**Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Programme**

**supported by NIHR GOSH BRC & GOSH Charity**

**Application form for Surgeon Scientist PhD candidates**

**Please send applications queries to Dr Valerie Karaluka (**[**BRC@gosh.nhs.uk**](mailto:BRC@gosh.nhs.uk)**)**

**This form must be completed and submitted together with the online application**

**Online guidance:** [Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Programme | Great Ormond Street Hospital (gosh.nhs.uk)](https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/our-research/our-research-infrastructure/nihr-great-ormond-street-hospital-brc/support-researchers/brc-opportunities/lewis-spitz-phd-programme/)

# Background

The Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD programme, supported by the Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) Charity between 2017-2022, has been a highly successful scheme that has supported five outstanding surgical trainees wishing to develop careers in paediatric surgical sciences. This year, GOSH Charity together with the newly awarded National Institute for Health and Social Care Research (NIHR) GOSH Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), are pleased to announce a new joint PhD programme “The Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Programme, supported by GOSH BRC & GOSH Charity”.

GOSH Charity is UK's largest dedicated charitable funder of child health research and is committed to supporting world-class paediatric health research. Its five-year research strategy puts children and the adults they will become at the centre by focusing on delivering personalised medicine for children with rare and complex conditions. Working closely with GOSH and UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health (GOS ICH), GOSH Charity has the ambition to help unlock breakthroughs in child medicine by supporting researchers’ investigations into the causes of rare diseases in children and conditions that start in childhood.

The NIHR GOSH BRC funds early translational research focused on paediatric rare or complex diseases, which aims to translate discoveries from basic/discovery science into clinical research and through to patient and economic benefit. GOSH and the UCL GOS ICH were first awarded BRC status by the NIHR in 2007. In 2022, the GOSH BRC secured £35 million to take it into its fourth term, running from December 2022 to November 2027. In this fourth term, as part of a wider national collaboration, a BRC National Paediatric Excellence Initiative has been set up between GOSH BRC and children’s hospitals in Birmingham, Sheffield and Liverpool.

The Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD programme is driven by the need to increase capacity through training in the scientific basis of paediatric surgery, with a focus on treating children who suffer from congenital malformations, cancers and other conditions requiring surgery. The key aim of the scheme is to develop future surgeon scientist leaders with excellence in translational research. The scheme will fund up to four surgeon scientists to pursue a doctoral research degree based at the UCL GOS ICH over the next five years. The intention is to fund two candidates to start in October 2024.

# Funding call information

This is Round 2 of the Lewis Spitz PhD programme. Applications are invited from exceptional surgical trainees (ST2/3-ST8) to carry out a 3-year doctoral fellowship in translational biomedical research at GOS-ICH. Candidates will register for a 3-year UCL PhD and will apply for an honorary contract at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust. With help from the course organisers, the successful candidate will select a research topic from a portfolio of potential PhD projects. Each project will be jointly supervised by a senior member of academic staff at GOS-ICH, and a consultant surgeon at GOSH. Some projects may have additional co-supervisors from the GOSH BRC’s Paediatric Excellence Initiative partners.

The full portfolio of available projects can be found on our website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/research/developmental-biology-and-cancer/lewis-spitz-surgeon-scientist-phd-programme-projects>

**N.B**. PhD candidates will be selected on merit. The NIHR GOSH BRC is not allowed to support animal research studies. Therefore, projects available in this portfolio will either need to be entirely human based to qualify for 100% NIHR GOSH BRC funding; involve a maximum of 50% animal research across the three-year PhD, in which case they would be eligible for co-funding by the NIHR GOSH BRC and GOSH Charity; or involve more than 50% animal research in which case they would need to be fully funded by GOSH Charity.

In this round of applications to the Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD programme, we will aim to appoint two fellows to start in October 2024 **at the latest**. One position will be reserved for a successful candidate to complete a 100% GOSH BRC-eligible project.

The PhD Fellowship provides full salary support, allowing fellows protected time to concentrate on their research, training, and development. This scheme will fund your salary (full time research), commensurate with your stage of clinical training, up to but not including consultant level, PhD fees (please note, this funding can only support UK home fees\*), and direct project costs (up to £10,000 per year; funder T&Cs apply) for a period of 3 years.

\*Candidates not eligible for UK home fees rate are still eligible to apply, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria. International fees would need to be covered by an alternative funding source (e.g [Research Excellence Scholarship | UCL Scholarships and funding - UCL – University College London](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships/research-excellence-scholarship)).

You may be able to discuss alternative sources of funding or fee waiver with the potential supervisor.

# Eligibility criteria and conditions

We are looking for exceptional and motivated surgical trainees passionate about research for the benefit of patients.

You will hold a registered primary qualification in Medicine (MB BS or equivalent), have a full GMC registration and entry on the appropriate GMC Specialist Register. You will have completed medical training at least to ST2/ST3 level and, ideally, you will have completed the exam for Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS).

You should have clear plans for completion of specialty training. Applicants should consult their deanery about undertaking a PhD and their plans to complete specialty training within the appropriate timelines. Start date will be subject to the approval of the deanery, but please note that the latest start date should be 02 October 2024.

You will demonstrate an ambition to pursue a clinical academic career path and be able to provide evidence of previous research experience and/or aptitude to undertake a research-intensive PhD. Candidates do not need to have held a previous position with formal research time (e.g. an academic foundation or academic clinical fellowship (ACF) post).

These are full time research positions with strictly limited opportunity to participate in clinical activities. Where the clinical work relates specifically to recruitment of participants to a clinical study that forms part of the work of the fellowship, this activity will be funded through the fellowship. Where the clinical activity does not directly form part of the PhD research activity (e.g. where it is standard clinical duties), this will need to be funded through alternative non-research funding routes as the scheme is intended to provide protected time for research activities only. In exceptional circumstances, additional (overtime) duties may be permitted but must be agreed with the supervisory team to ensure that the PhD can be completed within 3 years.

# What you will need to apply

* This guidance
* Your CV (no less than Arial pt 11, 1.0 line spacing) and including publications list if applicable.
  + You CV should include a list of qualifications (clinical and non-clinical; including type, subject, awarding institute, description).
  + Current job (title, employer, grade, start date)
  + Past jobs in reverse chronological order (title, employer, grade)
  + Deanery
* Competed application form - Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Programme 24/25
* Completed online application form

# How to apply

1. Read the guidance documentation for applicants in full.
2. Enter the [UCL online recruitment system](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs). Search for the vacancy (title Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Fellow (Clinical Research Fellow)).
3. From near the bottom of the job vacancy page, download the application form (Word) and job description.
4. Complete the information required in the online application.
5. Upload your CV (font no less than Arial pt 11, 1.0 line spacing) in the "upload CV" section.
6. Upload the word application form into "other attachment".
7. Check your application and submit.
8. Please email [BRC@gosh.nhs.uk](mailto:BRC@gosh.nhs.uk) to notify of the submission.

# How your application will be reviewed

### Shortlisting

Applications will be reviewed and shortlisted for interview based on the criteria in the job description and person specifications. Outcomes of shortlisting will be communicated via UCL jobs portal. Please note that due to the large volume of applications, we would not be able to provide detailed feedback individually to applicants at this stage. Shortlisting will take place in December 2023.

### Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview, which will be held **in January 2024 (provisional date is Wednesday 17 January, 1-5PM).** The interview panel will be announced prior to the interview.

# Selection criteria

The criteria used for shortlisting and subsequent interviews will include:

* The person specification outlined in the Job Description in reference to your CV and the online application form
* Your track record (including publications, presentations, grant funding, and leadership) as appropriate for career stage of the applicant, described in your CV and the application form.
* The outline of vision by the applicant of research direction and career path. For clinical trainees this includes planned strategy to combine academic and clinical training.

**Application form – Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD Programme 24/25**

**The closing date is Sunday 26 November 2023, 23:59**

**Candidates** Applications should be submitted via [UCL Jobs](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/work-at-ucl/search-ucl-jobs) (Search Lewis Spitz PhD Fellow). This form should be completed and uploaded under “other attachment” section.

Please complete all sections of this application form in typescript no smaller than 11 point

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| 1. **Applicant details** | |
| Name |  |
| Email |  |
| Phone number |  |
| Current position (title) |  |
| Organisation/ employer |  |
| Current grade and salary (e.g ST5) |  |
| Deanery |  |
| Training number/ Professional Registration |  |
| Royal College Examination |  |

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| 1. **Personal statement (no more than 1 side of A4 page)**   Please explain your reasons for applying and your motivation towards gaining PhD training in paediatric surgical science. If a fellowship is awarded, in what way will this further your scientific goals and personal career aspirations? |
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| 1. **Research experience and career to date (no more than 1 side of A4 page)**   Please highlight key research achievements |
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| 1. **Research grants, prizes, awards held**   Research grants held in the last five years and any key prior grants (list the most recent first). State the name of the awarding body, name(s) of grantholder(s), title of project, amounts awarded, your role in the project, and start and end dates of support. This can include projects grants but also any others: e.g. smaller travel awards to present research. For all active grants, indicate the number of hours per week that are spent on each project. Please also include detail of any prizes and awards (dates and details) | |
|  | |
| 1. **Project selection**   Please indicate in order of priority projects (1 – top priority) you would like to select if successfully awarded this fellowship. Projects list available here: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/child-health/research/developmental-biology-and-cancer/lewis-spitz-surgeon-scientist-phd-programme-projects>  \*Please note, that in this round of applications to the Lewis Spitz Surgeon Scientist PhD programme, we will aim to appoint two fellows to start in October 2024. One position will be reserved for a successful candidate to complete a 100% GOSH BRC-eligible project (where no animal work is permitted). | |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| Please include justification for your choices (Max half page of A4). | |
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