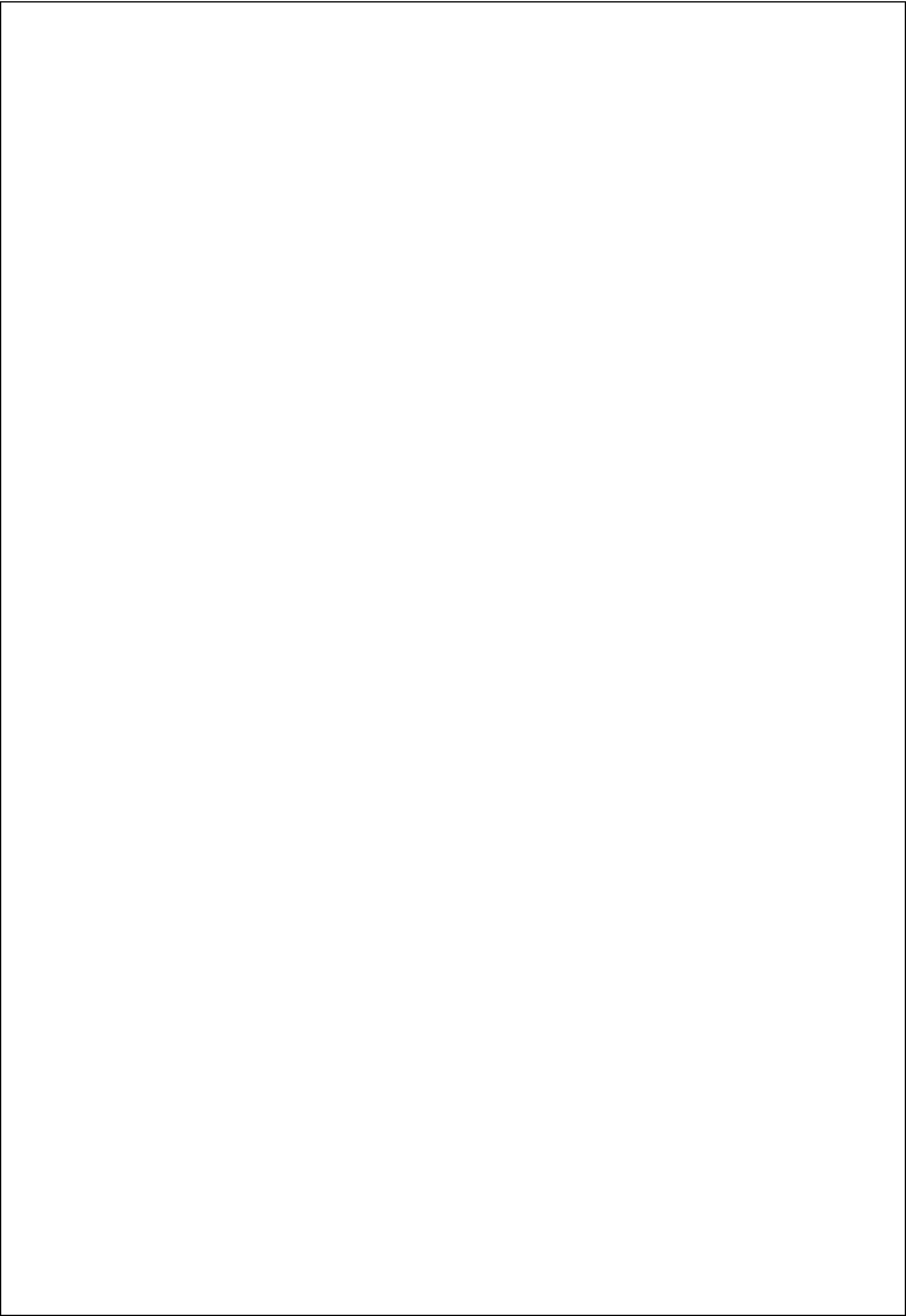
Considering more specific institutional or theme-specific queries, please contact the relevant institutional or theme lead at the email addresses below.

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Professor Emma Kidd | Director | kiddej@cardiff.ac.uk |
| Dr Kate Button | Joint Bath Academic Leads | tpf24@bath.ac.uk |
| Dr Julien Licchesi | | bs1vh@bath.ac.uk |
| Professor Matthew Avison | Joint Bristol Academic Leads | Matthewb.avison@bristol.ac.uk |
| Professor David Sheppard | | D.N.Sheppard@bristol.ac.uk |
| Dr David Petrik | Joint Cardiff Academic Leads | petrikd@cardiff.ac.uk |
| Dr Neil Rodrigues | | rodriguesn@cardiff.ac.uk |
| Professor Wendy Noble | Joint Exeter Academic Lead | Wendy.noble2@exeter.ac.uk |
| Dr Emma Dempster | | e.l.dempster@exeter.ac.uk |
| Position vacant | Infection, Immunity, Antibiotic Resistance and Repair Theme Lead | |
| Dr Martin Eichmann | Deputy Infection, Immunity, Antibiotic Resistance and Repair Theme Lead | M.Eichmann@exeter.ac.uk |
| Position Vacant | | |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Professor Esther Walton | Neuroscience and Mental Health Theme Lead | Ew685@bath.ac.uk |
| Dr Emma Dempster | Deputy Neuroscience and Mental Health Theme Lead | e.l.dempster@exeter.c.uk |
| Dr Jon Heron | Joint Population Health Sciences Theme Leads | Jon.heron@bristol.ac.uk |
| Position Vacant | | |
| Dr Giovanni Biglino | Research Culture and Wellbeing Lead | g.biglino@bristol.ac.uk |

34. APPLICATION FORM TEMPLATE

[The application form can be found here](#)



GW4 BioMed2 MRC Doctoral Training Partnership: Supervisor Project Proposals 2026/27

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, 11th July 2025**.

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

1. 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.

2. 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

3. 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.

4. Lead Supervisor Title: *

☐ Professor

☐ Dr

☐ Other

5. If you selected Other, please specify:

6. Lead Supervisor First Name: *

7. Lead Supervisor Surname: *

8. Lead Supervisor University Affiliation: *

☐ Bath

☐ Bristol

☐ Cardiff

☐ Exeter

9. College / Faculty: *

10. Department / School: *

11. Lead Supervisor Email: *

12. Lead Supervisor Telephone Number

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

14. 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

15. Co-Supervisor 1 Title: *

- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Dr
- ☐ Other

16. If you selected Other, please specify:

17. Co-supervisor 1 First Name: *

18. Co-supervisor 1 Surname: *

19. Co-supervisor 1 University Affiliation: *

- ☐ Bath
- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Cardiff
- ☐ Exeter
- ☐ Other

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

21. College / Faculty: *

22. Department / School: *

23. Co-supervisor 1 Email: *

24. Add another supervisor: *

☐ Yes

☐ No

The Supervisory Team: Co-Supervisor 2

25. Co-supervisor 2 Title:

- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Dr
- ☐ Other

26. If you selected Other, please specify:

27. Co-supervisor 2 First Name:

28. Co-supervisor 2 Surname:

29. Co-supervisor 2 Affiliation:

- ☐ Bath
- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Cardiff
- ☐ Exeter
- ☐ Other

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

31. College / Faculty:

32. Department / School:

33. Co-supervisor 2 Email:

34. Add another supervisor: *

☐ Yes

☐ No

The Supervisory Team: Co-Supervisor 3

35. Co-supervisor 3 Title:

- ☐ Professor
- ☐ Dr
- ☐ Other

36. If you selected Other, please specify:

37. Co-supervisor 3 First Name:

38. Co-supervisor 3 Surname:

39. Co-supervisor 3 Affiliation:

- ☐ Bath
- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Cardiff
- ☐ Exeter
- ☐ Other

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

41. College / Faculty:

42. Department / School:

43. 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.

44. 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.

45. 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). *

46. Has this project received ethical approval? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other

47. If you selected Other, please specify:

Project Funding

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. This section should be completed after reading our FAQ's document.

48. 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

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

50. 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 after reading the restrictions outlined in question 14 of our FAQ's document. Please note that these costs are for training only, ongoing consumable costs are not covered by MRC funding (no word limit). *

51. Would you like to request an additional **high cost training grant** for the project? Details of what qualifies here are outlined in question 15 of the FAQ's document. If applicable, please provide a description and costing for each request. **NOTE:** High Cost Training 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). *

52. What are the anticipated additional project costs per year (e.g. for consumables) not outlined in your answers above? Please provide an indication of the nature of the costs. (no word limit). *

53. Please indicate how you as a project team, plan to fund these additional costs as they will not be covered by the studentship funding. 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). *

54. 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). *

55. 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.

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

57. **LEAD SUPERVISOR:** How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2015/16 onwards).

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

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

60. **CO-SUPERVISOR 1:** How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2015/16 onwards).

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

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

63. **CO-SUPERVISOR 2:** How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2015/16 onwards).

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

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

66. **CO-SUPERVISOR 3:** How many students have been supervised to completion (starting 2015/16 onwards).

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

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

69. 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): *

70. 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

71. 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

72. 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 22), 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)

73. 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

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

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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

- ☐ Bath
- ☐ Bristol
- ☐ Cardiff
- ☐ Exeter

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

Approvals

77. 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 which includes the 3 month prep period and a 3 month Broadening Horizons placement. Additional awards can be made to cover the cost of high cost or exceptional training needs via a bi-annual competitive bidding process once the project has started. High cost training grants must be requested in this application form. There are **NO** additional DTP funds for ongoing or incidental 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.