**NIHR Great Ormond Street Biomedical Research Centre**

**Doctoral Training Support Fund 2021**

**Closing date for applications**

**5pm Friday 28th January 2022**

**Introduction**

On 1st April 2021, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Great Ormond Street Hospital Biomedical Research Centre (GOSH BRC) entered its fifth year of funding. The GOSH BRC was one of twenty BRCs funded by the NIHR through a competitively awarded grant of over £37m over five years.  GOSH BRC is a partnership between GOSH and UCL GOS Institute of Child Health. Together with other NIHR BRCs, GOSH BRC will help to deliver the Government’s initiative to improve the translation of basic scientific developments into clinical benefits for patients, and to reinforce the position of the UK as a global leader in healthcare related research. As a result of COVID, the GOSH BRC has also been awarded an additional £4.9m for an eight month extension from 1st April 2022 to 30th November 2022

The NIHR recognises the benefit of supporting academic trainees in developing the next generation of clinical and non-clinical scientists to improve both the health and wealth of the UK. Therefore GOSH BRC will continue its support for doctoral trainees within GOSH and ICH by providing competitive consumables grants to augment the existing non-pay funding available within their studentship awards. These competitive awards also provide an excellent opportunity for students to get experience with small grant writing.

The Doctoral Training Support Fund invites proposals for up to £5,000 for consumables funding for translational clinical research/experimental medicine projects being undertaken by doctoral students within GOSH and ICH. Supported projects must be patient and/or disease relevant research including basic laboratory science, pre-clinical and early-phase clinical research (phase 0-II). Further information on the objectives of the NIHR Great Ormond Street BRC and the remit of each of the four research themes can be found at <http://www.gosh.nhs.uk/research-and-innovation/nihr-great-ormond-street-brc/about-brc>. These awards aim to provide support for additional questions/experiments that were not originally part of the PhD project but have evolved during the PhD as initial data/results have been gathered.

For this round there is funding available for up to three competitive awards in total. **The GOSH BRC award cannot be used to fund directly research using animals and cannot be used to fund** costs of travel, equipment or **extend the studentship, for example, by paying salary or stipend costs.**  Funds may be accessed from 1st April 2021 and must be fully spent by 30th November 2022.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruption this has had on research projects, the application form includes a question asking applicants to demonstrate how they have future-proofed their project as far as possible for a scenario where lockdown is reinstated at a later date. We actively encourage the use of innovative ways of working in the current situation and will give higher weighting during the selection process for each of the calls to projects that can continue to be delivered with reduced contact.

Timelines for each of our calls are subject to change due to COVID-19 and we will review them­ regularly and update the website/applicants with any changes. Furthermore, whilst we wish to fund projects as normal through the Doctoral Training Support Fund, we have some COVID-19 research proposals coming through that may take priority given the severity of the situation. The NIHR have delayed the competition for the next BRC but in the meantime, have given funds to support an extension to the current 2021-22 funding until 30th November 2022. Therefore awards will only be made where there is a genuine belief that the proposed activity can be completed by 30th November 2022 (the extended deadline for spending the funds awarded).

**TERMS & CONDITIONS**

1. Clinical or non-clinical PhD students are invited to submit an application for essential research funding to enable them to complete work vital for their PhD theses, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined below.
2. Applicants are eligible to apply if they:
   * Registered prior to the 2021/22 academic year.
   * Have a primary supervisor who is based at GOSH or ICH, **or** have a secondary supervisor at GOSH or ICH and part of their stipend/fees are currently funded by the GOSH BRC.
   * Will be able to complete proposed research for the purposes of this source of funding before they enter Completing Research Student (CRS) status.
   * Have not previously been awarded a BRC Doctoral Training Support Grant.
3. In consideration of the conditions set out in the regulations between research students and UCL governing the obligations of UCL students, intellectual property rights are assigned to the governing body of UCL in accordance with the description of work/s being carried out.
4. Application submissions are invited from second and third year doctoral trainees whose projects align with at least one of the five NIHR Great Ormond Street BRC research themes listed below (four are existing GOSH BRC themes and Applied Child Health Informatics is a new theme being developed as part of our next BRC bid). Projects must be considered to be patient / disease relevant experimental medicine research or translational research that is pulling through basic science into clinical discovery. The following are examples of suitable projects:

***Genomics and systems medicine***

Investigation of cellular and molecular pathology of neurometabolic disorders

***Gene, stem and cellular therapies***

T cell receptor therapy against Leukaemia

***Advanced treatments for structural malformation and tissue damage***

Ear bioengineering for the reconstruction of congenital ear malformations with patient-derived somatic stem cells

***Novel therapies and their translation into childhood diseases***

Identifying Novel Therapeutic Leads for Neuroblastoma

***Applied child health informatics***

Using real-world data to improve antibiotic usage in children

1. The expectation is that the funding will make a significant contribution to the applicant’s project. Full justification of the requested funding will be required in the application including an explanation of how the additional work will support the overall aims of the project and/or completion of the thesis or publication, and why existing funds are not sufficient to undertake the proposed work.
   * ***Applications that describe new and unforeseen project areas relevant to the student’s central thesis, will be favoured***.
2. Application forms must be completed **by the doctoral trainee themselves, since we want this to be a formative experience for these early stage researchers.** In this regard, feedback will be provided on all applicants. Only one application per trainee is permitted.
3. Funding may only be used to pay for project consumables. Costs of travel, work directly on model organisms\*, equipment and salary cannot be supported by this award. This fund cannot be used to extend the studentship, for example, by paying salary or stipend costs or fees, nor can it be used where there is existing BRC funding for similar work in the host laboratory..
4. The maximum amount of funding requested per application is £5,000.
5. Funds may be accessed from 1st April 2021 and must be fully spent by 30th November 2022.
6. Applicants must complete the application form and submit one electronic copy (with e-signatures) to [ich.researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ich.researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk) **by 5pm Friday 28th January 2022**.
7. Depending on the numbers of applications received, there may be a shortlisting stage and shortlisted applicants may be required to give a short presentation about their project to the Review Panel.
8. We expect to inform applicants of the outcome of the application by mid-late February 2022. If there is a shortlisting stage, applicants who are not shortlisted will be notified at an earlier stage. This timeline is subject to change, and applicants will be notified if there are likely to be a further delays.
9. All successful awardees are required to submit a report to the BRC once they have completed the work funded by the DTSF.

**APPLICATION for Doctoral Training Support Fund**

Please complete all sections of this applications form in typescript no smaller than 10 point, single line spacing

Student Name:

Section:

Research Degree Registration Date:

Email:

Primary Supervisor

Name:

Section:

Secondary Supervisor/s

Name:

Section:

1. Please provide the project title

Title:

2. Please provide the R&D number (This is the existing R&D number you already have for your PhD project)

R&D number:

3. Lay summary of project, accessible to non-specialists (200 words)

(Please note that if your application is successful, your summary will be published on the ICH intranet.)

4. Please write an account of not more than 1,000 words\* (\*excluding references; applications exceeding the word limit will not be accepted). Please use the following headings and place a word count at the end):

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Project background (Please keep references to the literature to a minimum). 2. The objectives of the proposed additional work to be funded by this scheme 3. A brief plan, including proposed milestones to be used for monitoring the success of the project, and timelines for achieving these milestones. 4. The relevance of the project to the interface between basic and clinical science and/or how the project impacts on healthcare.   d) Please explain how this project aligns with the research themes of the GOSH BRC. |

5. Please describe in no more than 250 words the impact the support fund will have on your current doctoral studies including (i) how the additional work will support or extend the overall aims of the project and/or completion of the thesis or publication, and (ii) why existing funds are not sufficient to undertake the proposed work. [Please describe in terminology for the non-specialist]

6. Given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on the deliverability of existing research projects since 2020, we ask you to describe how you have future proofed your project as far as possible in case the COVID-19 pandemic causes further restrictions or related disruption in 2022-23. We actively encourage the use of innovative ways of working in the current situation and will give higher weighting during the selection process for each of the calls to projects that can continue to be delivered with significantly reduced contact. For example, your project could be separated into distinct work packages, which could be completed within 1-2 months back in the lab, or some of which could be completed without physical access to GOSH/ICH. (up to 250 words)

7. Breakdown of requested costs, (£): Please itemise costs below according to BRC financial years as indicated. Up to £5,000 can be requested for consumable costs only. Please be **specific** here – for example costs coming to exactly £5000 may be questioned.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Cost in £ which can be spent by 30th November 2022 | Total cost |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |

8. Are you (a) in receipt of a studentship/sponsorship which includes a consumables budget, or (b) consumables funds from your supervisor, or (c) self-funded? If (a) or (b), please provide details of total consumables budget you will have had access to during your degree.

9. Declarations and Signatures

Signature of Applicant:................................................................. date:..................................

Acceptance of conditions

I confirm that I have read this application and that if granted the award will be administered in the section in accordance with the terms and conditions above.

Signature of primary supervisor:...................................................date:..................................

Signature of

Head of Section:............................................................. date:..................................

Applicants must complete the application form and submit one electronic copy (with e-signatures) to [ich.researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ich.researchdegrees@ucl.ac.uk) **by 5pm Friday 28th January 2022**

**\* Animal-related research: in the past BRC have funded work that has used data or material indirectly derived from animals e.g. animal-derived antibodies. What we will consider an animal-related work though is sometimes subject to discussion and applications will be considered on a case by case basis. You are welcome to contact Andrew Stoker (the panel Chair) at** [**a.stoker@ucl.ac.uk**](mailto:a.stoker@ucl.ac.uk) **if you need to discuss this with us.**