



The MRC DTP flexible supplement supports unique training opportunities for MRC-funded PhD students.

All MRC-funded students registered at the DTP's institution(s) are eligible. This includes MRC DTP and iCASE students, MRC Institute, Unit, and Centre students, MRC Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) students, and MRC Clinical Research Training Fellows (CRTFs).

Use of the flexible supplement should fall into the following categories (although this list is not exhaustive):

- **High-cost or exceptional training opportunities**, for example in advanced research skills or wider professional skills such as public engagement.
- **Placements** including internships and collaborative laboratory visits.
- **Training in partnership with industry** or at the **interdisciplinary interface**.
- **Transitions from PhD** – activities taking place between thesis submission and viva with a discrete, clearly defined objective intended to increase the competitiveness of recipients in the next stage of their career. For example, a laboratory visit to learn a new technique.
- **Cohort events** with a defined training component.

In addition, the DTP may also use flexible supplement funds to support small-scale **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) activities**, for example:

- Pilot activities aimed at understanding and improving recruitment of underrepresented groups to doctoral training.
- Targeted undergraduate research experience placements.

Flexible supplement funds should **not** be used to:

- Extend studentships unless to compensate for a placement or equivalent.
- Provide funding for standard experimental costs such as consumables or equipment or to supplement stipend.
- Support cohort events that are purely social and lack a training component.
- Support activities associated with routine operation of the DTP, for example delivery of generic core training or admissions processes.
- Provide funding for conference attendance. These costs should be drawn from students' travel allowance.

The process, management and allocation of the flexible supplement is at the discretion of the DTP. However, we expect robust and transparent processes to be in place, for example a standardised application form which is assessed by a panel according to clearly defined criteria.

All flexible supplement use should be reported in the annual return to MRC head office.