



# MeDe Early Career Researcher Forum (MeDe ECR)

## PhD student secondment Scheme

### Guidelines for Application

#### The Purpose of the Scheme

The ECR Forum of MeDe Innovation provides funding for PhD students to undertake placements which will help them to deliver high quality inputs to their projects related to the MeDe Innovation research themes.

Placements are expected to broaden researcher experience in a way that will impact on student benefit: e.g. through the acquisition of new skills, new knowledge, access to facilities, developing new collaborations (or progressing existing ones), gaining insight into clinical, industrial or other needs, or experiencing a new but relevant environment.

#### Who can apply?

PhD students from one of the five MeDe academic centres are invited to apply for this scheme.

#### Where can you go?

Placements can be local, within the UK or international. Examples include:

- Clinical placements (hospital labs, PCTs, etc.)
- UK or overseas laboratories
- Charities (e.g. Age Concern, Wellcome Trust etc.)
- Industrial partners
- Collaborating institutions (Universities, government labs etc.)
- Other appropriate settings

Placements will be expected to support the development of relevant knowledge and awareness beyond your current research environment.

If you have an idea of something you want to do but need help finding an appropriate host, please contact us using the contact details at the end of these guidelines. Blogs of previously funded placements can be found at <http://mede-innovation.ac.uk/blog/>

#### What is funded?

This award (£1500 and £2500 for national and international secondments, respectively) funds the following:

- Travel to and from your placement, and local travel linked to your placement while you are there.
- Visa costs.
- Accommodation and food for the duration of the placement (adhering to your University travel and subsistence expenses guidelines).
- Consumables costs, if these are something the host is not willing to cover and the need to pay for consumables otherwise presents a barrier to the placement taking place. Costs need to be understood and agreed with the host and with the MeDe Innovation team ahead of the placement being approved.
- If there are other costs that are specific to your placement but not covered above, these need to be included on the application form.

**Salary costs and IT equipment are not covered under this scheme.**



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### Timing and Duration of Placements

Placements funded in the 2018 call need to be completed and a report produced by 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.

The duration of the placement is expected to reflect the purpose of the placement and could be anything from one week (e.g. to learn a technique) to 2 months. It may be necessary for a researcher to make several visits to a host to achieve the outcomes across a number of months. This must be described on the application form.

### Payment of the award

Most of the award will be recovered by the awardee after the awardee placement, on an expense claim basis. Note that delays may happen.

### How to apply

You need to complete the Application Form which is available at <http://mede-innovation.ac.uk/news-article/mede-innovation-phd-secondment-scheme-2018-now-open/>. **The application form must be sent by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> of March (new deadline) to Ricardo Da Conceicao Ribeiro.** If you have any queries about the conditions for application or the process, please contact [Ricardo Da Conceicao Ribeiro](#).

### Assessment

Proposals will be internally assessed by a panel of PDRA, early career academics and members of the executive board of MeDe-Innovation, and applicants notified of the outcome by 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2018.

### Reporting requirements

The funding for this scheme is provided through MeDe Innovation core funding. Funders like to receive feedback on how their money has been spent and how it has benefitted researchers, the university and patients. You will therefore be expected to provide a report (in response to a template of questions) by the mid of September 2018, you will also be invited to showcase your placement in form of a blog post and a poster or talk at the annual meeting 2019 depending on your placement dates..

### More Information

If you would like to discuss a possible proposal please contact [Ricardo Da Conceicao Ribeiro](#).

### Previous awardees have said

*"I had spent the first part of my PhD producing the scaffolds I needed with relatively limited success. The placement was an insightful experience that has greatly helped progress within my own PhD project, providing inspiration to translate my research as well as the practical benefits outlined above."*  
[secondment with a polymer manufacturer]

*"On a PhD student's stipend there is not a lot of scope for spending time at different organisations and exploring outside of the research project itself. So, I decided to apply for the MeDe funding to gain a better*



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*understanding of how government and parliament interpret and utilise scientific evidence, and vice versa.”*  
[secondment at the Royal Academy of Engineering and the House of Commons Library]