**CALL FOR PROJECTS**

**BACKGROUND**

Our Doctoral Training Programme in Multimorbidity for Health Professionals offers a unique collaborative training environment for students to carry out clinical research across the translational spectrum, from examining aetiology and mechanisms, through data science and epidemiology, to applied clinical research. Our PhD Programme is supported via a Doctoral Training Programme Grant from the Wellcome Trust, and is run jointly by the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and St Andrews.

For our third intake of students, who will start in August 2024, we are seeking interdisciplinary projects that address three research themes:

1) Prevention and Management of Multimorbidity

2) Physical and Mental Health Multimorbidity

3) Polypharmacy and Multimorbidity

Inequalities is a cross cutting theme, and so, projects that take account of inequalities will be viewed favourably.

We can offer students training across a range of methods, spanning from aetiology and mechanisms; data science; social science; to solutions focused applied health research, and aim to bring together interdisciplinary teams of supervisors with diverse skills. We will not consider predominantly wet lab- based research or projects involving animals. We will consider projects which study multimorbidity in a global health context and have funds to support a number of these more specific projects to carry out research overseas in Low or Middle Income Countries.

The programme allows students to undertake a 3-year PhD as part of an employed research fellowship, and with research costs, training, and conference travel funding. Additionally, we aim for employers to release fellows for one day per week during a 6-month preparatory period before beginning the 3-year PhD project, although this isn’t always possible. During this six-month run-in period, we expect clinical training/work (80%) to be combined with dedicated time (20%) for planning of the PhD project with the support of supervisors and the Programme Coordinating Committee. We will also work with NES and employers to support fellows to have similar 20% protected time for 12 months after completion to promote publication of papers and applications for further grant/fellowship funding, maximising the chances for academic success (although protected time before and after the 3 year’s funded PhD is not guaranteed).

Mandatory taught elements for students will include Introduction to Multimorbidity, Knowledge Exchange, Patient and Public Involvement, and Research Ethics.

All project proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the Coordinating Committee (whose members span the 4 institutions, representatives from NES, and the general public) and priority for advertisement will be given to project proposals that foster collaboration between disciplines and the Universities and fit with the remit of the programme**.**

We are encouraging variation in supervisory teams. Researchers are expected to be a **primary or co-primary supervisor of a student at most every other year,** and we prefer not to see the same supervisory team with multiple students (i.e., simply rotating primary supervision in the same team every year).

Please note that there is a preference for PhD by publication, when this is possible, and so applications should highlight expected project publication outputs.

**SUPERVISOR CRITERIA AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

All projects will require two supervisors with a minimum of a 70/30 split.

Primary supervisors may be senior or mid-career, but every supervisory team must include an

established researcher with substantial grant funding and experience of supervising PhDs to completion, to ensure Fellows join well-resourced groupings with post-doctoral and senior research staff, offering direct access to expertise and day-to-day support.

The supervisory team should have a minimum of one active grant (with at least 1 year of funding left) and good track record of supervision. **The lead supervisor must have a tenured post or guaranteed employment for the duration of the Fellowship, this may apply to second supervisors, dependent on host institution requirements.** Two supervisors must hold a higher degree or evidence of extensive PhD supervision. Two supervisors must be from the host institution – additional supervisors can be located at external locations.

Global health projects should include a member of staff in the supervisory team who is based at the overseas institution, either a staff member employed by an institution at that location or employed by an UK institution but based at the overseas location. This will ensure the fellow is provided with sufficient support during the overseas stay.

**PROJECT SUBMISSION**

More information for potential supervisors is available on the programme website: [**Supervisor Information**](https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/graduateschool/multimorbidity/supervisorinformation/)

Supervisors who previously had a project advertised with no candidates recruited and want their project reconsidered, **must submit a new application** which will be reviewed together with all received proposals for the next intake.

To **submit a project proposal**, please complete the Project Call Form below and return, together with an **image (photo or illustration) which may be used for web advertising (700x300 pixels)**, to the designated contact at your home institution **by the end of Friday 26th May**:

University of Glasgow -  multimorbidityphd@glasgow.ac.uk

University of Edinburgh – Dr. Nazir Lone nazir.lone@ed.ac.uk

University of Dundee – Prof. Ewan Pearson e.z.pearson@dundee.ac.uk

University of St Andrews - Prof. Colin McCowan cm434@st-andrews.ac.uk

**ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED**

|  |
| --- |
| **Project title** |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary Supervisor Name and Job Title**  |  |
| Centre/Institute/School/University |  |
| Website |  |
| Expected supervision allocation percentage input |  |
| Do you have a university contract for the duration of the 3-year PhD?*The lead supervisor must have a tenured post or guaranteed employment for the duration of the Fellowship, this may apply to second supervisors, dependent on host institution requirements.* |  |
| Number of Completed PhD Students (at home or other institution) |  |
| Total current PhD allocation (WTE) *You should add the total input for all your supervised students, for instance if you have one student with 60% allocation, and another with 10%, you should enter 0.7 WTE*  |  |
| Current Grant Funding (detail funding source; award start/end date; and value) |  |

Up to three secondary supervisors may be identified. Please complete as applicable to your proposed project.

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| --- | --- |
| **Secondary Supervisor Name and Job Title** *(if applicable)* |  |
| Centre/Institute/School/University |  |
| Website |  |
| Expected supervision allocation percentage input |  |
| Number of Completed PhD Students (at any institution) |  |
| Total current PhD student allocation (Whole Time Equivalent) |  |
| Current Grant Funding (detail funding source; award start/end date; and value) |  |
| **Secondary Supervisor Name and Job Title** *(if applicable)* |  |
| Centre/Institute/School/University |  |
| Website |  |
| Expected supervision allocation percentage input |  |
| Number of Completed PhD Students (at any institution) |  |
| Total current PhD student allocation (Whole Time Equivalent) |  |
| Current Grant Funding (detail funding source; award start/end date; and value) |  |
| **Secondary Supervisor Name and Job Title** *(if applicable)* |  |
| Centre/Institute/School/University |  |
| Website |  |
| Expected supervision allocation percentage input |  |
| Number of Completed PhD Students (at any institution) |  |
| Total current PhD student allocation (Whole Time Equivalent) |  |
| Current Grant Funding (detail funding source; award start/end date; and value) |  |

Please identify a clinical mentor (from the supervisory team, or if necessary, from outside it). The role of the clinical mentor is to provide career guidance and advice relevant to a clinical academic career.

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| **Clinical Mentor**  |  |
| Centre/Institute/School/University |  |
| Website |  |

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION TO AID IN SELECTION OF SUITABLE PROJECTS**

Please provide a short summary which describes the areas that students could explore. **(IMPORTANT - 600 words max. for all sections** and up to 4 references in addition, not included in the word count) In the first six months, students will be expected to develop the proposed fellowship proposal in further detail. Research costs for project is limited to £30K (further funds may be available dependent on project; additional £10K is available to cover experimental medicine and human imaging research costs; for fellows undertaking global health research see funding provision on the Global Health section of this form below). Supervisors are responsible for additional funding if the available research costs are inadequate for the project.

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| --- | --- |
| Background |  |
| Aims |  |
| Proposed Methods  |  |
| Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) |  |
| Training Outcomes |  |
| Word Count | *Please state the word count of all sections above, which should be max 600 words.* |
| Proposed Publication Outputs*(not included in word count)* | 1.  |
| 2. |
| 3. |
| 4. |
| References(*not included in word count)*  |  |

**SUMMARY OF PHD PROJECT (for web advertising)**

Summary (max 200 words).

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**ALIGNMENT WITH MULTIMORBIDITY THEMES**

Please indicate which of the following themes will be addressed by your project (more than one may be highlighted) and whether there is an Inequalities aspect to the work.

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| --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Yes/No** |
| Prevention and Management of Multimorbidity |  |
| Physical and Mental Health Multimorbidity |  |
| Polypharmacy and Multimorbidity |  |
| Inequalities |  |
| Experimental medicine  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Questions** | **Yes/No** | **If yes, please provide details** |
| **Is this a cross-institutional collaborative project?**If yes, please provide additional details about the depth of the collaborative relationship between the supervisors or research groups from different institutions.  |  |  |
| **Is there an interdisciplinary element?** If yes, please provide additional details about which disciplines.  |  |  |

**GLOBAL HEALTH PROJECT SUPPLEMENT**

Wellcome defines a global health project as one where the student spends **more than 12 consecutive months** working overseas in a low- or middle-income country. **Providing the students spends more than 12 consecutive months working overseas**, there is additional funding available for fellows undertaking global health research: an additional £60,000 fund is available to support field work and additional research staff costs, and a £48,000 overseas living and accommodation allowance. Note that the overseas allowance cannot be used to support a series of visits/placements of less than 12 months.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Will the student spend more than 12 consecutive months overseas?** | *If the answer is ‘no', then the project is NOT a ‘global health project' and is not eligible for additional funding* |
| **Where will the student be located and for how long?** |  |
| **Who will be the on-site academic supervisor during the overseas placement?**At least one member of the supervisory team should be based at the overseas institution, either a staff member employed by an institution at that location or employed by an UK institution but based at the overseas location.  |  |
| **Research costs**Please give an indication of estimated research costs to confirm these would be within the available grant  |  |
| **Will the project support the development of research infrastructure or capacity in the site?** Please explain how |  |