NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre

2023 PhD Studentships

Sample Application Form

**Please use this as a guide for completing the online application form.**

**Please do not submit this form**.

For guidance: *Questions marked with* ★ *in this form* *are mandatory in the online form and*

*cannot be left unanswered.*

Access the online application form via this link: <https://qualtrics.kcl.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_79UTgwZ2jxMSzbg>

If you have a question, please visit the guidance available on our [2023 PhD studentships](https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/academic-career-development/current-opportunities/phd-studentships-2023/)’ webpage

**Stage One Application**

Applying to this programme is a two-stage process. This is **Stage One** where we ask you to inform us of your qualifications and relevant experience, your motivation for applying to this programme and your future career plans.  
    
Successful candidates will be notified by Friday 21st April and invited to **Stage Two** which will comprise a panel interview. Interview dates are still to be confirmed but are currently planned for the week of 2nd to 5th May 2023.  *We will only request references for candidates who progress to Stage Two.*  
     
Recruitment is conducted to ensure [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)](https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity/).  At Stage One, candidate identification information will be removed before the application is shared with the panel.   
    
Visit the [NIHR Maudsley BRC website](https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/academic-career-development/current-opportunities/phd-studentships-2023/) for more information about the application process.

The submission deadline for Stage One applications is **23:59 GMT on Sunday 12th March 2023**.

**Eligibility**

Please read the [Eligibility and Entrance Requirements](https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/academic-career-development/current-opportunities/phd-studentships-2023/) and confirm you are eligible to apply.

*If you do not meet the requirements, please do not begin an application.*

* I confirm I have read the Eligibility and Entrance Requirements and I am eligible to apply

**START OF APPLICATION**

**Fee Status**   
Using the [UKCISA](https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-HE-fee-status#layer-6082) guidance, please select your status from the options below.

*If you progress to* ***Stage Three*** *of the application process for this programme, further information will be requested by KCL Admissions to assess and confirm your status.*

★ To the best of my knowledge, I classify as:

* HOME
* OVERSEAS

**Academic Interests / Motivation**

This section is about your academic interests and motivation to pursue a PhD with the NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre at King's College London.

**IMPORTANT:**  Please ensure that you do **not** enter any personal details in this section of the application; for example: Name, Age, Gender, etc. The responses given here will be passed to the selection panel and need to adhere to blinding measures.

**Project choices**

Please list the projects you are most interested in from the[2023 Project List](https://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/academic-career-development/current-opportunities/phd-studentships-2023/full-project-list/).  
   
Please list in order of preference a minimum of 1 project and maximum of 3 projects.  Ensure you include the code and full title for each project.  For each project choice please use a maximum of 200 words to tell us why you are interested in the project.

★ Project Choice 1: Enter code and full title

★ Why are you interested in the above project? *Maximum 200 words*

Project choice 2: Enter code and full title

Why are you interested in the above project? *Maximum 200 words*

Project Choice 3: Enter code and full title

Why are you interested in the above project? *Maximum 200 words*

★ Why do you want to do a PhD and how would it contribute to your professional and career aspirations? *Maximum of 1200 characters including spaces (approximately 200 words).*

★ Why are you applying to the NIHR Maudsley BRC PhD programme? *Maximum of 1200 characters including spaces (approximately 200 words).*

**Degrees and Qualifications**    
    
Please enter your qualifications with the most recent listed first. If you are currently a student, please list your current programme of study as Qualification 1.  
   
Please list only your degree/s and any relevant professional qualifications you have been awarded or are currently working towards.*A' Levels or equivalent qualifications should* ***not*** *be listed.*

**IMPORTANT:**  Please ensure that you do **not** enter any personal details in this section of the application; for example: Name, Age, Gender, etc. The responses given here will be passed to the selection panel and need to adhere to blinding measures.

★ **Qualification 1**   
This should be your most recent qualification, including any programme of study not yet completed.

★ FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)

★ TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)

★ Qualification

★ Subject

★ Institution

★ Country

★ Grade / Class

★ Please state if the above grade / class is 'Awarded' or 'Predicted

**Qualification 2 (Optional)**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Qualification
* Subject
* Institution
* Country
* Grade / Class
* Please state if the above grade / class is 'Awarded' or 'Predicted

**Qualification 3 (Optional)**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Qualification
* Subject
* Institution
* Country
* Grade / Class
* Please state if the above grade / class is 'Awarded' or 'Predicted

**Qualification 4 (Optional)**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Qualification
* Subject
* Institution
* Country
* Grade / Class
* Please state if the above grade / class is 'Awarded' or 'Predicted

**Qualification 5 (Optional)**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Qualification
* Subject
* Institution
* Country
* Grade / Class
* Please state if the above grade / class is 'Awarded' or 'Predicted

**Relevant Experience**

**IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you do **not** enter any personal details in this section of the application; for example: Name, Age, Gender, etc. The responses given here will be passed to the selection panel and need to adhere to blinding measures.

**Current or most recent position / role (optional):**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Position
* Organisation

**Position 2 (optional):**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Position
* Organisation

**Position 3 (optional):**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Position
* Organisation

**Position 4 (optional):**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Position
* Organisation

**Position 5 (optional):**

* FROM (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* TO (date format dd/mm/yyyy)
* Position
* Organisation

**Mitigating Factors – Optional**

Enter details of any mitigating factors here.

Please use this section to detail any factors you wish to make the Selection Committee aware of.  This could include periods of parental or long-term sick leave, or if you had caring responsibilities. You can also include any periods where you were unable to work / study because of the COVID-19 pandemic. State when and for what period you took a break.  Please do not share any sensitive personal information.

*Maximum of 600 characters including spaces (approximately 100 words).*

**Diversity Monitoring**

Completion of this section is mandatory but you can select 'Prefer not to say' for some or all questions.

**Please note:**

This section is for diversity monitoring purposes only and will **not** be shared with the review panel.

**Why are we collecting this data?**

The Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre is expected to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion is considered and supported across all our research and academic career development activity in alignment with the National Institute for Health and Care Research policies and principles:  <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/our-key-priorities/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

**What will we do with this data?**

Driven by these policies and [KCL IoPPN EDI](https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/diversity-inclusion) initiatives, this form is designed to collect data on the diversity of our applicant pool.  Our aim is to widen access for greater diversity and inclusion of applicants across under-represented groups and to make positive interventions to embed this ethos.

**How will we store this data?**

The Maudsley BRC Administrative Team will co-ordinate the process of data collection. All diversity monitoring data will be removed from the original application and stored as anonymised data with no information to identify the individual. Diversity monitoring data will be stored on a secure network drive and will only be accessible by the Administrative Team.

**How will this data be used?**

For EDI monitoring purposes, the anonymised data will be aggregated and used to report on the diversity of our applicant pool as required by the NIHR and King's College London.

**Will this data affect my application?**

No, completing this section, and providing your diversity data will not affect your application in any way.  This section is not a part of our selection process.

**Age**

★ Please select the age bracket appropriate for the age you will be on 1 October 2023.

* 24 or less
* 25 - 29
* 30 - 39
* 40 - 49
* 50 - 59
* 60+
* Prefer not to say

**Disability**

The questions in this section ask about disabilities and long-term conditions in different ways. Asking about disability is complex, and these questions will help us to develop a broader understanding of our applicant pool to compare with existing statistics. Please answer each question separately and don't feel that your answer to one should determine your answers to the others.

★ Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

* Yes
* No
* Prefer not to say

★ Do you have any of the following disabilities, long-term health conditions, mental health conditions or impairments?  *Please select all that apply*.  If you prefer to self-describe, then please state your reply in the OTHER box.

* No disability, condition or impairment
* Dyslexia (1)
* Other neurodiverse diagnosis (e.g. autism, dyscalculia)
* Hearing
* Speech
* Visual (5)
* Long-term health condition (e.g. diabetes, multiple sclerosis, heart condition, epilepsy, energy-limiting conditions, chronic pain)
* Mental Health
* Mobility
* Muscoskeletal (including neck, back and shoulder)
* A disability, condition or impairment listed above, but prefer not to specify which
* Other - please provide details here if you prefer to self-describe
* Prefer not to say

★ Do you experience barriers or limitations in your day-to-day activities related to any disability, health condition or impairment?

* Yes
* No
* Not applicable
* Prefer not to say

**Ethnicity**

The options listed below enable us to compare the diversity of our applicants.

We appreciate that if you are applying from outside of the UK that the options may not be a good fit for you. In that case, please select the most appropriate of the 'other' options and self describe in the available text box.

★ What is your ethnic group? Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background.

* Asian / Asian British - Bangladeshi
* Asian / Asian British - Chinese
* Asian / Asian British - Indian
* Asian / Asian British - Pakistani
* Asian / Asian British – OTHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - African
* Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - Caribbean
* Black / African / Caribbean / Black British - OTHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups - Black Caribbean and White
* Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups - Black African and White
* Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups - Asian and White
* Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups – OTHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
* White - Irish
* White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
* White - Roma
* White - OTHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Other ethnic group - Arab
* A group not listed above - please state \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Prefer not to say

**Gender and Sex**

The questions in this section ask about gender and sexuality

★ Which of the following best describes your gender?  If you prefer to self-describe, please state your reply in the 'Other / prefer to self-describe' box.

* Man
* Non-binary
* Woman
* Other / prefer to self describe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Prefer not to say

★ Do you identify as trans?

* Yes
* No
* Prefer not to say

★ Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?  If you prefer to self-describe, please state your reply in the 'Other / prefer to self describe box.

* Asexual
* Bi-bisexual
* Gay man
* Gay woman / lesbian
* Queer
* Straight / heterosexual
* Other / prefer to self-describe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Prefer not to say

**Responsibilities**

★ Do you have any caring responsibilities? *Please select all that apply*.

* No caring responsibilities
* Primary carer of a child / children aged below 18 years
* Primary carer of a disabled child / children aged below 18 years
* Primary carer or assistant for a disabled adult aged 18 years or over)
* Primary carer or assistant for an older person / people aged 65 years or over
* Secondary carer - another person carries out the main caring role
* Prefer not to say

**Socio-economic**

This section asks about your socio-economic background

★ What type of school did you attend for MOST of your time between the ages of 11 and 16?

* A state-run or state-funded school - non-selective
* A state-run or state-funded school - selective on academic, faith or other grounds
* Home school
* Independent or fee-paying school
* Other - please specify \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Prefer not to say

★ When you were 14 years of age, had any of your parents or guardians completed a university degree course or equivalent (e.g. BA, BSc or higher)?

* Yes
* No
* I don't know
* Prefer not to say

★ Did your household receive income support (or something similar) at any point during your school years?

* Yes
* No
* I don't know
* Prefer not to say

★ Did you receive free school meals at any point during your school years?

* Yes
* No
* I don't know
* Prefer not to say

If you grew up in the UK, please state the postcode of where you lived the longest between the ages of 11 to 16 years.  Please type: 'Don't remember' or 'Prefer not to say' if those are more appropriate answers. If you grew up outside the UK, please type 'Not applicable'.

★ Postcode of main childhood home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Advertising**

★ How did you hear about this PhD programme? *Please select all that apply*.

* King's College London website
* NIHR Maudsley BRC website
* Internet search engine
* Twitter
* LinkedIn
* Facebook
* FindAUniversity / FindAPhD
* Advertised by your current university
* Word of mouth
* Other - please say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact details**

**IMPORTANT:** The information you provide in this section will be removed before your application is shared with the selection panel.

★ **Title**

* Mr
* Mrs
* Miss
* Ms
* Mx
* Other - please say \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name**

★ First name/s

Preferred first name / nickname

Middle name/s

★ Last name

**Email address and telephone number**

Please enter a contact email address that you check regularly.  We will use this address to inform you of your application outcome.  We may need to contact you by phone.

★ Email address \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

★ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Address**

★ Address line 1

Address line 2

Town

★ City / County

★ Postcode

**Referees**

The information you provide in this section will be removed before your application is shared with the review panel.

References will only be requested if you progress to Stage Two of the application process for this programme.

Your references must contain contact details for two academic referees or relevant employers in research institutions / companies.  We will contact your referees directly if you progress to Stage Two.  Note that academic referees must have valid university email addresses, and employer referees should have the official email address of the company.  Personal email addresses are not acceptable.

We understand that, in some cases, it is not possible to provide referees that meet the above criteria.  Please read below for further information:

**Do I have to list two academic referees?**  If the candidate is a current / recent student then we expect two academic references. If they have worked (and this could include a year in industry during their studies) then one of the referees could be a line manager.

**Can I use a potential supervisor as a referee?**  We are instructing candidates not to do this. There may be exceptions where this is permissible and we advise a candidate to contact us to explain why they cannot find another referee.

**Can a post-doctoral researcher be my referee?** There may be exceptions where this is permissible and we advise a candidate to contact us to explain why they cannot find another referee.

**Can a PhD student be my referee?**  No, a PhD student is not permitted to be a referee.

**Referee 1**

★ Title

★ First name

★ Last name

★ Position

★ Institution

★ Country

★ Contact email address

**Referee 2**

★ Title

★ First name

★ Last name

★ Position

★ Institution

★ Country

★ Contact email address

**END OF APPLICATION**

Please review your application before clicking submit. Once your application has been submitted you will not be able to make changes.