

# GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP: Student Application Form (Oct 2026/27)

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## Before You Begin



Thank you for your interest in the GW4 BioMed2 MRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

Please ensure that you carefully read the guidance materials in the [FAQ's](#) on our website and attend one of our candidate support webinars or watch the recording on our website **before you apply**. We can only accept **ONE** application per candidate and any additional or duplicate applications will be removed without consideration. You can read more about our DTP and our recruitment process on our [website](#). You will need to keep a copy of your answers as it is not possible to save or edit your applications and the DTP will not be able to retrieve any lost information from the server. You can find a copy of the survey questions in the guidance materials on our website to help you prepare your responses and you can download a copy of your completed application once submitted.

The submission deadline is **5.00pm GMT on Monday, 20th October 2025, however we reserve the right to close to applications prior to that if we receive a high number of applications**. We are unable to accept submissions after the deadline. We wish you luck with your application!

**Data Protection** For the purposes of this survey and your application, Cardiff University is the data controller. All data collected in this survey will be held securely by the survey software provider (Jisc) under contract and then used by the GW4 BioMed DTP in accordance with data protection legislation and in accordance with the university's Information Security Framework. Data from the survey, including answers to questions where personal details are requested, will only be used by the GW4 BioMed Doctoral Training Partnership to monitor standards and student progress. Cookies, personal data stored by your Web browser, are not used in this survey.

# Contact Details

Please note that this information will be removed from your application during the shortlisting process. This information will solely be retained in order for the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP to contact you regarding your application.

1. First Name: \*

2. Last Name: \*

3. Email Address: Please check that you have entered this correctly as we will use this to contact you about your application. \*

4. Phone Number: \*

5. Correspondence address (including postcode): \*

## Nationality & Residency

Please note that this information is collected solely for the purpose of monitoring the eligibility of applicants to the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP and will be removed from your application during the shortlisting process. If English is not your first language, you will need to have achieved at least 6.5 in IELTS (and no less than 6.0 (Bath) or 6.5 (Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) in any section) by the start of the programme. Please refer to the [FAQ's](#) on our website and the relevant university for further information.

6. Please select the nationality classification that best describes your situation. \*

- ☐ UK National (meeting the residency requirement)
- ☐ Pre-settled status - less than 3 years
- ☐ Pre-settled status - more than 3 years
- ☐ UK settled status
- ☐ Indefinite leave to remain or enter
- ☐ International citizen
- ☐ Other

7. If you need to provide additional clarification to your response above, or have selected 'other' please provide further information here.

## Mode of Study

This section will be used by administrators to monitor the demand for part-time study and will be removed during the shortlisting process.

8. Do you plan to study full-time (4 years) or part-time (50% minimum attendance)? The availability of part time study is dependent on your project and visa requirements. \*

☐ Full-time

☐ Part-time

## Project Information

The GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP are advertising 122 projects and will award up to 17 studentships. You are required to select either one or two of our advertised projects. We have listed [project summaries](#) for the available projects on our website. Please read the project information carefully to find out more about what these projects entail and select a first, or a first and second choice project to apply for. We can only accept **ONE** application per candidate and applicants should apply for up to 2 projects that are relevant to their experience.

**9. First Choice Project:** Please indicate the first choice project that you are applying for by selecting the project from the options below. \*

- ☐ MRCIIAR26Ba Caixeiro - Decoding the Cellular Origin of Barrett's Metaplasia Using Microlasers and Lab-on-a-Chip Technologies
- ☐ MRCIIAR26Ba Jones - Co-evolution of bacteriophage within bacterial microbiomes and development of phage therapies
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- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Noble - Can supporting cells of the brain help to treat Alzheimer's disease?
- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Oguro-Ando - Neuronal Clues to Astrocytes: Uncovering Hidden Mechanisms in the Developing Brain



- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Phillips - Explaining the elusive first step in neurodegenerative diseases by solving the structures of disordered proteins in physiological environments
- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Piers - Risk vs. Protection: How Microglia Shape Neuronal Survival in Alzheimer's disease
- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Richards - Using machine learning to classify microglia
- ☐ MRCNMH26Ex Ruth - Genomics, oestrogen and the brain
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- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Fraser - Modelling the epidemiological impact of HIV prophylaxis on a backdrop of social, cultural, and behavioural complexity
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- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Min - Exploring the epigenetic links between genes, environment and health
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Nivard - Shining a light on the un-common to identify novel health risk-factors
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Rayfield - Determining jaw joint mechanics by characterising shape, genetics and material properties in wild type and mutant zebrafish
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Richmond - Exploring mechanisms that could cause harm from vaping
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Sanderson - Understanding early and midlife causes of cardiovascular disease through genetics
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Stevenson - Disrupted Mechanical Signalling at the Golgi apparatus as a Driver of Osteoarthritis Progression
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Taylor G - What are the biological mechanisms underlying the association between smoking, smoking cessation and mental health: a triangulation approach
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Thomas - Modelling and Communicating Avian Influenza Spillover at the Human–Wild Bird Interface: A One Health Approach
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Tinner - Mental health of young people with a disability or chronic illness: a focus on intersectional inequalities
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Vickerman - Modelling the health harms of homelessness and other social exclusions, and impact of interventions to mitigate their effects
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ca Gillespie - Optimising awareness of, access to, and uptake of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among underserved communities in the UK
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ca John - Leveraging pregnancy cohort data to investigate the link between placental hormones and adverse pregnancy outcomes
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Dempster - Epigenetic Signatures in Rare Genetic Disorders of Insulin Secretion: Developing Diagnostic Classifiers
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Freathy - The role of fetal insulin in preeclampsia and maternal cardiovascular disease: a missing piece of the puzzle?
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Frontini - How common genetic variation determines protein abundance and its effect on disease.
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Kudoh - Phenotypic and epigenetic analyses of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the zebrafish model and human patients
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Lawrence - "Cravings, Cycles, and Moods: Tracking the link between Diet and Women's Health with AI and Smartphones
- ☐ MRCPHS26Ex Yang - Regenerating insulin cells by using new designer biologics to fine-tune neural signals

10. **Second Choice Project (optional):** Please indicate your second choice project by selecting the project from the options below. \*

- ☐ No second choice
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- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Nivard - Shining a light on the un-common to identify novel health risk-factors
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Rayfield - Determining jaw joint mechanics by characterising shape, genetics and material properties in wild type and mutant zebrafish
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Richmond - Exploring mechanisms that could cause harm from vaping
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Sanderson - Understanding early and midlife causes of cardiovascular disease through genetics
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Stevenson - Disrupted Mechanical Signalling at the Golgi apparatus as a Driver of Osteoarthritis Progression
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Taylor G - What are the biological mechanisms underlying the association between smoking, smoking cessation and mental health: a triangulation approach
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Thomas - Modelling and Communicating Avian Influenza Spillover at the Human–Wild Bird Interface: A One Health Approach
- ☐ MRCPHS26Br Tinner - Mental health of young people with a disability or chronic illness: a focus on intersectional inequalities

- MRCPHS26Br Vickerman - Modelling the health harms of homelessness and other social exclusions, and impact of interventions to mitigate their effects
- MRCPHS26Ca Gillespie - Optimising awareness of, access to, and uptake of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis among underserved communities in the UK
- MRCPHS26Ca John - Leveraging pregnancy cohort data to investigate the link between placental hormones and adverse pregnancy outcomes
- MRCPHS26Ex Dempster - Epigenetic Signatures in Rare Genetic Disorders of Insulin Secretion: Developing Diagnostic Classifiers
- MRCPHS26Ex Freathy - The role of fetal insulin in preeclampsia and maternal cardiovascular disease: a missing piece of the puzzle?
- MRCPHS26Ex Frontini - How common genetic variation determines protein abundance and its effect on disease.
- MRCPHS26Ex Kudoh - Phenotypic and epigenetic analyses of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the zebrafish model and human patients
- MRCPHS26Ex Lawrence - "Cravings, Cycles, and Moods: Tracking the link between Diet and Women's Health with AI and Smartphones
- MRCPHS26Ex Yang - Regenerating insulin cells by using new designer biologics to fine-tune neural signals



## Proven Academic Quality

11. Select the description for your first, **undergraduate** degree. Note: If you hold a non-UK degree please indicate its equivalent UK degree classification. For a [conversion table](#) please refer to our website. \*

- ☐ BA
- ☐ BSc
- ☐ BEd
- ☐ BEng
- ☐ LLB
- ☐ MEd (4 years)
- ☐ MEng (4 years)
- ☐ MBA
- ☐ MSci (intergrated)
- ☐ MBBS/MBChB
- ☐ MPharm
- ☐ Other

12. If you selected 'Other', please specify.

13. Select the classification of this qualification or expected classification based on current average grades. \*

- ☐ 1st
- ☐ 2:1
- ☐ 2:2
- ☐ 3rd
- ☐ Pass
- ☐ Merit
- ☐ Distinction

14. Provide the name of the institution that awarded this degree, e.g., University of Sheffield \*

15. Provide the subject of this degree (e.g., Animal Behaviour, Psychology, Mathematics) \*

16. In what year was this degree awarded (YYYY)? If yet to be awarded please state 'pending'. \*

17. Select the description for your **postgraduate degree**. If you do not hold a postgraduate degree please answer 'not applicable'. Note: If you hold a non-UK degree please indicate its equivalent UK degree classification. For a [conversion table](#) please refer to our website. \*

- ☐ LLM
- ☐ MA
- ☐ MSc
- ☐ MEd
- ☐ MEng
- ☐ MBA
- ☐ MRes
- ☐ MPhil
- ☐ MSci (intergrated)
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ MBBS/MBChB
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other

18. If you selected 'Other', please specify.

19. Select the classification of this qualification or expected classification based on current average grades.

- ☐ 1st
- ☐ 2:1
- ☐ 2:2
- ☐ 3rd
- ☐ Pass
- ☐ Merit
- ☐ Distinction

20. Provide the name of the institution that awarded this degree, e.g., University of Sheffield

21. Provide the subject of this degree (e.g., Animal Behaviour, Psychology, Mathematics)

22. In what year was this degree awarded (YYYY)? If yet to be awarded please state 'pending'.

23. If you hold an **additional degree** not listed above please select the description for this qualification. If you do not hold an additional degree please answer 'not applicable'. Note: If you hold a non-UK degree please indicate its equivalent UK degree classification. For a [conversion table](#) please refer to our website. \*

- ☐ BA
- ☐ BSc
- ☐ BEd
- ☐ BEng

- ☐ LLB
- ☐ LLM
- ☐ MA
- ☐ MSc
- ☐ MEd
- ☐ MEng
- ☐ MBA
- ☐ MRes
- ☐ MPhil
- ☐ MSci (intergrated)
- ☐ MPharm
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ MBBS/MBChB
- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ Other

24. If you selected 'Other', please specify.

25. Select the classification of this qualification or expected classification based on current average grades.

- ☐ 1st
- ☐ 2:1
- ☐ 2:2
- ☐ 3rd
- ☐ Pass
- ☐ Merit
- ☐ Distinction

26. Provide the name of the institution that awarded this degree, e.g., University of Sheffield

27. Provide the subject of this degree (eg, Animal Behaviour, Psychology, Mathematics)

28. In what year was this degree awarded (YYYY)? If yet to be awarded please state 'pending'.

## Academic Discipline

29. The Doctoral Training Partnership aims to bring together different academic disciplines. Please select the most appropriate discipline(s) for yourself based on your recent study/experience. \*

- ☐ Medicine and dentistry (clinical)
- ☐ Subjects allied to medicine
- ☐ Biological sciences
- ☐ Veterinary science
- ☐ Agriculture and related subjects
- ☐ Physical sciences
- ☐ Mathematical sciences
- ☐ Computer science
- ☐ Engineering and technology
- ☐ Architecture and related subjects
- ☐ Social sciences
- ☐ Law
- ☐ Business and administration studies
- ☐ Mass communications and documentation

## Research Potential

30. Please outline 2 examples of your achievements in research related activities (e.g. undergraduate, masters or postgraduate work experience). (Maximum of 200 words in total). \*

31. Please outline 2 examples of your achievements in non-research related activities (e.g. outside of academic study). (Maximum of 200 words in total). \*

## Personal Motivation and Commitment

32. Please describe why you have chosen your 1st choice project (e.g. your interest/understanding of the research question, your skills/experience that fit with this project). (Maximum of 200 words). \*

33. What do you hope to gain from doing a PhD with the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP? (Maximum of 150 words). \*



# Extenuating Circumstances

34. Please provide any additional information relating to extenuating circumstances or special considerations that you would like to make the panel aware of (maximum of 150 words). Please note that completion of this section is not compulsory.

## Equality and Diversity Monitoring

Our institutions and our funder, the Medical Research Council (MRC), aim for our processes to be equal and fair. We are required to collect the following personal information, but rest assured that the data is used only for monitoring purposes and will not affect the outcome of your application in any way. The information that you provide is not shared with the review panels during the shortlisting process, it is solely used to improve our services. The data is reported anonymously to the MRC in order to monitor the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP's recruitment processes.

35. What is your age? \*

- ☐ 29 or under
- ☐ 30-39
- ☐ 40-49
- ☐ 50-59
- ☐ 60 or over
- ☐ Unknown

36. What is your ethnic group? \*

- ☐ Asian - Bangladeshi or Bangladeshi British
- ☐ Asian - Chinese or Chinese British
- ☐ Asian - Filipino
- ☐ Asian - Indian or Indian British
- ☐ Asian - Pakistani or Pakistani British
- ☐ Any other Asian background
- ☐ Black - African or African British
- ☐ Black - Caribbean or Caribbean British
- ☐ Any other black background
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Asian or Asian British
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Black African or Black African British
- ☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Black Caribbean or Black Caribbean British
- ☐ Any other Mixed or Multiple ethnic background
- ☐ White - English, Scottish, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White - English, Welsh, Northern Irish or British
- ☐ White - British, Irish, Northern Irish, English, Scottish or Welsh
- ☐ White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller

- ☐ White - Gypsy or Traveller
- ☐ White - Irish Traveller
- ☐ White - Irish
- ☐ White - Polish
- ☐ White - Roma
- ☐ White - Scottish
- ☐ White - Showman/Showwoman
- ☐ Any other White background
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Any other ethnic background
- ☐ Not known
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Not available

37. What is your sex? \*

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

38. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

39. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? If you prefer to self-describe, then please select other and list your reply in the next question. \*

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay/Lesbian
- ☐ Heterosexual/Straight
- ☐ Other sexual orientation
- ☐ Prefer not to say

40. If you selected 'Other sexual orientation' and would like to specify, please do so here.

41. What is your religion? \*

- ☐ No religion
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Pagan
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Any other religion or belief
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Not available

42. Do you have an impairment, health condition, or learning difference that has a substantial impact on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months? \*

- ☐ No known impairment, health condition or learning difference
- ☐ Learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- ☐ Social/communication conditions sch as a speech and language impairment or autistic spectrum disorder
- ☐ Long-term illness or health conditions such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- ☐ Mental health condition, challenge or disorder, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety
- ☐ Physical impairment (a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, lifting or carrying)
- ☐ Deaf or have a hearing impairment
- ☐ Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- ☐ Development condition that you have has since childhood which affects motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills, and speech and language
- ☐ An impairment, health condition or learning difference not listed above
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Not available

## Equality and Diversity Monitoring (continued)

43. What was the occupation of your main household earner when you were about age 14? \*

- ☐ Modern professional and traditional profession occupations such as: teacher, nurse, musician, social worker, police officer (sergeant or above), software designer, accountant, solicitor, medical practitioner, scientist, engineer
- ☐ Senior, middle or junior managers or administrators such as: finance manager, chief, executive, large business owner, office manager, retail manager, bank manager, restaurant manager, warehouse manager
- ☐ Clerical and intermediate occupations such as: secretary, personal assistant, call centre agent, clerical worker, nursery nurse
- ☐ Technical and craft occupations such as: motor mechanic, plumber, printer, electrician, gardener, train driver
- ☐ Routine, semi-routine, manual and service occupations such as: postal worker, machine operative, security guard, caretaker, farm worker, catering assistant, sales assistant, cleaner, porter, labourer, waiter/waitress, bar staff
- ☐ Long term unemployed: (claimed unemployment benefit for more than 1 year)
- ☐ Small business owner who employs less than 25 people such as: corner shop owner, small plumbing company, single cafe owner, taxi owner, garage owner
- ☐ Other: such as retired, this question does not apply to me, I don't know
- ☐ I prefer not to say

44. If you finished school after 1980, were you eligible for free school meals at any point during your school years? \*

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable (finished school before 1980 or went to school overseas)
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ I prefer not to say

45. Did either of your parents attend university or gain a degree (e.g. BA/BSc or equivalent) by the time you were 18? \*

- ☐ No, neither of my parents attended university
- ☐ Yes, one or both of my parents attended university
- ☐ Do not know/ not sure
- ☐ I prefer not to say

# Advertising

46. How did you find out about this PhD opportunity? \*

- ☐ Email from GW4 BioMed forwarded by my university
- ☐ Email from the project supervisor
- ☐ GW4 BioMed DTP Website
- ☐ Via link from another website
- ☐ Personal recommendation ie from friend or colleague
- ☐ FindaPhD.com
- ☐ General Postgrad event
- ☐ Social Media - X/Bluesky/Facebook
- ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ University Careers Service
- ☐ Other

## Data Protection

**Data Protection:** If you are applying for a place on a collaborative programme of doctoral training provided by Cardiff University and other universities, research organisations and/or partners, please be aware that your personal data will be used and disclosed for the purposes set out below. Your personal data will always be processed in accordance with data protection legislation. Our legal basis for processing your personal data is that it is necessary for the performance of a contract (Art.6(1)(b)) and necessary for the fulfilment of legitimate business interests (Art.6(1)f). Where appropriate we will share personal data provided in your application with the University of Bath, the University of Bristol and the University of Exeter ("HEIs") and when they process relevant personal data for their own purposes each will be data controllers. **Application Process** During the application process, the University may need to share some of your personal data with third parties to be able to administer your application, carry out interviews and select candidates. These are not limited to, but may include disclosures to: the selection panel and/or management board or equivalent of the relevant Programme, which is likely to include staff from one or more other HEIs; administrative staff at one or more other HEIs participating in the relevant Programme. Such disclosures will always be kept to the minimum amount of personal data required for the specific purpose. If you become a student on one of our Programmes If your application is successful and you register on a Programme, the University may need to make further disclosures of your personal data throughout your time on the programme to ensure the effective management of your studies and comply with its obligations to funders. These disclosures may include, but are not limited to: within the group of HEIs to the Programme; to other collaborative parties to the relevant Programme, e.g. industrial sponsors and/or collaborators, supervisors from other HEIs, Research Councils (as funders of the Programme); to external examiners. Other disclosures may be made where it is necessary for the administration of your studies. The information you provide as part of your application will be stored securely and retained. **Your Data Protection Rights** You can find out more about your data protection rights, including how your personal data is held by the University on our public website [Your data protection rights - Public information - Cardiff University](#). **Contact** If you have any queries or concerns about the use of your personal data during the application process or your time as a student, please contact PGR Quality and Operations (Registry) by emailing [pgr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:pgr@cardiff.ac.uk). If you remain unsatisfied you may raise this matter with the University's Data Protection Officer or the Information Commissioner's Office and you can find their contact details on our website: [Our data protection policy - Public Information - Cardiff University](#).

47. Please confirm that you have read the data protection statement and understand how your information will be collected and shared as specified in the application form. If you do not agree with the terms, please exit the survey without submitting. \*

☐ Yes, I have read and accept these terms

## Nearly Finished

At the bottom of this page, you are able to select a 'save and finish later' option to return to the survey at another time. Once you click 'Submit' on this page, your application will be submitted for review and cannot be edited by yourself or the DTP hub. Therefore, please ensure you have completed all sections accurately before finishing.

48. **POLITE NOTE:** This survey does not have the facility to send emails to confirm that an application has been submitted. You will therefore **not** be sent a confirmation email, but please be assured that once you click 'submit' on this page, your application will be received by the GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP. Please agree that you acknowledge this by checking the box below. \*

☐ I understand that I will not receive an automated email to confirm receipt of my application.