

THE BIRMINGHAM CANCER RESEARCH UK CLINICAL ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMME

INTERCALATING PHD STUDENTSHIPS IN ONCOLOGY 2027

The Cancer Research UK Clinical Academic Training Programme provides an outstanding opportunity for early career training in a dynamic, multidisciplinary environment.

Applications are invited for two Intercalating PhD studentships (MBPhD) in Oncology. **This three-year studentship provides full funding for PhD tuition fees, laboratory consumables (circa £13,500 per year) and living stipend (£22,500 per year). The studentship will also cover undergraduate tuition fee costs, up to £45,000.**

To be eligible you must:

- Have completed at least two years of your UoB MBChB or one year if you are on the Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) course
- Have completed or be completing an intercalating degree, or for GEM students only, have completed an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject

Please note, overseas students are eligible to apply, however as tuition fees only cover the “home” rate, any difference will need to be self-funded.

Studentships are anticipated to start by **June 2027**.

To apply please send the following documents to Fayeon Fyfield-Calder, Cancer Project Manager (ecmcbham@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

- CV
- Personal statement detailing why you want to do a PhD
- Outline of research interest and experience
- Names of two referees
- Project preferences (optional – see research areas below)

The **deadline** for applications is **Monday 1st February 2027**.

Research Areas:

Our main scientific focus is on understanding oncogenesis and tumour immunobiology, providing the scientific basis for novel targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and stratification approaches, focused around three core themes of Cancer Immunology, Cancer Genomics, and the Tumour Microenvironment & Metabolism.

- Our **Cancer Immunology** theme explores how anti-tumour immunity is regulated, including the immunobiology of the tumour microenvironment, and how factors such as tumour genetics, oncogenic signalling and microbiota combine to influence it. Linking with these studies, we are

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characterising novel axes of cancer immunosuppression, identifying new molecular targets, and developing innovative immunotherapeutic strategies.

- Our **Cancer Genomics** theme is defining how DNA damage and repair defects influence cancer predisposition, how epigenetic reprogramming drives tumourigenesis, and, aligning with clinical trials on epigenetic modifiers, highlights new therapeutic opportunities. Linking with our clinical infrastructure, genomics studies can identify how mutational profiles/epigenetic signatures influence patient outcomes/treatment response, providing novel stratification approaches.
- Our **Tumour Microenvironment & Metabolism** theme engages groups from the Institute of Metabolism and Systems research, with the ultimate goal of harnessing the tumour microenvironment to improve our understanding of prognosis, response to treatment, and catalyse development of novel therapeutic approaches or treatment combinations.

Details of example projects can be obtained from Fayeon (ecmcbham@contacts.bham.ac.uk). We also welcome applications from those who already have a project in mind including one outside of the Centre's key themes, as long as they have a clear **Oncology focus**. If you do want to discuss any potential project with Centre PIs, or for any general queries, please contact Fayeon at the above address.