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2026-27 MRC LID Studentship Project Bid: Information for Prospective Supervisory Teams

The MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Partnership (MRC LID) is a partnership between London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and City St George's, University of London (CSG). Our programme provides postgraduate studentship funding and integrated skills training to develop a cohort of biomedical and public health scientists with world-class expertise in areas of strategic importance to UK and global medical research.

MRC LID will be advertising in early to mid-November 2025 for the fifth (and final) round of studentships under our Doctoral Training Partnership Grant 2 (DTP2) funding. We have funding to support up to 9 new doctoral studentship awards (for students to register for study in September 2026).

Staff who would like to be considered as a supervisor for an MRC DTP student to start in September 2026 are invited to complete the [2026-27 MRC LID Project Bid Form](#) online and submit it by the deadline of **23:59 (BST) on Tuesday 30 September 2025**.

If you have any questions about the project bids, required training, and the studentship scheme please contact the MRC LID Manager by email: mrclid@lshtm.ac.uk.

Essential bid information & guidance for potential supervisors

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1. MRC LID themes and skills

Prospective students will apply to carry out their doctoral research on a particular project, which they will select from a list of projects put forward by potential supervisors and selected by [MRC LID Board](#).

Projects must address at least one of the four overarching themes of MRC LID DTP2:

- Global Health
- Infectious Disease
- Health Data Science
- Translational and Implementation Research

Supervisory teams should read [MRC LID specific theme pages](#) so that they are aware of the latest theme information and ensure that any proposed project fits within the DTP remit. Project bids that do not fall within the DTP remit will be rejected by the MRC LID Board.

Projects should provide training in at least one of three MRC LID strategic skills areas:

- quantitative skills
- interdisciplinary skills
- whole organism physiology.

2. MRC LID Studentships

2(a). Studentship duration

MRC LID offers funding through two studentship routes:

- 1+4 (Masters for 1 year FTE + MPhil/PhD for 4 years FTE)
- +4 (MPhil/PhD for 4 years FTE)

The majority of awards offered by MRC LID will be for 4 years (FTE) with the expectation that students will

- gain new skills to allow them to undertake multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary research, and
- undertake a required 3-month FTE professional internship outside the partnership.

1+4 awards will be made to candidates showing exceptional potential, to allow them to undertake a full Master's course prior to starting their PhD research.

Routes are shown as FTE, but can be offered part-time (50% FTE) if this can be accommodated by your project.

2(b). Studentship funding

Each studentship will provide

- a tax-free stipend (at the [UKRI standard studentship rate](#) with London weighting), paid directly to the student;
- tuition fees at the [UKRI standard studentship rate](#), paid directly to the student's primary institution;
- annual research and travel/conference allowances.

Tuition Fees

Historically, UKRI DTPs were designed to fund UK nationals and residents. Both partner institutions have committed to cover any tuition fee top-up to their UK ('Home') tuition fee rate for MRC LID students, where applicable.

International recruitment: nationality/residency restrictions & additional institutional support

Current UKRI rules state that up to 30% of the cohort may be awarded to applicants with overseas fee status. (All students who are not UK nationals and all students who do not meet residency requirements as set out in [MRC studentship eligibility guidance](#) would be considered to have overseas fee status.)

This means that MRC LID can only offer **up to 2 studentships** in any round to applicants with overseas fee status (maximum 30% of the MRC LID grant). To give you an idea of scale, the table below shows DTP applications for the past 5 recruitment rounds.

AY	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED			AWARDS ACCEPTED			SUCCESS RATE	
	UK	INT	ALL	UK	INT	ALL	UK	INT
2021-22	48	123	171	8	1	9	16.67%	0.81%
2022-23	59	207	266	7	2	9	11.86%	0.97%
2023-24	33	105	138	6	3	9	18.18%	2.86%
2024-25	21	92	113	9	0	9	42.86%	0.00%
2025-26	69	280	349	7	2	9	10.14%	0.71%

UK = Home fee status

INT = Overseas fee status

Successful applicants who are LMIC nationals and residents will be offered institutional support to top up the fee difference (between the UKRI fee rate paid and the institution's full overseas fee rate). (LMIC will be determined by [World Bank List](#) and [OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients](#).)

Successful HIC applicants will be expected to cover the fee difference (approx. GBP 20,000.00 – GBP 25,000.00 per year) from alternative sources. Top-up from MRC LID Studentship allowances, such as stipend or RTSG is not possible (as this is against UKRI regulations). HIC applicants should be encouraged to apply for other scholarships and bursaries as soon as possible to cover the additional costs (unless these will be funded via personal funds or supervisory team grant funds).

Supervisors should bear this information in mind in discussions with prospective applicants, but also note this clear UKRI guidance:

'Recruitment of international students should be based on ability and potential and not the candidates' opportunity to access funding. Financial considerations must not be part of the recruitment decision.'

On this basis, we ask that all supervisory teams provide equitable time, support and guidance to all prospective applicants, regardless of their location or likely fee status, at the pre-application stage. Please see [5\(d\) Supervisor responsibilities](#) for further details about what the DTP means by 'equitable time, support and guidance to all prospective applicants'.

Supervisors and prospective students should contact MRC LID with any questions around these UKRI rules.

Stipend

Please note that although clinically qualified candidates are eligible to apply for these awards, they are designed for non-clinical research and the stipend payable will be fixed at the current minimum non-clinical UKRI Studentship rate with London weighting. Projects that require the applicant to be clinically qualified are not suitable for this funding scheme.

Other allowances

The annual allowances are a DTP funded contribution towards a student's training, conferences and travel, and research project costs. UKRI provides

- RTSG allowance of *up to* GBP 5,000.00 pa FTE
- travel & conference allowance of *up to* GBP 300.00 pa FTE.

The RTSG contribution must be used to support student-specific training and costs (e.g., training that would not be provided as standard for the PhD; a contribution to fieldwork or to lab consumables; top-up to travel and conference fee costs).

MRC LID expects that, through the studentship scheme, the student is offered, and undertakes, additional training compared to what would be offered to and undertaken by a non-funded PhD student at the institution. MRC LID will not pay for training or other expenditure that is the responsibility of the primary institution to provide and/or would be provided free to a non-funded PhD student.

Some flexible funding may also be available from the DTP on a competitive basis for student use. Approval from the MRC LID board is required. Examples of costs that may be supported are

- additional or high-cost training (where this cannot be supported through the RTSG);
- overseas institutional visits and skills training;
- placements* (usually covered through RTSG but may be required from this pot for students on expensive wet lab projects)
- cohort training and events.

This is not an exhaustive list, and further information about flexible funding will be shared with studentship holders as part of their induction. The flexible funding cannot be used for project costs.

There is no other MRC LID funding available to cover the cost of research.

* Placements

- All MRC LID awardees are required to undertake a 3-month (FTE) placement **in a different research discipline** and which is quite different from their research project, so that they learn new skills and knowledge, broaden their perspectives, and develop their networks. This placement cannot be used in any way or part for the student's thesis; it is solely for the student's development and exploration of a student's interests and experiences (e.g., to support their future career). This is something we encourage the students to organise, with help from their supervisors. Approval from the MRC LID Board is required. The information provided to students about the required placement can be found in the MRC LID Studentship Handbook and via the relevant Induction recording (both available on the [MRC LID Current Students page](#)).

- MRC LID mandatory placements do not prevent students from undertaking other, separate research placements connected to their project, where these benefit the programme of research and have a clearly measurable potential outcome. These would normally be expected to be of a shorter duration. Where a student undertakes a research placement they are expected to still fully engage with the MRC LID programme during this period.

Project bid budget

As part of the project bid form, supervisory teams are asked to provide a budget. The purpose of the project bid budget is to show the actual costs of the project and the source/s of funding that are expected to cover it.

The budget required for the MRC LID bid should show the costs of the doctoral research project that has been proposed and the anticipated training required for any successful students. The focus should be on how much it will actually cost in training, lab consumables, fieldwork etc (Budgets provided with the bid should not include tuition fees or stipend costs, as

these are covered by an MRC LID Studentship grant regardless of the project selected by the awardee. It should also exclude overheads, indirect costs, supervisory/other staff time, any umbrella project costs (where these are running and the proposed project will fit into).)

The MRC LID Board wants to know:

- What money will be required for this project to be undertaken?
- Has the supervisory team considered and accounted for
 - o DTP focus on enhanced training opportunities?
 - o DTP placement potential costs?
- If the project requires funding over and above the MRC LID RTSG and travel/conference allowance how will these costs be covered (and from what source/s)?
- Are the funds from the additional source/s allowable and guaranteed? By whom?

The budget should be robust enough that someone with subject-specific knowledge can see that costs quoted are realistic and that nothing has been left out (it's all - broadly speaking - accounted for) but also understandable also to someone who may review the bid without subject-specific knowledge.

[Example budget 1](#)

[Example budget 2](#)

[Example budget 3](#)

3. CASE Studentship Awards

Further information about potential CASE awards can be found on the [MRC LID Project Call](#) webpage and [UKRI website](#) (below DTP allocations).

4. General/other information

Projects that facilitate research collaboration between LSHTM and City St George's will be viewed particularly favourably.

The text and descriptions provided in your project bid will be used to advertise the project. Whatever is advertised must allow for development of the outline provided. It should give applicants somewhere to go with their proposal and allow them to show research opportunity (so that the application reviewers can see, for example, what hypotheses are being tested). Please bear this in mind when drafting your bid, as there are implications for this at the application reviewing stages (MRC LID rubric). If an applicant has nowhere to go with your project they may be perceived to be less ready for research study and therefore score lower than those who are offered awards. In this very competitive scheme this is crucial as small differences in scoring can affect the outcome.

Information for the prospective student application recruitment phase:

- All selected projects will be shared via the MRC LID web pages.
- The number of potential projects advertised will exceed the number of studentships available.
- Applicants will select their preferred project, and will contact the proposed supervisory team to discuss their proposal, ahead of submitting an application.
- The post-deadline assessment process is over a number of stages. In brief:
 - o Assessment 1: Supervisory teams will review all applications received for their project, and provide the MRC LID Board with scores (based on MRC LID rubric), feedback and ranking.

- Assessment 2: MRC LID Board and Associate Board members will triage and review and score applications.
- Shortlisting & award: MRC LID Board will consider all scores and feedback received and decide on a shortlist for interview. The final studentship awards (determined by the MRC LID Board) will be based on selecting the student applicants with most potential. The Board's decisions are final and non-negotiable.

Please contact MRC LID by email with any questions: mrclid@lshtm.ac.uk.

5. Supervisory team requirements

5(a). Supervisory training requirements

Institutional supervisory training

MRC LID expects all supervisory team members to be up-to-date with their institution's supervisory training (initial, followed by a refresher every 3 years).

MRC LID mandatory EDI training

The MRC LID DTP2 approach to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is proactive, with a firm commitment to widening participation, anti-racism, and decolonising global public health research. Reflecting this commitment, MRC LID requires all staff connected with the scheme (including every person on a supervisory team) to undertake specific mandatory EDI training, facilitated through LSHTM, regardless of whether they are based at LSHTM, City St George's, or are external to either partner institution.

MRC LID specified training must be completed by every person on the supervisory team *before* the project bid decisions are finalised by the MRC LID Board at the end of October 2025 - i.e., before projects are advertised in November 2025 (for awardee registration in September 2026), and before any contact with prospective applicants begins. Training must also be completed by the mentor of the primary supervisor if/where a mentor is required for the MRC LID scheme. Bids will not be considered where training has not been completed by every member of the proposed supervisory team.

To find out more details and to apply (or to be added to a list, so that we can arrange additional training where possible) please see information on [MRC LID Supervisors Training page](#).

- **Initial/new training:** This year we are using a survey to gauge demand for initial/new training; please complete the survey to indicate your interest and join a waiting list
- **Refresher training:** Please book one of the workshops advertised using its link *as soon as possible and by 1 September 2025 at the latest*.

We are asking everyone to fill in the survey or book refresher training by this early set date because this will help us to arrange sufficient/additional training, where possible, within the studentship recruitment timeline. (The DTP will only know the level of demand, and number of people needing training to meet MRC LID deadlines, if and when people tell us. We don't have LOIs or any other initial mechanisms that would provide an indication of who might submit a project bid. We do not know in advance who will apply and whether they might have undertaken training previously and/or might require training now. Nor do we know who has proactively undertaken mandatory training between last recruitment round and this, in early preparation (as opposed to those staff member's who've undertaken LSHTM training for interest or other requirements). All of which makes calculations on arranging training courses

ahead of time at best a guess. Only once people book available spaces, or request to be added to waiting lists, can we measure demand and contact LSHTM Staff Development (TD) and EDI colleagues and/or other external facilitators to arrange additional training. If LSHTM already has courses on offer and these are not filled there is, understandably, an unwillingness to commit more time and money to adding more of these courses ahead of a call without any guarantee that there will be appropriate staff take-up.)

5(b). Supervisory team composition

Each student must have two supervisors.

No more than three supervisors should be named for any project unless university policies or regulations require more.

Staff may only be listed as a supervisor for up to two projects in total in this round. Details of restrictions are as follows.

- Supervisor 1 – staff may be named as primary supervisor for one project only.
- Supervisor 2 – staff may be named as second supervisor for one project (or named as second supervisor for two projects, where they are not submitting a project proposal as a primary supervisor).
- Supervisor 3 – staff may be named as third supervisor for up to two projects (this cannot exceed being named in 2 projects in total, so should be only where they are not also submitting a project proposal as a primary supervisor or named on another bid as a second supervisor), and only where this would provide experienced supervisory support for less experienced teams.

Those who are primary supervisors for an MRC LID student starting in 2025-26 may not put forward a project as Supervisor 1 for the 2026-27 academic year.

Each project submitted must meet the necessary institution policy for the composition of research degree supervisory teams, comprising staff with the necessary experience and who have undertaken required institutional training. For any queries regarding this

- LSHTM: please see Supervisory Capacity Guidance ([RD Handbook Chapter 9](#)) and/or speak to your Research Degree Manager (RDM).
- City St George's: please contact the Doctoral College.

LSHTM projects only: Staff with little or no supervisory experience may submit a project as long as they have the support of an experienced member of staff from LSHTM who will act as PhD Supervisor mentor to the PhD supervisor. Being named as a Mentor for Supervisor 1 will not count towards the supervisory limits noted above (unless they are also named as Supervisor 2 or 3).

City St George's, University of London projects only: Supervisory teams are expected to meet Doctoral College requirements as set out in the current [Doctoral Degrees Supervisors' Policy](#) document. Whilst a more inexperienced member of staff (Category B Supervisor) can submit a project proposal, a more experienced staff member of staff (Category A supervisor) will need to take the role of Supervisor 1. (The experienced staff member in the team cannot be someone who is Lead Supervisor for a 2025-26 awardee or someone who has submitted a separate bid as Lead Supervisor for this round.)

If an inexperienced team is struggling to find a suitable experienced supervisor to meet MRC LID mentorship and/or institutional supervision requirements please contact your FRDD (at LSHTM) or the Doctoral College (at City St George's).

Note for LSHTM staff on visiting and honorary academic contracts: Please discuss a potential bid with your Faculty RDM before applying as it is likely that this will only be acceptable where you are second or third supervisor for the project.

Project proposals from ineligible supervisory teams – including teams with inadequate experience and/or teams with supervisors who are considered to be already at institutional capacity/load – will not be considered.

Supervisors are expected to submit an MRC LID bid for a research project where the applicant will be based at the primary/lead supervisor's institution, and supervised by Supervisor 1. Primary/Lead supervisors should only submit a research project bid if they intend to be available and still employed at their primary institution in 18-24 months' time. Please do not submit a bid if you have handed in your resignation, or planned for a sabbatical, or for any other known reason which means you will not be present for a new studentship awardee starting in September 2026. (This is not ideal for a new student or the DTP. Studentships are awarded on the basis of a programme of study agreed by our funder and based within the DTP partner institutions. It is an expectation of the MRC that students are primarily based at the respective DTP partner institution for the duration of their research degree studies. Given our awards, it is unlikely that MRC LID would agree the transfer of a studentship away from our partnership institutions in the event that a supervisor moves away.)

5(b)i. Role of MRC LID Mentor

The role of the mentor is to support the primary supervisor only. The mentor role does not include mentoring or supervising the student themselves.

The mentor will support Supervisor 1 by providing guidance and support in navigating the supervisory role (e.g., around meeting with applicants, assessing applications, and preparing applicants for interview), and – in the event that a studentship is awarded to the project team – providing guidance and support on how to become a good supervisor. Therefore, the mentor must be based at the same institution as Supervisor 1.

5(c). Recording

MRC LID expects every supervisory team whose bid is successful to provide a recording for their project advert. Recordings have been used for three previous recruitment rounds, and have been received very well by applicants, most of whom looked at a range of recordings before selecting their projects.

MRC LID sees the recording as a useful tool,

- To give applicants a flavour of the project and team, and hopefully encourage them to contact you for further conversations about their application.
- To broaden participation, by ensuring that every prospective applicant receives the same key initial information (which would need to be shared with every applicant who contacts the supervisory team).
- To support more effective use of a supervisory team's time/resources, especially where they receive lots of interest in the project.

These are not intended to be a shiny PR 'advert' embedded into our web pages to tempt applicants in. Instead, it is for sharing information. The recording will be included with the rest of your project information as a link, in the same way DOIs are.

Recordings should provide information to applicants on the project, the research environment, and the proposed supervisory team, and may also cover other useful details that you may wish to convey to applicants (e.g., a brief outline of attributes or skills that the project team is looking for).

Teams can choose to share the required information in whatever way they wish (a slideshow with just a voice, or a video of the whole team having a discussion, or a discussion between the proposed supervisory team with a section including any current MRC LID student/s you supervise; or anything else that best suits the team and message).

Teams can use whatever software and platform they wish to as long as it's available publicly and accessible for the duration of the recruitment round (PowerPoint presentation recording; Zoom* or Teams recorded presentation or discussion; video uploaded to Panopto; YouTube etc).

The recording will remain the property of the supervisory team as MRC LID will only use a link through to it provided by you. Therefore, the administration, monitoring, and security of the recording, and any collection of data for review, is controlled by the supervisory team, not MRC LID. Please remember (or diarise) to archive or delete your recording once the current MRC LID recruitment round is completed.

Ideally, we'd like teams to have captioning enabled for inclusivity, where possible.

By submitting a project bid, supervisory teams are

- agreeing to undertake this task and provide MRC LID with a URL of the recording (not an MP4 file, please) ahead of the projects being advertised, and
- accepting that the recording will be public and shared on the MRC LID web pages for any prospective applicant to use.

Teams will be asked to provide their link within 1 week of the outcome of their bid being confirmed. Bid teams may wish to complete their recording in advance of this request (for example, whilst meeting to discuss their bid proposal), so that it is ready, or plan a meeting between all supervisory team members during the week following decisions/outcomes so that they have set aside suitable time to record it together.

Projects will not be advertised without a project recording.

** One small thing to note: Zoom recordings delete after 7 days. Anyone who chooses to record using Zoom will need to upload their recording to an open OneDrive or Dropbox folder, or to Panopto, or equivalent to avoid having to update the shared URL (and MRC LID project page) every week.*

5(d). Supervisor responsibilities

The MRC LID expects all supervisors engaged with the scheme to participate actively in our EDI strategy (through training; respectful engagement with applicants; consideration made in application reviews; post-award interactions with students etc).

Supervisors are expected to maintain awareness of UKRI training grant requirements and good practice.

[UKRI Terms & conditions for training funding](#) (and associated guidance)

[UKRI Training grant changes with effect from 1 Oct 2025](#)

[MRC Additional terms & conditions](#)

[UKRI Good research resource hub](#)

[Supervising a doctorate](#)

By submitting a project bid, all members of the supervisory team are agreeing to abide by the terms and conditions outlined below, and to:

- Follow the programme requirements as described in the MRC LID Studentship Handbook and on our web pages.
- Abide by the terms and conditions and guidance of [UKRI training grants](#) and [MRC additional terms and conditions](#).
- Review and assess project bids and applications received from across the Doctoral Training Partnership (as requested from time to time - requests made will be reasonable).
- Allow and encourage your student to attend DTP cohort training and activities, and ensure that research and other training/fieldwork activities do not interfere.

- Keep in regular contact with your student throughout their studies, as per institutional guidance.
- Ensure any MRC LID student you supervise submits their thesis within 4 years FTE.
- Ensure that the PhD project remains within the MRC LID remit.
- Contact the MRC LID if the following may occur:
 - significant change in project direction
 - change to supervisory team (updates and additions)
 - change in mode of study of your student
 - introduction/loss of a CASE partner (ahead of time, so that formal agreements and processes can be followed)
 - progression issues
- Support your MRC LID student with their mandatory MRC LID placement, from planning through to maintaining contact with them throughout their placement (we recommend at least monthly), to reporting.

It is the responsibility of the primary/first/lead supervisor to share this document and other relevant MRC LID communications with the rest of the supervisory team.

Project bid

Pre-advert

- Primary supervisors should only submit a bid for (and offer) a project they have the skills and expertise to supervise, and which would be based primarily at their home institution (LSHTM or City St George's).
- DTP-funded students are expected to reside in the UK, within commuting distance of their primary institution, for the duration of their studentship. Supervisory teams are expected to plan their project with this in mind.
- All supervisory team members must have completed mandated supervisor training by the advertised bid deadline.
- The MRC LID Board has historically identified some issues with the feasibility of some bids. Supervisory teams must consider what's practical and do-able as a PhD (4 years FTE), and submit a project bid accordingly. (We will accept bids in good faith, assuming that this has been considered (and where this is uncertain, options have discussed with senior Faculty/Institute RD staff).)
- Following submission of your project you may be asked follow-up questions from the MRC LID Board ahead of the final decisions. Please respond promptly, as these will likely require a quick turnaround.
- You will be asked to provide a recording for your project, if it is selected. (You may wish to prepare this in advance. Last year's projects may provide some examples; the list is still available via the [Projects page](#).)

Recruitment and selection of students

Projects advertised

- It is the role of the supervisory team to demystify the Higher Education application process and vocabulary for applicants, and to support their application in a way that is equitable.
- Where a project is advertised, please support applicants who contact you to decide whether your project is a suitable match; answer questions; and, where applicable, offer at least one meeting and read-through of their draft project proposal. MRC LID does not expect supervisory teams to provide each applicant with the same allocation of time or the same support and guidance. Instead, please consider each applicant's background and experiences, and provide them with commensurate support. (For example, it is likely that a team would need to provide less time and support to a someone employed in their lab, who has some knowledge of the project and institution, than someone who is trying to navigate the UK postgraduate system for the first time.) Please also be aware that suitable, equitable pre-application support may require different actions, as

suitable when each applicant is assessed on a person-by-person basis. Your support should help the applicant with their journey towards whatever is next, even if they are not suitable for your project and/or this DTP scheme, or they are not ready for RD study (yet). So, you may agree to review one applicant's draft proposal and meet with them. In another case, you may review an applicant's initial email documents and just respond with appropriate feedback (e.g. why your project is not suitable for them (or not suitable yet); what they could/should do to make themselves a more competitive candidate for such an in-demand programme; or provide a single piece of advice on their next step; or just share a little of your institutional/HEI cultural knowledge and perspective to empower them to make their next move, even if it isn't through the MRC LID scheme). Actions taken should reflect the DTP's EDI focus and training, and meet legal requirements as a minimum.

- Supervisors are expected to take the time to meet with each applicant who meets the eligibility criteria for their project and shows potential for RD study. **MRC LID may choose to exclude applicants who have not met with their proposed supervisory team at the Board review stage.** Therefore, please do not ignore their requests to meet.

Application review & feedback

After the application deadline, applications received from prospective applicants will be checked for information provided. Applications will then be sent out electronically to supervisory teams for individual application scoring (using the MRC LID rubric provided) and feedback. Your scores and feedback will be passed to the MRC LID Board. Applications will then go through a triage process, and - where identified for progression - separately be scored independently by two MRC LID associate board and/or board members. All scores will be collated and the board will meet to review the applications and decide on the interview shortlist.

If project supervisors are not going to be available, or do not have internet access to review and assess applications over the period set out in the timetable, they should nominate a colleague to cover this, and should advise the MRC LID— via mrclid@lshtm.ac.uk - of this in advance, particularly as the turnaround times are tight.

Supporting applicants prepare for interview

MRC LID will provide shortlisted candidates a link to our [Interview information, including a 'Hints & Tips' document](#) at the time they are invited for interview. Supervisory teams are asked to provide interview support and guidance (including a mock interview, if possible) to those who are shortlisted under their project. As (There is no limit/ratio-based selection linked to any specific project, theme, or DTP partner institution. Selection at this stage is solely based on the applicant. Therefore, it is possible that some teams will have multiple candidates selected for interview.)

Student registration & support (for successful studentship award holders)

(Where the MRC LID board has made a studentship award to an applicant who selected your project as their first choice.) MRC LID expects that all supervisors associated with the project will meet the requirements and responsibilities set out below.

Supervisors are required to meet their institution's regulations and policies regarding student supervision, including

- Maintaining a supervisory team that meets institutional training and composition requirements, and ensuring that the student has access to at least one suitable supervisory team member from the student's primary institution available for the duration of the award.
- Ensuring timely completion of the PhD (our expectation is that the thesis will be submitted before or by the end of funding date).
- Developing a flexible and suitable programme of supervisory meetings in response to student needs.

- Formalising the expectations of both staff and students from the beginning of the studentship, usually in a learning agreement, and keeping agreed written records of supervisory meetings and actions.
- Overseeing the analysis of a student's development needs, ensuring that the studentship-holder's training needs are assessed and accommodated.

These responsibilities are taken very seriously by the institutions and failure to meet them could result in supervisors being ineligible for any further studentship funding from this or any other DTP within their institution.

Supervisory teams are expected to meet with their MRC LID funded student as soon as possible following registration to establish a good relationship from the beginning. Discussions should include

- Student-Supervisor expectations (e.g., the checklist used by LSHTM [Adapted from Kiley & Cadman (1997), adapted from Moses 1985 and Brown & Atkins (1988). Effective Teaching in Higher Education]).
- Planning training opportunities (and any sign up for Term 1 modules).
- Budget of MRC LID allowances and other costs (the first of many over the duration of the award as supervisors support the student to understand their role in managing research costs, including monitoring a budget, following standard expenditure procedures, and keeping on top of quarterly reporting to the DTP).

Supervisors agree to support all costs of the PhD project over and above the MRC notional standard annual allowance (which is a contribution to training and the student's research and which may be claimed via the DTP). MRC LID would expect that all costs covered for a non-DTP student would also be covered for a DTP student - i.e., not claimed from the scheme.

Over the duration of an award, any changes to the project and/or supervisory team after it has been accepted by MRC LID (as part of the project bid process) must be approved by the MRC DTP Board. (Please contact MRC LID admin in the first instance.)

All MRC LID funded students will join a rolling cohort of MRC-funded research degree students. Each student is expected to engage fully with the DTP's training, activities and administration and to make the most of the opportunities and activities the additional funding provides. And their supervisors are required to support these elements of the award (for example, by encouraging students to attend MRC training days, events and retreats; supporting the student's exploration of and application for a 3-month FTE placement; supporting the student's annual training plan review, together with their MRC LID board mentor; supporting additional student-led skills training, with the MRC core skills and the student's future career prospects in mind).

Supervisors of MRC LID students must support their students in engaging with MRC/UKRI and MRC LID as an important element of their transferable and scientific skills training. This will include

- Maintaining contact with, and [sharing outcomes, success stories, and news items](#) with MRC LID (via the MRC LID mailbox), at least annually but may be whenever good news can be shared.
- Providing updates and outcomes information on project and status whenever necessary, including annual UKRI systems requests (previously via researchfish) and for MRC LID annual reports.
- Encouraging and supporting student-led additional training where this fits within the DTP's intentions and is suitable (keeping in mind the MRC core skills and the student's future career prospects; within available funds and within the timeframe of a standard PhD so that these do not come at the expense of the research project).
- Updating Je-S and its successor (the UKRI Funding System), whenever prompted (and reviewing it at least once a year).

- Providing information for any ad hoc requests from the DTP admin team and/or MRC (previous examples include MRC survey).

Each member of a supervisory team whose project recruits a student to the scheme will automatically become a member of the MRC LID Associate Board for the duration of the studentship funding award. The rationale for this is that MRC LID supervisors have an understanding of the general DTP scheme and of the MRC LID specifically, including our specific aims, themes, and skills training. Associate Board members will be called on from time to time to assist the board, for example to help with recruitment scoring, or to provide subject-specific/specialist knowledge, or to provide an additional opinion in a specific case or discipline. The MRC LID Board expects all Associate Board members to fully support these requests.

6. Post-bid information

The details you provide on the project bid form will be used to check the suitability of your proposed project, your supervisory experience, and your capacity to effectively supervise a student over the next 4 years FTE.

After your bid has been submitted it will be passed to colleagues in the Doctoral College and School of Health & Medical Sciences - SHMS (where the Primary Supervisor is based at City St George's, University of London) or the Research Degree Manager and a Faculty Research Degree Director from your Faculty (where the Primary Supervisor is based at LSHTM) for institutional support and approval before MRC LID will review it.

Questions the DTP Management Board will consider when assessing this project bid:

- Has every member of the supervisory team undertaken mandatory training for this programme (MRC LID overview; MRC LID mandated EDI training; institutional RD supervisor training)?
- Do the supervisor and associate/co-supervisor/s meet the eligibility (and composition) requirements to supervise PhD students?
 - LSHTM [Doctoral College Information for Supervisors](#) (see RD Handbook)
 - City St George's, University of London [Doctoral Degree Supervisors Policy](#)
- Do all supervisors currently supervise fewer students than the expected maximum?
- Is there sufficient funding in place (external to the Studentship allowances) to support a student's research project?
- Does the research project fall within the scientific remit of the DTP (Global Health; Health Data Science; Translational & Implementation Research; Infectious Disease)?
- Does the project offer training in the relevant key skills (Quantitative Skills, Interdisciplinary Skills, Whole Organism Physiology)?
- Does the project look feasible and productive within the time constraints of a PhD (based on the scientific description provided)?
- Does the project offer the potential for high quality PhD training?
- Is the project clear, well-thought through and focussed?
- Does the bid information to be advertised provide students with opportunity to expand and develop their project proposal suitably?

The decision of the DTP Management Board is final and non-negotiable.

7. MRC LID Recruitment Timetable

By Mon 1 Sep 2025	Project bid call email sent Indication of training requirements deadline
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23:59 BST on Tues 30 Sep 2025	Deadline for submission of project bids from supervisory teams
By Mon 27 Oct 2025 at the latest	MRC LID outcomes shared with all project bid teams
Mon 3 Nov 2025 at the latest	Supervisory teams share recording link for advert
Wed 5 Nov 2025 at the latest	2026-27 MRC LID Studentships advertised to prospective students
23:59 GMT on Wed 14 Jan 2026	Deadline for studentship applications from prospective students
By Mon 26 Jan 2026 at the latest	MRC LID to pass prospective students' applications on to supervisors
10:00 GMT on Tues 10 February 2026	Deadline for supervisors to return review rankings & feedback on applications for their project/s
W/beg Mon 16 Mar 2026	Shortlisted applicants invited for interview. All other applicants notified of outcome (unsuccessful or reserve).
After Easter bank holiday weekend	Interviews
W/beg Mon 13 Apr 2026	Interviewees notified of outcome as soon as possible following interviews and by the end of this week at the latest.

8. 2026-27 MRC LID Studentships Project Bid Form

[2026-27 MRC LID Project Bid Form](#)

Supplementary documents providing an overview of the online form:

- [2026-27 MRC LID Project Bid Form initial user view](#) (PDF)
- [2026-27 MRC LID Project Bid Form showing all response options](#) (buttons; drop-down menus etc and branching) (PDF)