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MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Programme (MRC LID) – Information for Supervisors

Guidance for MRC LID Supervisory Team Assessments

In line with previous selection rounds, we will ask supervisory teams to rank candidates on the basis of their:

- a. Research proposal
- b. Application form, including contextual information
- c. Transcripts
- d. CV

As a pilot initiative for the current selection round, a quantitative research project proposal rubric has been developed to help guide assessors' evaluations. The specific guidance for applicants regarding the research project proposal has been updated to align with these changes.

Expectations for supervisors' assessments

MRC LID is committed to recruiting a diverse student cohort. We value the academic and non-academic experiences people bring to our community and appreciate that a standard scholarship application may not address the personal and professional progression routes of our applicants.

When reviewing applications and shortlisting candidates, please use a holistic approach to your review.

- Alongside traditional measures of academic achievement, consider the additional strengths and lived experiences that an applicant may bring to a project.
- Consider an applicant's potential. Think of the applicant beyond just a single snapshot in time and consider their trajectory.
- Remember that a 1+4 studentship is a possibility if additional training is needed to succeed in the doctoral project.

Please also bear in mind that educational achievements can be influenced by a range of factors. If the applicant shares contextual information (e.g., through questions on the application form), we ask supervisors to take into consideration any barriers applicants may have faced and the circumstances in which grades have been achieved.

Some potential circumstances to consider:

- Being care experienced (e.g., living with foster carers)
- Having caring responsibilities (e.g., caring for a child under 18 years)
- Being first generation students in higher education
- Being estranged from parents
- Being a refugee or asylum seeker