MRC LID Studentships: UKRI-funded studentship update (20 August 2025)

News

UKRI is updating their Training Grant Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) with effect from 1 October 2025. As a student funded through a UKRI-funded studentship grant - MRC LID - the updated T&Cs apply to you.

For full details of the T&Cs please see:
- Current (until 30 Sep 2025)

https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/
- New (from 1 Oct 2025 onwards):

https://www.ukri.org/publications/policy-statement-review-of-the-training-grant-conditions/

(These will be moved to the T&Cs for training funding page on 1 Oct 2025 when they are in place.)

It is likely that you will also receive some notification about the changes directly from UKRI over the coming months.

What changes? How does this affect you?

A fair number of rules and quite a bit administration at the DTP will remain the same. But the changes that have been made are important. Changes and key institutional and DTP information to highlight are outlined below.

- Access to careers services
- Acknowledgement of funding
- Bullying, harassment and victimisation, and safeguarding

- [Change of mode of study](#)
- [Complaints](#)
- [EDI awareness](#)
    - Protected characteristics
    - Pregnancy and maternity
    - Disability and reasonable adjustments
- [Employment](#)
- [Je-S replacement](#)
- [Leave](#)
    - Leave types
        - Annual leave
        - Family leave
        - Medical leave
        - Additional leave
    - Reporting leave
    - Phased returns
- [Location](#)
- [Your wellbeing](#)
- [UKRI Statement of expectations](#)

Access to Careers Services

- City St George's

https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/career-development/further-education-guidance

https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/career-development

- LSHTM

All research degree students have access to Careers Services, discussions, workshops and fairs at LSHTM from their initial registration onwards
https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student-doctoral-college/SitePages/Doctoral-College-careers.aspx

https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student/SitePages/Careers-Service.aspx

Vitae
https://vitae.ac.uk/
https://vitae.ac.uk/resource/careers-in-research/what-do-researchers-do/

Acknowledgement of funding

UKRI-funded students are expected to abide by UKRI requirements and guidance regarding publications and acknowledgement of support for all aspects of their studentship, including thesis, research publications and research data.

UKRI policy on Open Access:
https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/making-your-research-article-open-access/.

Publications and other forms of media communication, including media appearances, press releases and conferences, must acknowledge the support received from UKRI, quoting the Training Grant reference number if appropriate. Please see details on how to acknowledge funding at:
https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/acknowledging-your-funding/#contents-list

Please contact the MRC LID Manager or refer to the MRC LID Handbook for your grant reference.

All media engagement must follow the requirements and procedures of your primary institution and with approval from your supervisor and any project collaborators.

Bullying, harassment and victimisation; Safeguarding

Policies and institutional information

- City St George's, University of London

https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/preventing-misconduct-harassment-and-sexual-misconduct

Legacy St George's Dignity at Study
https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/dignity-at-study

Student Support
https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/student-support-services/student-concerns-and-rights/bullying-and-harassment

- LSHTM

https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/governance/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/harassment

Information for students, including support, LSHTM's policies, and reporting options:
https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/governance/equity-diversity-and-inclusion/harassment/support-for-students

Safeguarding and Security Screening Policy & Safeguarding Framework
https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/organisation/regulatory-documents/s

- UKRI

UKRI's Preventing Harm (Safeguarding) in Research and Innovation policy
https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/preventing-harm-in-research/

UKRI bullying and harassment web pages
https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/supporting-healthy-research-and-innovation-culture/bullying-and-harassment/

Changes of mode of study

It is now possible to change mode (between FT and PT or vice versa) more than once over duration of a UKRI studentship. This flexibility may be useful for students with caring responsibilities or a fluctuating health condition. It may also support someone who is offered a temporary part-time employment contract (for example, for consultancy work).

As before, changes will affect studentship funding payments and allowances. (Finance and leave allowances will be pro-rated to match your registered mode of study.)

Any change would need to follow standard RD change request and approval procedures at your primary institution. Requests will only be approved where they are considered reasonable. From UKRI's perspective, changing to part-time mode of study/registration to push back the submission deadline and/or where the student intends to continue studying at the same pace are not 'reasonable'.

A change of mode of study for health reasons should only be requested once all appropriate interventions and adjustments have been explored with you, and you have confirmed that a change of mode of study is a suitable option and your preference.

Complaints

In the first instance, students' complaints and/or reporting of bullying and/or harassment, or whistleblowing, should be reported and addressed via your primary institution's relevant standard procedure.

Students should also make the MRC LID Board aware of these by contacting the MRC LID Manager or the MRC LID Chairs.

If you wish to complain about the DTP, you can do so by contacting the MRC LID Manager directly. (Or where complaints are about the MRC LID Manager you can contact the Deputy Head of Registry for Admissions and Scholarships at LSHTM.) If the MRC LID does not address your complaint sufficiently, you can escalate your complaint by using your primary institution's complaints procedure.

- City St George's, University of London
https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/student-support-services/student-concerns-and-rights/concerns-and-complaints

- LSHTM Student Complaints Procedure
https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/node/394346

(If you are employed by the institution, and complaining in your employee capacity, rather than as a student, please make sure that you use the staff complaint policy and procedure – as set out on the institution website - instead of the student ones.)

If your primary institution does not address your complaint appropriately, you may wish to escalate it to the independent complaints ombudsman in the UK. The links below will provide suitable guidance and steps for this.
- Office for Students
https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/understanding-students/complaints/complaints-about-a-university-or-college/
- Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education
https://www.oiahe.org.uk/students/can-you-complain-to-us/
The ombudsman is free to students.

EDI awareness (law and institutional training and support)
UKRI-funded students are expected to undertake EDI training offered to RD students.

Protected characteristics
Please ensure that you are aware of protected characteristics in UK law (Equality Act 2010) and their legal meaning, and your rights: https://www.gov.uk/discrimination-your-rights

Pregnancy and maternity
Pregnancy and Maternity is covered as one of the nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. This means students and applicants who are currently pregnant or have given birth within the last 26 weeks are protected against any form of discrimination covered by the Act. Also, students who are breastfeeding are explicitly protected from discriminatory treatment in education and service provision.

There are non-work provisions for pregnancy and maternity set out in law. Non-work provisions apply in education settings. Further information is available through the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS): https://www.equalityadvisoryservice.com/app/advice-and-support (see Maternity section)

Risk assessments must be completed to ensure a safe working environment for all individuals associated with any research activity funded by UKRI – both on and off-site. UKRI states that individual risk assessments must be completed for a student who has informed the DTP or a third party (e.g., internship host) that they are
(i)   pregnant
(ii)   (ii) breastfeeding or
(iii)   (iii) have given birth in the last 6 months.
This applies to all students in all locations, not just those undertaking wet lab projects. Please liaise with your supervisor (and third-party host, if applicable) for support.

- City St George's, University of London
https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/health-and-safety-policy

- LSHTM
https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-occupational-health-and-safety/SitePages/New-and-expectant-mothers.aspx

Disability and reasonable adjustments
Your education provider (whether LSHTM, City St George's, or a third
Party supporting part of your RD study) is legally required to provide reasonable
adjustments to students with a disability under UK law.

Needs assessments are available via your primary institution from a student's initial
offer of admission and throughout their studies. For discussion and support please
contact the Student Support team at your primary institution.

- City St George's, University of London
https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/student-support-services/health-and-wellbeing

- LSHTM
https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student-support-services

LSHTM (as the DTP grant holder) can use the UKRI Disabled Students' Allowance
Framework to reclaim additional costs required to support students where these are
allowed. Please let the Student Support team at your primary institution know, and
ask them to contact the MRC LID Manager (so that we can do the background admin
to support this for you).
https://www.ukri.org/publications/disabled-students-allowance-dsa-framework/

Reasonable adjustments delays
A funded extension may be possible where a student may be unable to study as a
result of delays to putting in place reasonable adjustments. In this situation, you
should contact the MRC LID Manager as soon as possible to discuss your
circumstances and options.

Accumulated time off
Additional support may be possible where a chronic condition has led to a student
experiencing considerable accumulated time off. In the first instance, we will be
using the new leave reporting system (see below) to track and support students.
Please also feel free to discuss any potential UKRI-related funding impact and
support with the MRC LID Manager.

Periods off-site (e.g. fieldwork or placement)
There is an expectation that the adjustments within an LSA would apply across a
student's research degree. Therefore, reasonable adjustments must also be
considered, and addressed, for periods of your studentship award when you will not
be based at your primary institution (e.g., placement, fieldwork, iCASE study at your
non-academic host institution). Discussions about workplace adjustments with your
proposed host/provider must be started at the earliest opportunity. Please highlight

this to the Student Support team at your primary institution, and notify them of your plans so that they can provide support and guidance with regards to

    (a) considering and assessing your needs in that particular study/work context and setting;

    (b) initial conversations with the proposed host/provider (if you aren't sure of what you might need or confident of what you could ask for, or generally just want support navigating that conversation), and

    (c) follow up discussions and requests, and ensuring that adjustments can be put in place by the host organisation.

Please bear in mind that you will need to give the Student Support team and your proposed host a reasonable period of time to do this. If adjustments are needed but not possible (e.g., in an international context that can't be enforced by UK law) there would need to be a follow-up conversation with you and your supervisor to determine mitigations or consider whether an alternative option (e.g., another placement) would be more appropriate.

Employment

Awardees of a full-time UKRI-funded studentship are expected to consider their research studies as full-time employment. The funding should not be held alongside other full-time employment.

UKRI allows some limited employment, such as teaching and demonstrating work, where

    (a) this is compatible with your studies, and

    (b) approved by the supervisor team, and

    (c) no more than six hours per week.

The total time spent on employment must not interfere with your doctoral research - in fact, it should be very limited in time (to ensure it can be sustained and still allow for research degree progression and completion within the funding and institutional requirements).

If you're an international student you may need to check your visa conditions about what is permissible.

Students with part-time funding should note that employment should only be undertaken outside of your study commitments (not on the 2.5 days/week that should be set aside for your research degree).

Employment is not a requirement of UKRI studentship funding. Any requests for you to undertake regular contract-type work are separate from your studentship. Students employed by your primary institution (or elsewhere) – for example, as casual staff - must have a separate, formalised HR contract and must be paid fair renumeration (separately to, and over and above, the stipend rate and outside of the DTP). This is for the student/employee's protection.

Income from work may be taxable. Please check for potential tax implications.

Any issues and complaints related to employment must be raised and addressed through the employer's HR processes. This includes any concerns and issues around

- bullying
- discrimination
- harassment
- victimisation
- whistleblowing.

Je-S replacement

Je-S is being replaced by the UKRI Funding Service - Studentship records. UKRI plans for the new system to be in place, and all Je-S records migrated over by October 2025.

When you next update your record, following discussion with your supervisors and – where applicable – with any external organisations you are working with for your research, please note this UKRI advice for completing your research project summary (abstract):

'*It is also helpful to remind students and staff members that students' names and summaries of their research projects are made available to the public, for example through UKRI's Gateway to Research. They should use of plain English to support accessibility. Project titles and summaries should be short, factual and easy to understand. They should avoid jargon and be written in the knowledge they are publicly accessible and searchable.*' (UKRI Training Grant T&Cs Guidance document)

Leave

UKRI is updating their leave allowances. For full details please see the UKRI Training Grant T&Cs document along with your primary institution's RD regulations.

- UKRI Training Grant Terms & Conditions

https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/

- City St George's, University of London

https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/student-policies-and-regulations#accordion573807-header573844

https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/doctoral-researcher-policies

- LSHTM links to Research Degree Handbook and Research Degree Regulations:

https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student-doctoral-college/SitePages/Key-information-for-Research-Degree-Students.aspx

Leave type	Examples of this type of leave/includes	Funded?	Extension to end of funding date?
Annual leave	• RD annual leave allowance, including bank holidays • Additional institutions from your primary institution e.g. Director's Days or Wellbeing Days or Institution closure • Time off in lieu (TOIL) where this is necessary and approved by supervisor (e.g., keeping things alive in the lab during public holidays)	Yes, reasonable paid holidays is already built into a standard RD programme and into your studentship award. No additional funding is available.	No
Family leave	• Maternity • Partner or paternity • Adoption • Neonatal care	See UKRI T&Cs for details	Yes / Potentially (within conditions)
Medical leave	• Sick leave • Pregnancy-related illness • Antenatal appointments (where medically advised and not manageable through flexible study) • Fertility treatment (where medically advised) • Disability-related illness (including chronic illness) • Disability-related appointments, for example: diagnosis, therapy or treatment • Gender reassignment (where medically advised)	See UKRI T&Cs for details	Yes (within conditions)
Additional leave	• Special leave (including bereavement and pregnancy loss) and emergency situations such as serious illness	See UKRI T&Cs for details	Yes (within conditions)

		or injury of a student's dependant or situations at home, such as flooding • Baby loss • Carers leave • Additional disability leave associated with delayed adjustments • Health and safety leave • Public duties (e.g. extended jury service)		

Annual leave

It is important that all RD students are aware of their leave allowances, and take annual leave for their wellbeing and productivity.

- City St George's, University of London

See Roles and Responsibilities of Research Students and Supervisors Guidance document from landing page
https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/doctoral-researcher-policies

Closure dates are published as part of the annual calendar dates
https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/academic-resources/exams-and-assessments/term-dates

- LSHTM

LSHTM Research Degrees Handbook sets out the annual leave allowance for all RD students, including UK bank (public) holidays
https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student-doctoral-college/SitePages/Key-information-for-Research-Degree-Students.aspx

Additional LSHTM Director's or Wellbeing Days (including closure between Christmas and New Year) are included on the annual calendar dates
https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/term-and-holiday-dates

Other leave

Other leave may be granted on a case-by-case basis, with reference to your primary institution's regulations and allowances. Please contact the MRC LID Manager to discuss this.

Reporting of leave and appointments

From the start of the 2025-26 academic year, we will be required to keep a record of your leave. Please help us to do this by using our self-certifying system to record all of your leave. Further information about this system, and details on how to access it, will be sent out by email from MRC LID after 2025-26 registration (likely in early October).

This self-certifying system is not intended to replace the current Interruption of Studies scheme – which must still be followed as the formal mechanism for requests. Instead, it is expected to augment it by allowing other types of leave to be recorded (separately and in addition to IoS leave requests).

The information shared will be accessed by a small group of specified staff in Registry and IT only. It will be kept confidential and used only for the specific requirements of, and to provide support through, your funding.

Why?
- Reporting is an opportunity to record all of your leave and absences*, so that it is in a single storage space for the remainder of your research degree.
- The MRC LID Manager team will check that you are paid appropriately for all leave reported (within the terms of your studentship funding).
- It can be used by MRC LID to consider potential additional support (for example, a review of accumulated leave or regular medical support* may lead to questions about any potential for impact on your overall research degree and whether there would be scope for a period of leave or an extension within the current regulations at your primary institution).
- It will ensure that your primary institution (and LSHTM as the DTP grant holder) is not engaging in discrimination, even where this may be unexpected and unintended.
- UKRI requires all institutions with studentship funding to have leave reporting in place.

* See UKRI guidance on recording medical appointments and support:
We recognise that many of us will occasionally need GP, antenatal or other medical appointments, and will arrange our work or study around them. These normal occurrences are unlikely to put a student at any substantial disadvantage. In many cases the student is likely to be able to judge whether they need leave for their appointment. However, if the student starts to require more regular medical support then leave or an extension might be required to mitigate the disadvantage. Provider staff may need to be mindful that it could be risky to discourage recording of appointments if records are required by the provider to mitigate the risk of discrimination or to ensure the student is treated fairly.

On the whole, extensions should not be provided for sick leave for colds, stomach bugs or other illnesses that we might all normally expect to experience from time to time, and research projects and teaching should be planned on the assumption that we are all likely to require some small amount of medical leave, just as they should be planned such that students can use annual leave.

Phased return to study
Students returning after a period of family, medical or additional leave may request a phased return. Please discuss this with the MRC LID Manager.

Location
As you know, UKRI-funded students are expected to be resident in the UK, and within a commutable distance of their primary institution, for the duration of their studentship (outside of limited periods of fieldwork or training and excluding pre-approved holiday/leave).

If you are in receipt of a stipend whilst you are outside of the UK – for example, for periods of fieldwork or placement – it is your responsibility to consider and meet local tax law requirements.

Your wellbeing
- City St George's, University of London

https://www.citystgeorges.ac.uk/prospective-students/student-life/student-wellbeing

https://studenthub.citystgeorges.ac.uk/career-development/further-education-guidance

- LSHTM

https://lshtm.sharepoint.com/sites/student-doctoral-college/SitePages/Wellbeing-and-support.aspx

UKRI Statement of Expectations
https://www.ukri.org/publications/statement-of-expectations-for-doctoral-training/