MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Partnership

Studentship Handbook

Last updated: 30 September 2025 (to take account of upcoming changes to UKRI T&Cs for training grants)

This document provides further information for students funded on an MRC LID Studentship. It should be read in conjunction with the current editions of

- City St George's [Postgraduate Research Degree Regulations and Policies](#), [Doctoral College information](#) and any other Research Degrees Student Handbook, and applicable policies, regulations and terms and conditions

and

- LSHTM [Regulations, policies and procedures](#) and the [Research Degrees Student Handbook](#) (on the intranet - available through your LSHTM student login).

Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) are expected to manage grant funding, and meet grant expectations and requirements, as set out by UKRI:

- [UKRI Terms & Conditions for training funding](#)
- [MRC Funding: Additional Terms & Conditions](#)

We would encourage UKRI-funded students to read through these UKRI & MRC Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) and associated guidance for training grants, as these look at many aspects of your award and training from the funder's perspective. Any additional guidance and funding provided by UKRI will also impact DTP administration and decision-making.

CONTENTS

4.14 Reporting Requirements (UKRI Funding Service (previously Je-S) & Gateway to Research)
4.15 Research ethics and integrity
4.16 Satisfactory Academic Progress
4.17 Trusted research

Student Involvement
5.1 Student Representation
5.2 MRC Cohort
5.3 Expectations

Other Useful Information
6.1 MRC LID Website
6.2 Communications
6.3 Key Contacts
6.4 Acronyms used

1. About the DTP (Doctoral Training Partnership)

The MRC London Intercollegiate DTP (MRC LID) is a partnership between City St George's, University of London (CSG) and London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The funding for these studentships is provided by the MRC (Medical Research Council) and the partnership institutions (CSG and LSHTM).

1.1 Structure

MRC LID Board
The MRC LID board comprises academic and administrative staff from both institutions.

MRC LID Student Representatives from each institution are invited to contribute to and provide feedback for the Board.

Full details of MRC LID Board membership is on the MRC LID website.

Student Representatives
At any one time there is least one MRC LID student rep from each institution.

DTP Administrative Support Contacts
Lara Crawford (LSHTM) and Derilyn Frusher (CSG).

1.2 Awards
Studentships are offered on either of the following routes:
– +4 years (MPhil/PhD, with a duration of 4 years FTE), or
– 1+4 (Masters and MPhil/PhD, with a duration of 5 years FTE).

Students on the 1+4 route are required to
  (a) apply for the +4 (research degree) part of their studies about 6-9 months prior to the start of research studies date (e.g. a research degree admissions application should be submitted in January to March for entry in September), and
  (b) pass their Master's programme order to progress to their research degree studies with MRC LID funding.

1.3 Themes
All of the research training projects funded by MRC LID will address one or more of the MRC's skill priorities and lie within MRC LID's research themes.

2. MRC DTP Programme

The purpose of the programme is to provide a cross-disciplinary grounding which incorporates MRC priorities to all students with MRC LID funding. To do this we require award recipients to

- take taught classes that will expand their education beyond their specific PhD research project,
- participate actively in institution centres and groups, and
- complete a 3-month FTE placement in another organisation, business, institution or laboratory.

It is expected that students will be actively involved in the centres/groups their research covers (including participation in monthly seminars) at both institutions. In participating students will benefit from exposure to multi-disciplinary, themed, research networks, formal and informal meetings, seminars and networking opportunities.

MRC LID requires all students, whatever their discipline, to enhance their quantitative skills and to embrace multidisciplinary learning.

We encourage you to make the most of collaborations and net-working opportunities made available through both institutions.

2.1 Training
Each MRC LID student should meet with their supervisors and their MRC LID mentor (a member of the DTP board) for an initial training needs assessment and the creation of a comprehensive training plan. The training plan should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis, with your supervisors and your DTP mentor. This is to ensure that you get the most from your MRC funding and its enhanced training opportunities.

We encourage all students to take up as many specific and generic training opportunities (offered by both institutions) as possible. Course and module selection should be made in consultation with your supervisors, as part of your comprehensive training plan.

Consideration should be given for balancing the time commitment of attending the training courses with time spent directly on research. Time commitments will vary considerably between courses depending on the duration of the courses and the type of enrolment.

2.1.1 Modules (not generic transferable skills)
Students on MRC LID DTP1 studentships were expected to undertake 4 MSc taught course modules (available at either institution) to widen and deepen their knowledge and understanding of their field. Students on MRC LID DTP2 studentships are not required to undertake modules. However, we would encourage you to consider where modules would be useful for training and development purposes and to use the opportunities you may have as research degree students to undertake these.

This may include modules outside of your primary research field in order to build a rounder experience, in line with the strategic aims of the MRC LID programme. Module enrolment may be full (attending all taught sessions, submitting coursework, and sitting exams) or partial (attending some sessions, no coursework or exams) depending on your training

needs, as agreed with your primary supervisor and also with permission from the relevant MSc Programme Directors.

The cost of up to 4 modules per year at LSHTM is included in your registration as an MPhil/PhD student. If required, any payment for other/additional modules must come out of research support funding (historically called RTSG funds).

2.1.2 Short Courses

Short courses and CPD courses available at either/both institutions or externally. Students should consider these courses only where they provide suitable/required training and equivalent training is not available through one of the 'free' modules at either institution.

Any short course fees will need to be paid out of your research support funding (RTSG) budget. Where a research support funding (RTSG) budget is fully allocated it may be possible to request funds from Flexible Funding for this training. (See Financial Support section for further details.) Any arrangements must be requested and confirmed in advance of any booking.

MRC LID funds should not be used to fund external training where very similar training is provided by CSG or LSHTM, unless there are very specific reasons and/or important additional benefits to the external training, such as establishing inter-institutional research collaborations. In these situations, permission must be sought from the DTP prior to any expenditure being incurred.

2.1.3 Generic & Cohort Training

In addition to the generic transferable training offered at each institution, which students should take advantage of, there will also be specific training offered by MRC LID. This will be communicated to the MRC Cohort as it is planned.

Full cohort training days are usually planned for 2-3 times a year (usually, in Oct/Nov and May/Jun and occasionally at other times). Training planned for these days may include generic transferable skills training, or quantitative skills training and interdisciplinary training as these are core MRC skills, or linked cohort building activities. MRC LID cohort training days are mandatory: all MRC LID funded students are expected to attend.

MRC LID may also offer optional training on an ad hoc basis – usually when students request specific skills development training with an external facilitator. Consequently, it is optional. Students who sign up for any optional training sessions are expected to attend unless they have sent their apologies well in advance.

MRC LID expectations for cohort training days for MRC LID funded students

- MRC LID training days are mandatory for all funded students.
- The DTP expects you to attend cohort training days unless you are on Interruption of Studies (IoS), placement, or fieldwork.
- If you are unable to attend a cohort training day because it will be over dates when you are on placement or undertaking fieldwork (or other equivalent) you should send an email apology as soon as you realise that you cannot attend the cohort training because these commitments clash.
- Responding to an invitation and/or providing updates as soon as it is practicable to do so shows workplace professionalism and consideration for colleagues and the DTP.

- If you are invited to other meetings (e.g., meeting with supervisors; group away days) you are expected to decline these and attend the MRC LID event. (As a funded student your obligation is to the DTP.)
- If you have teaching/work you should arrange leave or an alternative person to cover your slot so that you can attend MRC LID cohort training.
- If you cannot attend at short notice (e.g., as a result of illness or last-minute carer responsibilities) you should email the MRC LID mailbox as soon as possible (and before the day/session starts).
- If you are running late on the day of training, you should email the MRC LID mailbox or let the cohort know via the WhatsApp group so that the trainer/facilitator can be made aware.
- Training and workshops have been selected by the MRC LID Board to develop and stretch you, and to provide you with skills and experience, and to prepare you as best as possible for your research studies and a postdoctoral work environment. Choosing not to attend because you think the training is not for you, or you don't like the topic or means of delivery, or you don't want to participate in group role play etc is not acceptable.
- There are costs involved in cohort training days. These include time and work put into the planning and administration by the DTP and the workshop facilitators, and other resource costs e.g., catering. The later we receive a 'decline' response, the more likely that we will have wasted limited DTP funds unnecessarily.
- A non-response and/or non-attendance can have implications for planned group work, which may affect fellow cohort members who are attending.

2.1.4 Other Training

All MRC LID students are eligible to attend Bloomsbury Postgraduate Skills Network (BPSN) courses, because they are registered as research students at LSHTM. If asked for a Student ID/Code/Number please use your LSHTM Student Number (this includes students primarily based at CSG, who will also have an LSHTM Student Number).

Students may also take advantage of specialist training outside of the two institutions (CSG and LSHTM). Costs incurred should be paid for through the student's research support funding (RTSG) and/or flexible funding allowance.

MRC LID encourages students to undertake relevant institutional visits and placements.

2.2 Conference Attendance

We envisage MRC LID students attending *up to* three conferences (two domestic and one international) over the duration of their award. Ideally, these should be where you are presenting, or there are other very specific reasons for attending.

Some funding is available for students to attend conferences. The MRC allocates an annual travel/conference allowance of up to GBP 300.00 (FTE) to each student. Additionally, your primary institution may have travel allowances which are available to all students. For any additional costs please see the research support funding (RTSG) and flexible funding sections under 'Other Costs' (3.3 below).

2.3 Professional Placement

Students with MRC LID awards are required to undertake a 3-month placement outside of City St George's and LSHTM. These attachments provide students with experience of the wider research environment (or outside of it), demonstrate how research feeds into the development of products or policy, facilitate their career development, and give access to

expertise and expand the student's network of contacts beyond their immediate research group.

The MRC LID board does not wish to be too prescriptive regarding placements, given the wide and varied nature of research/skills MRC LID studentships cover, and each student's potential interests and opportunities. The placement is intended to be student-led, which is why there is limited information here. It has been included in the studentship programme because we believe that it is a valuable opportunity for you to gain skills, build professional networks, and explore future career opportunities. (As a researcher, you will gain many transferable skills and it is important to put these into context. Your placement may be a good opportunity for you to see first-hand how a particular employment sector functions and what skills you have or would need to develop, as a future employee, to boost your employability and to thrive in such an environment.)

To broaden a student's perspective of the field, the placement should be in a different research discipline and must not be directly linked to the focus of the student's PhD project. Where possible, students should consider a placement outside of an academic research environment.

Whilst this should be student-led, the details of the placement should be organised and agreed with the supervisory team.

The timing of the placement is flexible and should be selected by each student and their supervisors to best accommodate the research project timetable. While students should not undertake the placement before upgrading it is advisable to discuss options early on with supervisors to allow ample time to organise the placement and to anticipate costs in the budget (see Financial Support section). Also, students should consider the additional time pressures in their final year. Placements must have been completed before a student's official end-of-funding date, unless there are extraordinary circumstances to prevent this (which must be discussed with the MRC LID as part of a request for an exception).

Here are some key points to keep in mind:
- The duration should be of about 3 months FTE.
- The placement should not be directly linked to your research (and should be an opportunity to do something completely different, but possibly complementary to your research).
- The placement should not be at same institution you are based at (and preferably outside of the DTP partnership altogether).
- The placement should be set up with the MRC's funding supplement and skills priorities in mind.
- The placement must be at a level suitable for a PhD student.
- Placement outputs cannot be included in your thesis in any form.

You should start to discuss and plan your MRC placement with your supervisors (and MRC LID Board Mentor) within the first 6-12 months of your research degree, having thought about
- whether any ideas you have come across and/or potential contacts you have made via the centres and groups (which you should take every opportunity to be part of as soon as you are registered on your studies) would be useful and/or should be explored further,
- what MRC strategic areas and skills you might wish to develop,
- when would be a good time to take a chunk of time out of your research degree,
- whether something would help your future career.

UKRI requires placement hosts to have processes in place:
- to ensure a safe environment with suitable risk management (including undertaking individual risk assessment for a student who may need it).
- to foster appropriate safeguarding.
- to support reasonable adjustments.
- to accommodate UKRI conditions around absences (family leave; medical leave; and/or additional leave), or extra leave or time required. (This is different from annual leave – which should be organised outside of the placement period. If this in unavoidable, a request for leave must be made and agreed by the placement host in advance of the start of the placement. It will not count towards the placement duration required by the DTP.)
- for handling and liability for issues and complaints (formal structures for reporting and investigating bullying and harassment; investigating and reporting unacceptable research conduct; whistleblowing).

As part of your planning, please make sure that your proposed placement host is compliant with these requirements.

Placement plans must be submitted to the MRC LID Board by the individual student for approval before they are finalised and any placement begins. The relevant form is available on the MRC LID Current Students page (Forms section).

Once the placement has been approved by the MRC LID, all required agreements and permissions must be arranged so that they are in place before the start date. If you have any questions about what this would entail please check with your supervisor, host and MRC LID.

All students will remain registered for their research degree study for the duration of their placement. The MRC LID stipend will be paid throughout, unless a student's placement host will pay a stipend or a contribution towards a stipend at that time. Students in this situation are expected to declare this to MRC LID, so that correct procedure is followed.

Students can apply to the MRC LID Flexible Funding for a contribution towards travel to/from their placement and/or accommodation costs to be incurred as part of the placement, unless funding is available in the individual's research support funding (RTSG) budget to cover this (in which case, the allocated research support funding should be used). Flexible funding is limited and therefore may not fully support a student whilst on their placement.

MRC LID expects that any in-house costs related directly to the placement project are met by the placement host.

3. Financial Support

Each MRC LID award has been costed following the MRC's financial details guidance, and comprises fees, stipend, research support grant, and travel and conference allowances.

3.1 Fees
Your Master's (for 1+4 awards) and MPhil/PhD tuition fees (for all award recipients) will be paid at the UKRI studentship FTE rate to the relevant institution on your behalf for the duration of your studentship award.

Fees will be pro-rated for any periods of registration shorter than a full academic year (e.g. late start date; periods of IoS).

Fees will be pro-rated for less than full-time mode of study. Part-time study is calculated at 50% of full-time.

(International students may need to make up the difference in their fees from another sponsor or personal funds. Details about this, and any institutional bursary support, will have been communicated with you at the time you were made an offer of funding.)

3.2 Stipend

MRC LID will use at the UKRI published studentship stipend rate for each year's stipend payments.

The UKRI London weighting is GBP 2,000.00/year for students based in London (registered at a London Research Organisation (RO)). This is included in the stipend amount paid out to you.

Stipends are tax-free payments for your living costs. Students who earn additional sums (e.g. from teaching and demonstrating, or external employment) should be aware that their stipend will be included in the aggregated amounts earned when assessing for income tax liability. Students should also be aware that any stipend paid during periods they are based outside of the UK may be subject to income tax in the host country (depending on the laws of that country). It is the student's responsibility to find out about and manage their tax liabilities. If you have any queries about income tax during your registration please contact the Payroll Office at your primary institution, who will be able to provide advice.

No additional payments will be made for students' National Insurance contributions. You may wish to pay contributions as 'non-employed persons'. You should seek advice first, though, as there are some implications for doing this.

Payment of your stipend will be made monthly in advance – beginning after you have registered in September. The first payment will be made after your initial enrolment. Further information about this process will be sent out in an email to new students each August/September (before the start of the academic year). All payments will be made by bank transfer, providing the relevant partner institution's Payroll team has received bank details from you.

Stipend payments are made in advance. For example, a stipend paid at the end of October is your stipend for the period 1 – 30 November. The actual payment dates differ depending on your primary institution:
- LSHTM-based students will receive their stipend on or around Friday after 24th of each month (with the intention that this is in your bank before the start of the new month; as this is variable please use 30th/31st/1st for any direct debits).
- CSG-based students will receive their stipend on or around the 27th of each month (or the nearest working day to it).

Stipends will be pro-rated for any periods of registration shorter than a full academic year (for example, later start date).

Stipends will be pro-rated for less than full-time mode of study. Part-time study is calculated at 50% of full-time.

No stipend is paid out for periods of Interruption of Studies, excepting where this is required by, and within the conditions set by, UKRI (as set out in the UKRI Training Grant Terms & Conditions e.g. family or medical 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. For example, you may be liable for income tax. Any legal responsibilities and costs must be covered by you. They cannot be claimed from the DTP or UKRI.

3.3 Other costs (including research support funding (RTSG), fieldwork, training, CPD/short courses, travel and conferences, institutional visits, and 3-month placement/internships)

3.3.1 Research support funding (historically called RTSG = Research Training and Support Grant)

A full MRC studentship includes an individual annual research support funding allowance of up to GBP 5,000.00 (FTE). This is a contribution towards consumable costs and reasonable expenses which directly support student research. *Allowable expenditure will depend on the project and context of funding.* Examples of reasonable expenses may include travel for fieldwork and/or preparatory site visits; reimbursement costs incurred for fieldwork (where these are for the individual's research degree project and outwith any overall or umbrella project costs/work which should be covered by supervisor funding); contribution towards laboratory consumables; books and other reading materials not available through the Senate House, LSHTM, or CSG libraries; suitable training, including short courses and CPD courses offered at either institution or externally. This list is not exact or exhaustive; if you have any queries about whether an expense is allowable please contact the person who is administering your research support funding (RTSG) allowance in the first instance (and MRC LID if it is still unclear).

MRC LID grant research support funding (RTSG) should not be used to cover costs that your supervisors or primary institution should provide.

If, during the year, your status changes – for example, you take an IoS – your research support funding (RTSG) will need to be retrospectively recalculated to reflect the changes. Please be aware that this may result in the research support funding (RTSG) amount available to you for the year being lower than it previously was.

Your funding is student-specific: it can only be used for your expenses.

Your MRC LID research support funding (RTSG) expenditure will be available to use from the start of your research degree.

Details on administration vary depending on your primary institution:
- If LSHTM is your primary institution, your research support funding (RTSG) is administered by your Faculty Research Degree Managers and Administrators (RDMs and RDAs). This applies for everyone except the first two cohorts of DTP2 students who are registered in ITD: their research support funding (RTSG funds) is administered by their Departmental Managers (DMs).
Please contact the administrators directly for details on how your research support funding should be accessed.
- If CSG is your primary institution, your research support funding (RTSG) is administered by the Joint Research and Enterprise Services (JRES) team at the Tooting campus. Please contact the named MRC LID JRES contact person, who will give you details on how your research support funding (RTSG) should be accessed.

You will be required to update and maintain an expenditure spreadsheet during the tenure of your award, and will be asked (by email from the MRC LID team) to update it at least

quarterly. It is essential that you take the time to note all expenditure correctly and in a timely manner so that we have a full list of expenditure for reporting and audit purposes.

MRC LID reserves the right to ask supervisors for confirmation that expenditure is in direct support of a student's research.

Your research support funding (RTSG) cannot be allocated, spent or used after your MRC LID end of funding date.

Students on a 1+4 award will not be entitled to a research support funding allowance during their Master's course year. If there are exceptional circumstances that would require you to use research support funding (RTSG) funding during this year please contact the DTP Manager by email detailing the reasons for this request and providing a budget for this. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that the MRC LID research support funding (RTSG) is different to, and in addition to, any standard research and or travel support grants/allowances provided to all research students by their primary institution.

Supervisors confirmed, when submitting projects bids to the DTP, that they had sufficient funding to cover research costs. It is not intended that your research support funding (RTSG) is used to supplement or replace supervisor support. (This is not permitted by UKRI.)

3.3.2 Travel/Conference Allowance

MRC LID will cover expenses & travel up to the maximum MRC individual, annual allowance of up to GBP 300.00 (FTE) for up to 3 conferences (two domestic and one international) over the duration of the studentship.

Where conference and travel costs exceed the annual allowance, the spend can be supplemented by your research support funding (RTSG) allowance only if/where there is an available balance and this has been agreed by your supervisor.

As with research support funding (RTSG) expenditure you will be required to update and maintain an expenditure spreadsheet quarterly during the tenure of your award. The same form is used to monitor both research support funding and travel/conference allowances.

Please note that the MRC LID travel/conference allowance is different to, and in addition to, any conference and travel allowances made available to all research students by their primary institution.
- LSHTM provides a separate (non-MRC LID) conference allowance per student through the faculties. This allowance is available to all research degree students, provided they meet certain criteria, and within certain limits. Students based at LSHTM should contact their Faculty Research Degree team for details.
- CSG has a small fund available for current students, but it is distributed on a first-come-first-served basis. Students based at CSG should contact Derilyn for further information.

Travel costs can only be booked and paid for by the DTP funds where the travel taken will be within the studentship funding dates.

Students are expected to book comprehensive travel and health insurance through their primary institution for all periods of travel. You must get your supervisor's permission to travel and to spend any DTP funds before starting any bookings/orders. You must also check institutional processes and allow plenty of time for administrative steps and approvals

(for example, for budget or for high-risk travel approval). Your insurance must be in place before you travel.

Flights and other relevant travel should be booked through institutional procurement systems wherever possible. If you are unsure of how to go about this, please contact the person who is administering your research support funding (RTSG) allowance for more details.

Please see UKRI T&Cs and guidance for further information about expectations on travel bookings etc.

3.3.3 Flexible Supplement / Additional Support

As part of the Studentship grant the MRC provides us with a flexible supplement to cover costs other than fees, stipends, MRC standard annual research support funding (RTSG) and travel/conference allowances.

This flexible funding is not allocated as an individual allowance per student; instead, it is a pooled amount to support unique training opportunities for MRC-funded PhD students.

The MRC has highlighted the following as 'unique training opportunities':
- High-cost training in recognised areas of strategic need, including support for extra training, such as Master's, for individuals changing discipline;
- Exceptional training opportunities, such as:
  - overseas fieldwork where this is an essential part of a student's training
  - time 'out of programme' to complete a complementary and beneficial placement,
  - training in new advanced research skills;
- Opportunities to provide training with industry or at the interdisciplinary interface;
- Transitions from PhD to first post-doc positions to increase the competitiveness of outstanding candidates.

As the flexible supplement funding is a limited sum, which MRC LID will need to share most effectively across all themes and students, this will be allocated on a competitive basis.

Some of the pooled funding will be used for MRC cohort activities and training. The MRC LID Board may decide to allocate some flexible supplement funding towards other costs in the future, in line with UKRI guidance.

Where more applications are received than funding available the DTP may choose to make partial funding awards.

How to Apply for Flexible Supplement / Additional Support Funding

To request flexible funding you will need to submit a flexible funding application form to the MRC LID administration team. The form template can be found on the MRC LID Current Students page (Forms section). You will also need to submit a budget for the flexible funding detailing how you will spend the flexible funding, and provide a budget/explanation of how you have spent/allocated your studentship research support funding (RTSG) and Travel/Conference allowance to date, and for the remainder of the award. We request these two budgets as we would normally expect that your research support funding (RTSG) was used/spent prior to applying for flexible funding. However, we are aware that some students will 'ringfence' research support funding (RTSG) for future lab consumables or necessary project expenditure. Having an explanation of future expenditure will aid the board in making a decision on your flexible funding application.

The total amount awarded from the flexible funding (confirmed and processed via the MRC LID administration team) will be treated as an advance, with the expectation that evidence of expenditure be submitted in the form of original receipts afterwards.

All flexible funding awards are processed via MRC LID. This is unlike all research support funding (RTSG) and Travel/Conference expenses. The latter - i.e. expenditure excluding that awarded from the flexible funding - will be processed through your Faculty/JRES. This is important to note when you have used some funding from both pots for something you are doing.

Once you have returned from your flexible funding trip/course please report all actual expenditure (actual costs incurred) to MRC LID administration team (using the MRC LID Expenses Form), you will also need to provide a copy of the receipts, and also completed a feedback form. Both forms can be found on the MRC LID Current Students page (Forms section).

The MRC LID administration team will use your receipts and expenditure spreadsheet to do a mini-reconciliation of the award. Please note, any payments made in a currency other than GBP should be recorded in the local currency and converted to Pounds (GBP) on the expenses form. Where receipts are not in English, please provide an English translation.

We check all non-GBP expenses via OANDA currency converter (using historical rate as per date mentioned on respective receipts). If a student can provide proof of an alternative rate for the payment/s (e.g. via their bank statement) this may be accepted instead. Any unused funds (or expenditure not covered by a receipt) will need to be repaid. The MRC LID administration team will contact you with details of how to return funds if needed once the mini-reconciliation is complete.

3.4 Disabled Students' Allowance

If you have a disability, UKRI may fund additional support through their Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA). DSA is intended to help with additional expenditure for the costs of study-related requirements that may be incurred as a result of disability, a mental health problem or a specific learning difficulty where additional support is needed to undertake a studentship.

If you believe that DSA might be helpful to you please contact the Student Support & Advice Services team at your primary institution for support. You do not have to wait to beginning your studies to start this process. You can do this at any time from the point you accept your offer of funding through to your end-of-funding date.

Following completion of all admin and paperwork, the primary institution's staff should contact the DTP admin team (around 1 October each year) with summary details of the allowance provided, so that we can arrange for the funds incurred by the institution to be reimbursed by UKRI via the DTP grant.

For further information about extra support please see
- CSG
  - Student Support Services (Tooting campus)
- LSHTM
  - Student Support Services – Information for new students
  - Student Support Services – Information for current students
- UKRI Doctoral Studentships

3.5 General Funding Information

Part-time studentships will be paid out at exactly 50% of full-time studentship awards.

Should your circumstances or student status change during the period of MRC LID support you should be aware that this may have an impact on your funding. You should contact the MRC LID administration team as soon as possible to discuss changes and calculations.

You should be aware that funds paid once your research training award has been terminated, or that have been paid inappropriately, will be reclaimed.

4. MRC LID Studentship Requirements

4.1 Absences

Students should make sure they follow their primary institution's regulations and standard procedures for reporting and requesting leave and all other periods of absence.

From 1 October 2025, MRC LID will require all funded students to keep a running record of their absences (approved leave; medical appointments etc) via LSHTM eVision. Details about how to do this this will be shared separately with all cohort members.

UKRI is updating their leave allowances with effect from 1 October 2025. The types of leave that UKRI permits under DTP grants are:
- Annual leave
- Family leave (including maternity; partner or paternity; adoption; neonatal care)
- Medical leave (including for pregnancy-related illness; disability-related illness (including chronic illness); medically advised appointments and treatment
- Additional leave (including bereavement; carer's leave; extended jury service)

For full details please see the UKRI Training Grant Terms & Conditions documents 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 and 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

MRC LID will provide support for paid and unpaid leave and extensions to reflect the absences taken (sometimes with conditions) in line with UKRI Training Grant Terms & Conditions and Guidance and within your primary institution's regulations and allowances for RD students. If you require a longer period of leave than the paid leave set out in the UKRI training grant T&Cs, this can be requested as unpaid leave.

For clarification, and to avoid confusion or misunderstanding, you may wish to liaise with the MRC LID Manager about your circumstances and available options before any decisions or actions are taken.

4.1.1 Annual leave

Students must abide by their primary institution's RD student entitlements, expectations and regulations around annual leave (holiday).

MRC LID expects students and supervisors to plan for and allow reasonable paid holidays of at least 30 days per year (including bank holidays; pro-rated for part-time registration).

Students undertaking work in collaboration with other partners – either through a case award, or for periods of fieldwork or internship or placement etc - are expected to consider their obligations to those partners in planning leave.

Periods of planned and agreed annual leave do not have any bearing on the UKRI location requirements (as set out below under the heading 'Place of Tenure (Location)').

4.1.2 Family leave

Pregnancy & maternity related sickness

UKRI-funded students are entitled to up to 52 weeks of maternity leave as long as the maternity leave is due to start before the student's MRC LID end-of-funding date. UKRO training grants will pay a stipend at the normal rate for the first 26 weeks of maternity leave, then a payment equivalent to statutory maternity leave for the next 13 weeks. The final 13 weeks' available maternity leave is unpaid.

Students who suffer from maternity related sickness may take paid medical leave (within UKRI training grant T&Cs). Please follow your institutional Interruption of Studies standard processes to request this.

International students are bound by UKVI/Home Office requirements, and may not be able to take the full period of maternity leave. Please check with your primary institution's student visa team.

You should report pregnancy, breastfeeding and recent birth (within the past 6 months) to your primary institution. Please see EDI section for Health & Safety requirements.

Adoption leave

A UKRI-funded student who is the main adopter of a child is entitled to the same leave and stipend arrangements as maternity leave.

Please follow the standard institutional Interruption of Studies process to request adoption leave.

Partner's or paternity leave

Up to two weeks' paid partner's or paternity leave is available to a UKRI-funded student whose partner is expecting a child. Partner's or paternity leave can be taken at any point within 52 weeks of the birth of a child (as long as the student is still within their funded studentship period).

Please follow the standard institutional Interruption of Studies process to request Partner's or paternity leave. At the time this is processed MRC LID will extend your end-of-funding date by 2 weeks.

Students will need to take an unpaid Interruption of Studies (IoS) for any requirements beyond the paid fortnight's support set out here.

Childcare

In the UK support for childcare is currently limited. You will have access to any universal provision in England.

Unless both students and their partners are employed, they are unlikely to have access to schemes such as shared parental leave, tax free childcare, or 30 hours free childcare in England.

4.1.3 Medical leave
MRC LID will require students to provide suitable medical notes for any periods of medical leave that are paid through the DTP grant.

4.1.4 Additional leave
UKRI has set out some circumstances for compassionate leave or special leave where a student may continue to be funded during a limited period of leave. This includes for bereavement and unexpected emergency situations (e.g. an injury involving a student's dependent or a domestic emergency situation, such as flooding).

Carer's leave
UKRI-funded students may take up to 5 days paid leave per year pro rata to give or arrange care for a dependent with a long-term health need (Equality Act 2010 definition highlighted by UKRI).

Any student who takes carer's leave should be logging it and sharing the information with MRC LID Manager to ensure that their studentship funding is extended to reflect these periods of leave.

Bereavement
UKRI-funded students are entitled to take bereavement leave if they experience the death of a close family member or someone significant to them. This period of paid leave from their studentship is to allow a student time to grieve and manage any related responsibilities.

The length of paid bereavement leave will vary depending on a student's circumstances.

For further details of the paid duration (usually from a day or two through to a week) and circumstances (including pregnancy loss, baby loss (including still birth and neonatal death), death of new or expectant mother who is the UKRI-funded student's partner),

Grief is a very personal experience. Please take the time you need and use the counselling and student support services that are available at your primary institution, if you feel that you need them (they can provide emotional support, help you manage stress, and guide you through the grieving process).

To access bereavement leave or support:
- Inform your supervisor or PGR Manager or the MRC LID Manager as soon as you can.
- Arrange an Interruption of Studies (IoS) and provide paperwork the institution requires for this.
- Ask about available counselling and wellbeing services.

4.1.5 Recording leave
From the start of 2025-26 academic year, MRC LID will ask all current students to record their leave. Please see separate communications about this.

4.2 Award Dates

Your MRC LID Studentship award duration is set out in the formal award letter sent out as part of your funding offer, which was accepted by you prior to your start/initial registration.

4.2.1 Maximum Submission Date

MRC expects students to submit their PhD thesis (or complete) before the end of their funding award (that is, within four years FTE). This is called the maximum submission date.

Students should be aware that their MRC LID Studentship funding dates and MRC maximum submission date may be different to the maximum registration and submission dates of their primary institution. It is your responsibility to keep a note of the date differences and to ensure that you do not exceed the regulatory requirements of both your primary institution and the MRC. You should ensure that the submission of your thesis meets the earliest required date (whichever of the two comes first chronologically). If you have any queries about dates please contact the MRC LID Manager and relevant Registry team/s for clarification.

4.2.2 Early submission of your thesis

All studentship award holders are expected to meet their primary institution's minimum registration period before submitting a thesis.

Please tell the MRC LID Manager if you plan to submit your thesis before your end of funding award date as it may impact your stipend payments.

MRC studentships are intended for research degree study and writing up. Therefore, by default, you would not be eligible for a stipend after you have submitted your thesis. If you submit your thesis part-way through a period for which you have already been paid, you will have to return the part of your stipend covering the time after you submitted.

UKRI does permit payment of a stipend – through to the end of the quarter a student submits in - if they continue doing activities related to their thesis. This permission would be valid until the end of quarter in which you submitted, or your funding's end date, whichever is earlier. Permission by the DTP is not automatic, so you should contact us in advance and as part of your planning. (Activities related to your thesis could possibly include preparing something for publication or a conference. Viva preparations and/or thesis corrections are not considered suitable activities for stipend continuation purposes by UKRI.)

4.2.3 Late submission of your thesis

UKRI require you to submit your thesis before their Expected Submission Date. Therefore, MRC LID expects you to submit your thesis within 4 years FTE of your initial registration (excluding any formal, approved periods of IoS). This is something you agreed to when accepting the studentship.

If for any reason you are unable to meet this deadline, please discuss this with the MRC LID Manager and supervisor as soon as possible.

Please remember that your studentship funding end date may be different to your primary institution's maximum registration/end date. Where these differ the one that is first chronologically must be adhered to. (It may be possible to extend your institutional registration - see your institution's Doctoral College procedure and guidance. However, this will not extend your student maximum submission date. And should still be discussed with the MRC LID Manager.)

4.3 Changes

Any changes to personal circumstances which might result in changes to your student status should be reported to the MRC LID Manager (in addition to any institution requirements) to allow for discussions of how these changes may affect your funding.

We wish to stress the importance of timeliness in submitting documentation – for example, for an Interruption of Studies (IoS) or change of mode of study request - to your relevant institution's administration team.

Also important is reporting early if there are problems or a likelihood of delays with your studies.

Mode of study

Students may change mode of study (from full-time to part-time or vice versa) where this is permitted within institutional regulations and by their supervisors.

While MRC LID would like to be flexible and supportive of changes, there may be some occasions where it is not possible to change your mode of study. For example, where your research degree project fits within a larger project (and its timeline and deliverables) or where there are additional funding restrictions.

Changes to your mode of study 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 as they were prior to the change 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.

Withdrawals and terminations

Studentship funding will cease with effect from the withdrawal date. The DTP will require all advance payments and/or payments made in error to be returned.

Grievance procedures or termination before a student's end-of-funding-date must follow relevant procedures at a student's primary institution. Students must be dealt with in a manner that is transparent and fair; written records and records of communications and meetings must be maintained by the institution; and a student must be allowed a companion at any grievance meeting, where appropriate. The DTP is required to inform MRC/UKRI of withdrawals.

4.4 Complaints, Reporting Bullying and/or Harassment, Whistleblowing, Safeguarding

Your institutions and the DTP wish to encourage an open and positive culture of listening to feedback and sharing learning. Opportunities to do this may be offered by your primary institution through surveys, anonymised 360 feedback, or conversations with you. Supervisors may also provide opportunities for your feedback.

Students may raise issues with staff outside of these opportunities, and are encouraged to do so where possible. It can be a good idea to alert staff to issues at an early stage after they've emerged. Even if staff disagree, they should treat you respectfully and professionally. Raising issues in a timely, fair and respectful way can help resolve them for other students too.

In some cases, a situation may not be resolved and you may wish to make a complaint.

In the first instance, students' complaints and/or reporting of bullying and/or harassment, or whistleblowing, should be reported and addressed via their primary institution's relevant standard policies and procedures. (This includes making complaints about the DTP, although we hope you will not need to.)

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

Policies and institutional information at City St George's, University of London:
- Policy – Preventing misconduct, harassment and sexual misconduct
- Legacy St George's Dignity at Study
- Student Concerns and Rights: Bullying and harassment
- Whistleblowing policy and procedures

Policies and institutional information at LSHTM:
- EDI – Bullying, harassment, and sexual misconduct
- Information for students, including support, LSHTM's policies, and reporting options
- Whistleblowing Policy

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Please see details:
- Safeguarding at City St George's Policy
- LSHTM Safeguarding and Security Screening Policy & Safeguarding Framework

(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 shown in the links below.)
- City St George's, University of London Student Concerns and Complaints
- LSHTM Student Complaints Procedure

If your primary institution does not address your complaint appropriately, you may wish to escalate it to the independent complaints ombudsman in the UK. Initially please read the Office for Students – Complaints about a university or college page for suitable guidance and steps to be taken. Complaints may be made via the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education.

Other options for help
- Citizens Advice provides free, confidential advice on your rights.
- The Equality Advisory & Support Service (EASS) provides help with discrimination issues in England, Scotland and Wales.
- Some student or academic unions offer advice and support for research degree students
- Your primary institution's student support teams

4.5 DTP Terms & Conditions

Your DTP studentship is governed by the [Terms and Conditions of UKRI Training Funding](#), with delegated responsibility for administration and setting/adherence of policy to the award holding Research Organisation (LSHTM).

The DTP's data collection and retention policy is outlined on our [MRC LID Terms & Conditions page](#).

By accepting a studentship award MRC LID students are also confirming they have read and agreed to [DTP2 Terms & Conditions](#).

4.6 Employment (Working while studying)

Awardees of a full-time MRC LID 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 a small amount of paid work, such as teaching and demonstrating, where
- (a) this is compatible with your studies, and
- (b) approved by the supervisory 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 their commitments to study and the DTP (not on the 2.5 days/week that should be set aside for your research degree). It is likely, too, that part-time students in employment will need to provide their primary institution with evidence from their employer that they have been released for the required study time.

Employment is not a requirement of MRC LID funding. (The DTP institutions and MRC LID are not allowed to make you do extra paid work). Any requests for you to undertake regular contract-type work are separate from your MRC LID Studentship. Students employed by their institution (or elsewhere) - e.g. 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. (Your DTP stipend is a living allowance; it is not payment for gaining experience or taking on work. Gaining experience is not a reasonable excuse not to pay you.)

Income from work may be taxable. Please see the Stipend section of this document for 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.

4.7 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI)

EDI training
MRC LID funded students are expected to undertake all EDI training offered to RD students at their primary institution and through the DTP.

Support for you
The Equality Advisory Support Service (EASS) assists individuals on issues relating to equality in England, Scotland and Wales

UKRI Guidance and Principles
UKRI Good Research Resource Hub – Guidance for EDI

4.7.1 Protected characteristics
It is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of: age; gender reassignment; being married or in a civil partnership; being pregnant or on maternity leave; disability; race including colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.

Please ensure that you are aware of the Equality Act 2010, protected characteristics in UK law and how the law defines these, and your rights.

4.7.2 Disability and long-term conditions, and reasonable adjustments
Please see the section above for the UK legal definition of disability.

Both DTP partner institution welcome students with disabilities and specific needs. Our policies and practices across institutions and the MRC LID should support individuals and enable all students to participate fully in their studies.

Students can declare a disability at any time from the point a studentship award is accepted through to their award. We would encourage you to do so as soon as possible, so that we can offer you support to make research degree study more equitable.

Reasonable adjustments
If you have a disability or long-term health condition which affects your ability to do day-today activities your primary institution must make reasonable adjustments to help you participate fully in your studies, e.g. changes to your studying environment, flexible deadlines, or assistive technology. This is a legal requirement in the UK.

Reasonable adjustments are assessed and accessed through the Student Support Services at your primary institution.

There is an expectation that the adjustments within an LSA (Learning Support Agreement) 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). 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 them 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.

UKRI Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)
UKRI DSA is additional funding that UKRI can provide to your primary institution or training provider to help cover the extra costs you might have because of a disability. It can be used for things like specialist equipment, non-medical helpers, or travel costs related to your condition. (There are some limits to what UKRI will fund. You may be asked to make a contribution to some equipment e.g. first GBP 200.00 towards the cost of a laptop.) DSA isn't based on income and doesn't need to be repaid. To access support please contact the Student Support team at your primary institution and let them know that you are on an MRC LID Studentship. They need to know this because any applications (or claims) for DSA will be made to UKRI via your institution and the DTP grant.

UKRI DSA is available to Home and International students.

Please also see UKRI Disabled Students Allowance information under the 'Financial Support' section of this document.

For further information please see
- CSG
  - [Student Support Services](#) (Tooting campus)
- LSHTM
  - [Student Support Services – Information for new students](#)
  - [Student Support Services – Information for current students](#)
- UKRI
  - [UKRI Doctoral Studentships](#)
  - [Disabled Students Allowance Framework](#)

4.7.3 Pregnancy
Please check UKRI training grant T&Cs about absences with paid leave and extensions (including, for pregnancy-related illness, antenatal appointments (where medically advised and not manageable through flexible study), fertility treatment (where medically advised)). Unfortunately, the DTP is unable to support students financially or with an extension where their pregnancy dates are outside of thee funding duration and UKRI T&Cs.

Please liaise with MRC LID Manager at an early stage to get DTP support e.g. planning and calculating leave payments.

Potential discrimination
Pregnancy and Maternity is covered as one of the nine protected characteristics by 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.

Non-work provisions for pregnancy and maternity are set out in UK law. Non-work provisions apply in education settings. Further information is available through the [Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS)](#) – see the Maternity section.

Risk assessments

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) breastfeeding or (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.

Keeping in touch (KiT) days

MRC LID encourages students on maternity leave to arrange KiT days with their supervisors. Please see the UKRI training grant terms & conditions for further details, and liaise with MRC LID Manager to arrange payment (where applicable).

Return to study arrangements

Please discuss these with your supervisor to ensure that you are supported and your requirements met on your return.

- [City St George's, University of London Health & Safety Policy](#)
- [City St George's, University of London Student Parents and Carers](#)
- [LSHTM New & Expectant Mothers (Health & Safety)](#)
- [LSHTM Pregnancy & Maternity information for students](#)
- [OIA Complaints relating to pregnancy, parenthood and childcare](#)

4.8 Illness and medical leave

Medical leave can be used for a wide range of short-term and long-term health issues, appointments, medically advised treatment or other health-related issues. It should be used for both physical and mental health conditions.

UKRI-funded students can take paid medical leave (at the standard UKRI stipend rate) for up to 28 calendar weeks in a single rolling 12-month period. If you need more leave than that, you may need to take an unpaid Interruption of Studies (IoS).

To formalise your medical leave, you will need to meet institutional policies and requirements. You should submit any Interruptions of Study/absence requests as soon as possible (as it may not be possible to have retrospective requests approved). It is likely that you will also need to submit medical evidence. Please check the requirements from your primary institution. (Where a condition is long-term/chronic and fluctuating, this may be required just once and reused on multiple occasions. You will need to check this with your primary institution though.)

Medical leave can be used for pregnancy-related illness. You should also consider whether you should take maternity leave instead. This is something that you can discuss with the DTP or your institution.

We all have short periods of illness which may prevent us from working – for example, when we have a cold. Generally speaking, UKRI does not expect students to get paid extensions for periods lost to mild illnesses such as colds, stomach bugs or a week of flu. This is because we all experience these from time to time and students and their supervisors should plan their research projects on the assumption that they will get ill at some point.

However, where a student's illness has a lasting impact on their progress, they may be eligible for an extension to their studentship. All MRC LID funded students should
- Be logging their medical leave, to keep track of it over the duration of your studentship – when you are unwell and it affects your ability to study or carry out research - and appointments
- Submitting formal IoS requests for illnesses requiring a month or more of medical leave.

It may be possible to request a funded extension for shorter periods of time, or where milder illnesses have been experienced, where a student can demonstrate that it was particularly disruptive to their research and/or there has been a cumulative effect (e.g. chronic or fluctuating conditions). Please contact the MRC LID Manager for an initial, informal discussion to explore your eligibility and funding options.

Students must not study while on medical leave. However, the institution should still provide you with access to institutional buildings, facilities and support. UKRI would encourage you to occasionally stay in touch with your supervisor and PGR/RD manager.

A phased return to study may be possible. Please discuss this with your supervisor and primary institution once you've looked at the UKRI training grant Terms & Conditions and guidance documents.

UKRI's maximum extension to a studentship for combined medical and additional leave is one year (52 weeks).

4.9 International Students
UKRI allows training grant holders (including DTPs) to recruit up to 30% of each cohort from international students (in this case 'international students' covers all students who do not meet UK fee status assessment requirements – including UK nationals who cannot meet residency requirements).

Visa and immigration health surcharge
MRC LID funded students will need to be based in the UK for the duration of their studentship, excluding small and limited periods outside of the UK for fieldwork and training. (Approved annual leave is excluded from this requirement.) Therefore, students should ensure their visa covers the full duration of their studies.

Training grants are not permitted to cover these costs for any awarded students.

Trusted research
For some areas of research international students may require approval under the Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS).

International students must maintain compliance with rules on trusted research or their visa may be affected. For any queries please check with your primary institution's student visa team.

Funding (Fees and Stipend)
Fees
Your primary institution will charge tuition fees according to their fee status assessment. This means that international students will be charged at the full Overseas (international) fee rate for the duration of their studies.

The MRC LID grant will cover tuition fees to the UKRI rate, and your primary institution will top this up to their Home (UK) fee rate, where there is a variation.

The difference between Home and Overseas fee rates must be paid by students through an alternate funding source (e.g. additional bursary or scholarship or their own, personal funds). The MRC LID partner institutions have committed to providing all MRC LID awardees who are also nationals of, and resident in, low- to middle-income countries (as defined by the World Bank) with a bursary to match (or cover) this fee difference for the duration of their MRC LID Studentship funding.

Stipend
All students are paid the same UKRI stipend rate with London weighting.

In the UK a stipend is tax free and there are no deductions for National Insurance or pensions etc. However, international l students are responsible for ensuring that they are compliant with any tax obligations they may have, including any from their home nation.

Leave
UKRI training grant conditions allow international students the same amount of leave as Home students. However, visa conditions may restrict a student's ability to take leave or receive an extension, and/or require a student to return home in certain circumstances.

In all instances MRC LID asks that students follow their primary institution's requirements, and liaise with the student visa team for advice.

UKRI Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
Under UK law, education providers are obliged to support students with disabilities and long-term health conditions.

UKRI provides the same DSA funding support to UKRI-funded Home and International students. Please see the section on EDI, disability and DSA for more information.

4.10 Interruption of Studies
Research Councils expect students to complete their training in a single continuous period and do not encourage suspension of awards. However, they are aware that suspensions may be required for personal or family reasons. Please see the sub-sections for 'Absences' and 'Illness' for more details.

Interruptions of Studies should not exceed 12 months in total over the duration of a studentship. This excludes periods of family leave or long-term sickness covered by medical certificate/s, which are covered separately in UKRI Training Grant T&Cs and guidance.

4.11 Other Funding
A full MRC Studentship award cannot be held concurrently with any other award which provides a stipend (may also be called maintenance or living costs) and tuition fees for postgraduate training.

You are expected to notify the MRC LID Manager at the earliest opportunity of any other funding you are in receipt of.

4.12 Place of Tenure (Location)

In line with UKRI training grant requirements, students in receipt of MRC LID funding are expected to

 (a) be resident in the UK for the majority of their studies, and
 (b) live within a reasonable travel time of their primary institution.

Outside of agreed holidays, the only exceptions to these requirements are to cover periods of absence from the UK that are an essential part of study (e.g. fieldwork, study visits, conference attendance).

4.13 Publications and Acknowledgement of Support

UKRI funded students are expected to abide by UKRI requirements and guidance:

- UKRI Terms & Conditions for training funding
- UKRI Open Access policy
- MRC data sharing policy

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

MRC LID expects that students will also follow regulations and guidance provided by their primary institution. Where there is any uncertainty or the two sets of regulations differ students should contact MRC LID for clarification.

Please see the relevant TGC of the training grant T&Cs and guidance: UKRI Terms & Conditions for training funding for details.

The MRC LID grant reference is MR/W006677/1.

We encourage students to engage with the media only following full discussions with their supervisors. Some training may be made available to student through the transferable skills programme (and/or specific MRC cohort training). All media engagement must follow the requirements and procedures of your primary institution and with approval from your supervisor and any project collaborators.

4.14 Reporting Requirements

The MRC uses a number of different systems to gather data about, and outcomes and impacts resulting from the funding they have awarded, and report on how it is being used. Currently for reporting they use:

- UKRI Funding Service (used to be Je-S)
- Gateway-to-Research.

MRC LID students must provide updated information for these, as and when requested to do so, as the institutions in the DTP are assessed by the quality of data provided and this may affect future funding awarded to us. In addition, failure to report when requested may result in sanctions being applied to our grant.

UKRI outlines details about their reporting requirements for all grant holders (and staff or students connected to these). The UKRI Data Protection Policy confirms their policy underpinning their use of the information you share with them.

It is likely that UKRI will contact you after your funding and studies have finished to ask you to participate in research about what happens after your degree. Please respond to these requests if you are able to. It is essential information that helps UKRI to improve their offer and ensure funding is available for future generations of student.

4.14.1 UKRI Funding Service (used to be Je-S: Joint Electronic Submission System) Studentships

Every student funded through MRC LID has a studentship record in the UKRI Funding Service system. It contains information in relation to your funding and will be updated over the course of your studentship. This system is used to send information to the research council (MRC and UKRI) and will be updated separately, and in addition, to your institutional registration record.

MRC LID is required to submit some awardee personal information (from your studentship application and award) and a summary (layman's abstract) of your research project within the first month of your initial registration. When your record is set up, the information provided to MRC includes:

- Personal details (i.e. name, contact email, nationality, prior qualifications etc.)
- Project information (project titles; summaries);
- Funding (training grant the funding is drawn from; fees; stipend; any co-funding; dates for start, end and expected submission);
- Where the student is being trained (university, department, supervisor name);
- Project partners (any industrial sponsors etc);
- Post-award information (final degree awarded; first postdoctoral post).

The administration team will be in touch by email (in September/October of your first year – assuming you register in September) with a request for the required project information, and more details of what is required by when. Every subsequent year we will ask you to update/refine your research project abstract, and provide us with and new, additional or revised award information – including details (dates, place, purpose) of fieldwork, institutional visits, placements, and/or research/external collaborations with private, public, or civic society sectors.

Please provide details according to UKRI requirements following discussion with your supervisors and – where applicable – with any external organisations you are working with for your research. This is important as this information will be made available to the public through UKRI's Gateway to Research website.

UKRI provides the following 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.'
(T&Cs Guidance document)

The MRC LID administration team will use this system throughout your funding duration to keep UKRI up-to-date on details of your award (any periods of IoS or change to your mode of study, award payments, research project and supervisory team changes, end date amendments etc). Awardees are required to keep the MRC LID Manager up-to-date with changes, so that these can be reflected accurately and promptly.

Amendments have been made to the UKRI Funding Service help text surrounding data protection issues in the UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions so please read the revised help text for studentship details.

4.14.2 Gateway-to-Research

The Research Councils use this to publicly share information about the individual research projects they are funding. Your Gateway-to-Research record – which is open to the public - will show your name and your research project summary (abstract) as it is set out in your UKRI Funding Service Studentship record. Therefore, any students involved in any controversial research should word their research project summary (abstract) for UKRI Funding Service Studentships accurately and with care.

4.15 Research integrity and ethics

Students must follow ethical guidelines and institutional policies for research involving human or animal participants or sensitive data.

- City St George's Research Ethics and Integrity
- LSHTM Research Governance & Integrity
- LSHTM Doctoral College - Ethics
- UKRI Good Research Hub: Ethical research and innovation
- UKRI Research Ethics Guidance

4.16 Satisfactory Academic Progress

Students in receipt of MRC LID funding should maintain satisfactory academic progress to ensure continuation of their funding.

You should use the regular institutional progress review process to help you reflect (with your supervisors) on your progress and to address any potential barriers. It may also be helpful to keep your own records and reflections on your progress, note any issues you experience or leave that you take.

Students must meet the upgrading times and regulations of their primary institution. If there are any delays to upgrading, these should be managed within a student's primary institution's research degree student regulations. Please make the MRC LID Manager aware of the reasons for the delay and the revised anticipated upgrading timeline. This must be done at the time any extensions are considered and confirmed/agreed.

Students are expected to submit b/before their end-of-funding date.

4.17 Trusted research

Your training will enable you to delve deeply into the forefronts of research and to work with fascinating people from across the world. This can yield exciting new collaborations and insights.

However, there are cases where sensitive research and intellectual property need to be secure from theft, misuse or exploitation. Trusted research is a term used to describe some

of the steps academics need to take to ensure that their work is not used in a way that is counter to the national interest. Your primary institution should ensure that your project is compliant with regulations and legal requirements on trusted research. You should discuss this with your supervisors to check and understand. (This is serious and important. In addition, UKRI funding can be withdrawn from the DTP if the trusted research requirements are not met.)

5. Student Involvement

5.1 Student Representation
Student Representatives are elected (or volunteered where there is just one) for representation to the DTP and Board. The current student representatives will be in touch with the cohort periodically, to organise activities and training (and to arrange discussions and volunteering/voting for their replacements where applicable). You may find that joining the cohort WhatsApp group helps to keep you in the loop (contact the reps to get more information about this).

All MRC Cohort students can convey any concerns or requests (e.g. ideas for specific training) to MRC LID Board members via their student representatives, and/or via the MRC LID Manager, and/or directly via individual MRC LID Board members. The options are available so that you can contact whichever of these you feel is most suitable.

5.2 MRC Cohort
The MRC cohort is made up of all students funded by MRC studentships and research training fellowships registered at both partner institutions.

MRC LID students are expected to be active members of the student-led MRC cohort, and attend all training, workshops, and events provided. Student representatives may also arrange the occasional social event for all MRC-funded students at both institutions.

5.3 UKRI Expectations
UKRI expects funded students to
- Make the most of the DTP and institutional support.
- Make the most of your student experience.
- Develop your research skills and methods.
- Put in the time to develop your career.
- Contribute to an open and positive research culture of listening to feedback and sharing learning.
- Never do anything as part of your studentship that puts your or others' health and safety at risk.
- Submit your thesis within your funded studentship period.
- Respond to contact from UKRI asking you to participate in research about what happens after your degree. (Any requests will be made after your studentship has finished. Your response is essential as it helps UKRI to ensure good funding opportunities will be available to future students.)

The UKRI Guidance for students reads:
'***Make the best use of the support available to you***
Plan your project with your supervisors at the outset, but ensure you have flexibility to change your plans as, more likely than not, you'll find that some research goes in unexpected directions, or that things happen which could knock you off course.

Revisit your plan periodically. Try to be honest with yourself about your progress and the things that might hold you back.

Make sure that you are aware of what is expected of you, what resources are available to you, and where to find further information.

Use appropriate periods of leave, including annual leave, medical leave, family leave and additional leave. Make sure your research plan reflects that you will need to take leave including getting at least mildly ill from time to time (we all do!).

Remember to be reflective – we all make mistakes and it's important to learn from them as well as our success. Teach out to other students and be supportive of each other.

Develop research skills and methods
During your research degree you will develop deep knowledge of your subject area. You should also seek to engage and collaborate across disciplinary boundaries and sectors.

Try to build wide networks through collaborative working within and beyond your own research organisation, to gain the skills to apply research in different contexts. If you have the opportunity to take a placement, this can be one good way of building those networks.

A key skill that you will further develop is the ability to manage your research project and training on your own. Even many qualified researchers find this difficult. Taking advice from your supervisors is a good place to start.

Professional researchers today are expected to be able to demonstrate their work can have an impact in a number of ways. Build your awareness and experience of ways of making research impactful, including through knowledge exchange, commercialisation and entrepreneurship.

Put in the time to develop your career
If you are like the majority of UKRI students, you are already considering a broad range of career paths. Even if you're not ready to commit to a particular career or job right now, start to look at the sorts of skills and experiences employers are looking for as soon as possible.

Consider whether you can demonstrate that you have those skills or experiences and talk to your supervisors, other students, staff and other networks about opportunities to develop those skills.

For example, you might seek to improve your ability to communicate with different audiences, develop networks, and learn different ways of showing leadership.

Find more information
There is no single service for advice on how to plan your doctoral training. Your supervisors may have experience from their own journey, but it is also worth talking to support services at your institution to see what other tools or advice they can offer.

Many universities have dedicated careers advisors for doctoral researchers. It is likely that they can tailor their advice to you, so it is worth having a conversation about what experience you have to date and how firm or not your ideas are for the future.

<u>What do researchers do?</u> is a resource from Vitae, designed to help doctoral students, staff and prospective researchers make well-informed career choices.'

6. Other Useful Information

6.1 Internet

MRC LID web pages
The MRC LID website has a Current Students section. This section will hold the most up-to-date Studentship Handbook and any MRC LID forms you may need to use over the duration of your studentship.

Quick links to useful information
City St George's Doctoral College
City St George's Doctoral Researcher Policies
City St George's Student Policies & Regulations
City St George's SHMS Placements

LSHTM Doctoral College
LSHTM Regulatory documents (including policies)

UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA provides all sorts of advice and support for international students)

UKRI Good research resource hub
UKRI Terms & Conditions for training funding
MRC funding: additional terms and conditions

Vitae Careers (What do researchers do)

Changes to UKRI T&Cs from 1 Oct 2025
https://www.ukri.org/publications/policy-statement-review-of-the-training-grant-conditions/

6.2 Administration & Communications
The MRC LID Manager and Scholarships team colleagues will arrange award letters, and payments for fees, stipends, and other costs. We can also provide proof of funding letters (e.g. for rent or mortgage purposes). Please contact us for any other general administrative support regarding your studentship.

You will receive email reminders at key stages of your studentship from mrclid@lshtm.ac.uk. Please support the administration teams by providing them with the information they request or by following the instructions to complete necessary tasks.

6.3 Key Contacts
At London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
- ADMIN
  - Lara Crawford MRC LID Manager, with additional support from the Scholarships team in Registry and colleagues in the faculties
- ACADEMIC
  - Neil Pearce, DTP Principal Investigator
  - Ozan Gundogdu, on behalf of the Pro-Director of Teaching and Learning and FRDDs

At City St George's, University of London

- ADMIN
  - [Derilyn Frusher](), legacy SGUL PGR Manager
- ACADEMIC
  - [Carwyn Hooper](), Assistant Vice-President Doctoral College

UKRI and MRC Head Office may contact you occasionally for direct information and feedback. However, on the whole, they expect that DTPs will cover all queries and administration of your funding. So, initially, please contact the mrclid@lshtm.ac.uk mailbox (or other DTP linked staff) with any questions or concerns.

6.4 Acronyms Used

CSG = City St George's, University of London (legacy St George's and/or SGUL)
DM = Departmental Manager (LSHTM) – administers allowances for first two cohorts of DTP2 students who are registered in ITD
DTP = Doctoral Training Programme
DTP1 = Cohorts of students whose initial registration was between 2016-17 and 2021-22
DTP2 = Cohorts of students whose initial registration was between 2022-23 and 2026-27
EPH = Faculty of Epidemiology & Population Health at LSHTM
FRDD = Faculty Research Degree Director at LSHTM
IoS = Interruption of Studies (UKRI calls this a 'suspension')
ITD = Faculty of Infectious & Tropical Diseases at LSHTM
Je-S = Joint Electronic Submission System, now UKRI Funding Service
JRES = Joint Research & Enterprise Services at City St George's, Tooting Campus
LSHTM = London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
MRC = Medical Research Council
MRC LID = MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Programme
PHP = Faculty of Public Health & Policy at LSHTM
UKRI = UK Research and Innovation (previously Research Councils UK (RCUK))
RDA = Research Degree Administrator based in the Faculty RD office (LSHTM)
RDM = Research Degree Manager based in the Faculty RD office (LSHTM)
(F)RDD = (Faculty) Research Degree Director (LSHTM)