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MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Programme (MRC LID)

Cohort Welcome & Induction

Welcome to the MRC London Intercollegiate Doctoral Training Partnership program, also known as MRC LID or the DTP.

These slides will provide you with some information about the MRC LID programme, including a background, information about board members, and some key contact details.

DTP Background



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Established partnership between LSHTM & City St George's.

Based on

Shared research priorities

(examples are covered by broad themes of the DTP)

Complementary training

(examples include Genomic Medicine; Quantitative skills; Interdisciplinary skills)

Collaborative research

(examples include Antimicrobial resistance; Genomic medicine: Understanding asthma; Cardiovascular disease; Built environment, lifestyle and health)

Enhanced by geographical proximity (Northern Line) & international partnerships and collaborations.

- Doctoral Training Programme 1 (2016/17 – 2021/22): 66 studentships awarded
- Doctoral Training Programme 2 (2022/23 – 2026/27): 45 studentships awarded



This DTP is a partnership between LSHTM and legacy St George's, University of London (now City St George's, University of London).

This DTP programme has been going for 10 years, and you are the eleventh (and final) cohort of students to be funded through the scheme.

We're joined by the Northern Line and we're also joined by a large number of collaborations and some of which have arisen out of this program.

DTP Board



Role of DTP Board

- Strategic direction
- Ensure DTP meets MRC/UKRI requirements
- Oversee finance and administration of the DTP funding
- Supervisor & project selection
- Recruit students based on potential and motivation
- Mentor students
- Support exceptional, student-led training

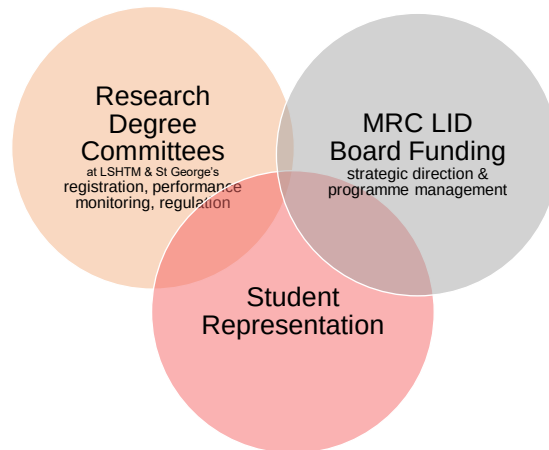
RESPONSIBILITIES	LSHTM	CSG
Chairs	Professor Neil Pearce	Professor Carwyn Hooper
Institutional Oversight	Dr Ozan Gundogdu	
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion	Dr Nuria Sanchez Clemente	Dr Vanessa Ho
Industrial Partnerships	Professor Ian Douglas	Dr Alexis Bailey
Theme Leads - Global Health	Post vacant	Professor Catrin Moore
Theme Leads - Health Data Science	Dr Alex Lewin	Professor Joan Morris
Theme Leads - Infectious Disease	Professor Rein Houben	Post vacant
Theme Leads - Translational & Implementation Research	MRC LID Board Chairs	MRC LID Board Chairs
Student Representatives	See Student Reps information (link via Current Students)	

MRC LID has a board with representation from both institutions.

The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the partnership; making decisions on all aspects of the funding grant; and overseeing reporting.

Board members also act as MRC LID students' mentors.

How does the DTP fit within the institutions?



MRC LID has three sets of inputs:

1. The MRC LID Board.
2. Standard institutional doctoral training programme processes at each institution. (The research degree committees at each institution oversees PhDs funded under this programme just in the same way as they oversee all other schemes and funding for research degree students registered at the institution. And they set the research degree regulations and processes for all research degree students to follow.)
3. Student representation.

Training & other opportunities

(Exceptional; student-led; more than a standard PhD)




INDIVIDUAL			COHORT			
Research project	Additional skills	Internship/ Placement	Institutional	DTP	Peer Support	Public engagement
Excellent supervision of a student-centered, interdisciplinary high quality research project with a focus on at least one MRC priority skill	As determined by student, supervisors, and MRC LID mentor (modules; external options)	Compulsory (3 months FTE)	Transferable skills training at your primary institution (compulsory)	Optional training + 2 mandatory cohort training events 100% attendance expected for mandatory training. Planned for all MRC-funded students.		

Carwyn Hooper, Co-Chair of the Board and Assistant Vice-President of the Doctoral College at City St George’s is the Board Lead for MRC LID training.

MRC LID’s emphasis is on student-led, individualised training.

DTP Placements/Internships



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Why?

- Opportunity to
 - Experience wider research environment
 - Develop skills
 - Gain new or expand your perspective
 - Build your network of contacts
 - Facilitate career development
 - Gain access to expertise beyond your immediate research group

Duration

3 months FTE

What?

- Up to you (must be approved by MRC LID Board, though)
- Must be completely unconnected to your PhD project

Where?

- Up to you
- Please discuss potential visa implications with us at early planning stage

When?

- After upgrading
- At a time that best suits your research & host institution

What money?

- Support for
 - Travel
 - Accommodation
- Use RTSG allowance first
- May be some flexible funding available

How?

- Discuss with supervisors & mentor
- Start discussions with host
- Discuss funding arrangements with DTP Manager
- Submit project approval request to Board
- Check whether collaboration agreement is required

Mandatory, important part of scheme. Students historically have given us excellent feedback about their experiences.

This will need planning: to be completely disconnected to your PhD project; used to learn new skills that take you beyond your actual doctoral training; an opportunity that is unusual and open to creative and unusual exploration (within reason and with suitable rationale). The MRC LID Board will review your placement plan, if it is too close to your project it will be declined.

When you undertake it is very variable. Most people choose to go about mid-point through their studies. You will need to start planning it at a relatively early stage to get the most benefit from it, and manage all the considerations and other work too.

Funding is available.

Your supervisors, other students in the cohort and the MRC LID Board (including your MRC LID mentor) are available for discussions and advice.

Studentship funding



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Tuition fees at UKRI rate

Stipend at UKRI rate with
London Weighting

Research Training &
Support Grant (RTSG)

Additional **flexible funding**
opportunities (competitive)

See **separate MRC LID
induction info** for more
details on the specifics of
your funding.

Travel and Conference
Allowance

Fees are covered for the duration of your award. If you are sent a fees invoice please forward it to MRC LID to sort.

Stipend are paid in advance on a monthly basis. As long as you've registered and provided your primary institution with bank details you should have been paid. If you haven't yet been paid, or have been paid an unexpected amount – not just now, but throughout your studentship – please contact MRC LID.

Allowances (RTSG and travel & conference) should be available to spend now. Contact the appropriate person named on the separate funding recordings to start using it.

More details are available in the funding recordings and MRC LID Studentship handbook. Email the MRC LID mailbox for more details and clarification.

DTP Reporting & admin



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UKRI
SDS
*(now +
annually)*

Absences
& leave
*(as
applicable)*

RTSG actual
expenditure
(quarterly)

Individual
Training
Report &
Plan
(annually)

Placement
Approval
Request
*(likely only
once)*

Feedback –
placement,
training,
flexible
funding
*(as
applicable)*

Final
destination
data
*(on
completion)*

Examples of key information we need to get from you at various stages through your award (and after) to fulfil our reporting obligations. This information is used by the MRC to determine outputs and individual and DTP impacts, and to assess HEIs. So the quantity & quality of what you report is important.

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The paperwork, reporting and admin can feel like a bit of bureaucracy and faff but we've tried to minimise it, and it is an essential part of the programme, which is why it's included here. I've also tried to tie it in with tasks that are beneficial for you: for example, the annual training report and plan task (in the middle of the row) is an opportunity for you to really think about what training and development would be beneficial to you, taking ownership of your training, and grasping the funded opportunity you currently have to invest in your future self. (As well as giving me my reporting details.)

Please help us to keep the programme information up-to-date when we ask for things. We'll let you know at each stage what we're looking for and what we need.

A few things to highlight



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Research project

BEFORE any changes to either your project or supervisory team can go ahead these must be approved by
1. MRC LID Board and
2. your primary institution

Travel & conferences

2 'local' (UK or EU) +
1 international (non-EU)

Funding will contribute to travel and accommodation (not subsistence).

Other available funds available?

Cohort training expectations

Importance of turning up, taking part and communications

(It's about money but more importantly it's about being present and accountable to and for each other; showing up as a way of supporting each other and keeping an active network and community going, especially as the cohort size decreases).

Absences & leave

Please maintain accurate and up-to-date records.

(Often, this doesn't seem important at the time. But it is an essential tool to corroborate and support any later alterations to your funding or complaints.)

RESEARCH PROJECT

Before your project was advertised, the board measured it against criteria to ensure that projects

- are well-thought through and suitable for doctoral study;
- meet MRC skills criteria; and
- meet promises our DTP made to MRC during the grant bid.

And so any changes to either your project or supervisory team must be reviewed and approved by MRC LID Board before they go ahead.

Any changes must also be approved by your primary institution, as per standard research degree regulations and processes.

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE

Students can sometimes feel under pressure to attend as many conferences as possible. This is not realistic financially or environmentally. Please bear in mind DTP intention of 2+1 over duration of studentship (likely to be when you're presenting).

Travel & conference allowance should be used for travel and/or accommodation only. Not food and drink (subsistence or other wording used).

Your primary institution may have other sources of funding for research degree students to attend conferences. Please check.

See separate recording on Funding Allowances for more details.

COHORT TRAINING EXPECTATIONS

This will be generic and cross-year/cohort. It has been student-led (for ideas and

planning) since the beginning.

Please make attendance a priority. And also be honest with your feedback and any ideas and hopes you have for this.

ABSENCES & LEAVE

I can't stress this highly enough. The only people with access to this record is you, me and a few professional services people who manage Registry records. The purpose of this is to ensure that you are able to get support and funding for the maximum, full duration of your studentship. An example of where this helps is where someone develops a chronic illness, which isn't clearly identified at the beginning, and requires the odd day off here and there really adds up over time but doesn't meet standard institutional IoS rules. Or where a student needs to reflect annual leave and any periods of cover in labs during official bank holidays etc.

Top tips for immediate task list



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When you meet with
your supervisors

- Discuss expectations (see suggested sheet).
- Create a budget for your studentship funding & training .
- Start to plan your training.

Save key emails

- Your institutional mailbox because these have a very time-limited archive. And there will be some key information that is shared initially that you may want to refer back to.

General information & key contacts

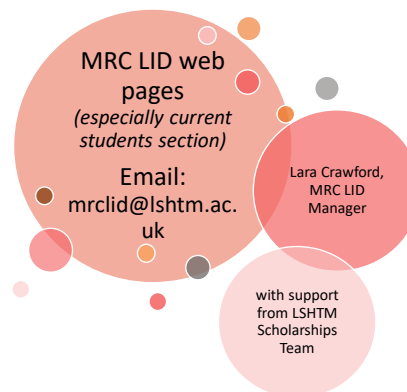


For general information about Research Degrees at your primary institution

CSG Tooting	CSG Clerkenwell	LSHTM EPH	LSHTM ITD	LSHTM PHP
Derilyn Frusher (PGR Manager)	Tracy Rowson (SHMS)	Laurie McRae Andrew	Helen White	Joanna Bending
		Lauren Dalton		Renee Olivel

For MRC LID queries

(including fees and stipend payments, flexible funding applications, reporting)



This is split between institutional research degree support and MRC LID funding support.

Initial contacts for general information or questions about your doctoral training (research degree) at your primary institution, are on the left hand side of this slide. Shown are the key research degree people at your institution: by faculty at LSHTM, or by campus at City St George's.

Initial contacts for general information or questions about the DTP are on the right hand side of this slide. So that's anything connected to your funding: if you haven't been paid; if you've got applications for the board; for anything we're asking for reporting on. You'll find lots of information on the MRC web pages – under the Current Students section/pages. If you don't find what you need, or you think that your question is outside of the information available please email the MRC LID mailbox (the same one used for your offer of funding etc.) If the MRC LID Manager (me) is not around, colleagues in the LSHTM Scholarships team will try to help.

General information



Any questions?