

PhD studentships in neuroscience and neurology

Application guidance notes for 2017 call

Brain Research UK PhD studentships are intended to enable outstanding graduates to gain the necessary skills and training to set them on course for the development of an independent career in neuroscience or neurological research.

The studentships, which may be held by clinicians or non-clinicians, provide funding of up to £120,000 for three to four years.

The studentships are open to students who have applied to commence study towards a PhD at a recognised UK Higher Education Institution in autumn 2018.

The submission deadline is 5pm on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Remit

We are interested in mechanism-based research that addresses areas of large unmet need and demonstrates a clear pathway to clinical impact in one of the following areas:

Acquired brain damage

Research to advance understanding of how to deliver interventions that promote recovery at the level of impairment in people with acquired brain damage. This may be through behavioural interventions, enhancement of plasticity mechanisms, or both.

Neuro-oncology

Research addressing the fundamental causes, mechanisms, diagnosis or treatment of primary brain tumours and associated neurological complications.

Headache and facial pain

Research addressing the fundamental causes, mechanisms, diagnosis or treatment of headache and facial pain.

Costs

PhD studentships are for three to four years and include stipend, institutional fees, training costs, project research costs and attendance at relevant conferences and meetings.

The stipend is fixed at £16,000 per annum (£17,000 in London), increasing at £500 per annum. For clinical candidates, the stipend can be used to support a salary at the appropriate clinical level, however the balance of funds will need to be obtained from other sources.

Fees are capped at the UK/EU level.

The total award is capped at £120,000.

Who can apply?

- We wish to encourage applications from prospective PhD students wishing to carry out research in the areas outlined above.
- Applicants must have applied to commence study towards a PhD at a recognised UK Higher Education Institution in autumn 2018.
- There is no requirement for students to be from the UK, nor resident for any amount of time before the awards begins, however we will provide student fees up to the UK/EU rate only.
- Applicants must be available to attend for interview in London at their own cost.

Application process

Applications must be submitted by the prospective student using the application form provided.

The applicant must provide details of the host laboratory, the proposed project and supervisor. The supervisor and head of department or graduate committee chair are required to sign the application; the supervisor must provide details of their own track record on the separate supervisor form.

Applications will be considered on the basis of the applicant's academic track record, how the proposed PhD research fits in with the applicant's overall clinical training plans where applicable, previous research experience and future academic potential. Research projects will be judged on scientific merit, originality and the closeness of fit with the remit of this call.

The track record of the supervisor and the suitability of the research environment will also be taken into account.

Applicants will be short-listed by Brain Research UK's Scientific Advisory Panel, with short-listed candidates invited to interview in February.

Short-listed applications will be subject to external peer review.

Guidelines for completion of application

A. Application form

Please use the application form to complete the core details of the research project. Please be sure to address all headings and respect the stated word limits. You may include tables and figures as appropriate. References are outside the word limits.

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The proposed research project must be hypothesis-driven and represent an area of research that you intend to further develop in your future career. It is important that you include the aims and objectives of the research together with the techniques and training required to deliver them.

When compiling your budget, please make sure that it is realistic. The level of the award will not be increased or extended other than in exceptional circumstances.

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Brain Research UK, Dutch House, 307-308 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LL

Telephone: 020 7404 9982 Email: info@brt.org.uk Website: brt.org.uk

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We can only fund direct research costs and cannot contribute towards institutional overhead costs such as rent, general utilities, general administrative or secretarial costs.

Supporting documents:

We require the following documents in support of your proposal.

- A copy of your CV, maximum two pages.
- Copies of approval documentation (relating to human participation and/or use of animals)

B. Supervisor form

Please circulate the template form to your proposed supervisor(s) and ensure it is submitted by the application deadline. Their completed form should be sent directly to research@brt.org.uk

C. Referee nominations

Personal referees

We require details of two personal referees. These must be people who know you well, in a professional capacity, and are able to comment on your ability to conduct research leading to the award of a PhD. One of these people must be your current supervisor or tutor.

Before nominating these referees, you must confirm that they are happy to act in this capacity.

Expert reviewers

Please also supply names and contact details of three appropriate reviewers for your research proposal. Nominated reviewers must be in a position to provide an independent review of the proposed research. They should be external to your institution and, if different, to the institution where the proposed PhD programme is to be carried out, and should not be people with whom you have current collaborations. They may be from the UK or overseas.

You also have the opportunity to name individuals who you specifically do not wish us to approach in relation to this project.

Submission of completed application

All applications must be submitted to research@brt.org.uk by 5pm on Wednesday 13 December 2017.

Please make sure you include the following documents:

- Application form, CV and copies of approval documentation (combined into one file where possible)
- Referee nomination form (separate file)

These files must be original documents (in Word or PDF), not scanned from paper copies (with the exception of the approval documents, which may be scanned). The signed final page of the application form may be scanned and sent as a separate document.

- Supervisor form – this should be sent directly by the Supervisor to research@brt.org.uk by the same deadline of 5pm on Wednesday 13th December 2017

Timetable to award

Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview in February 2018 with awards to successful candidates made shortly afterwards.

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Queries

Please email research@brt.org.uk or telephone Katie Martin on 0117 909 4809 with any queries.