



Medical Research

PhD studentships 2017/18

Total £938,000

Charity name	Institute of Cancer Research
No. of studentships	One full time studentship over four years
Total funding	£143,000
Project details	Iona Black was awarded the Masonic Charitable Foundation PhD studentship and started at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). Iona's project will aim to design chemical probes to help identify new drug targets on the cancer related protein Tankyrase. Iona is under the supervision of Professor Ian Collins and Dr Sebastian Guettler and will work across multi-disciplinary teams within the ICR's Divisions of Cancer Therapeutics and Structural Biology.

Charity name	Diabetes UK
No. of studentships	Three full time studentships
Total funding	£315,000
Project details	Gideon Pomeranz was awarded the Masonic Charitable Foundation PhD studentship at University College London. Gideon's project will look at kidney disease, a complication of diabetes, which begins with damage to the filtration barrier of the kidney. At the moment, there are very few drugs which directly prevent this initial damage. Gideon plans to screen over 1,200 potential new drugs for diabetic kidney disease, testing them in Zebrafish. This could inform the development of new kidney disease treatments in the future.

Charity name	Bowel & Cancer Research
No. of studentships	Three full time studentships
Total funding	£225,000
Project details	The MCF will fund three PhD studentships researching into Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (IBD), such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. IBD is an umbrella term used to describe disorders that involve chronic inflammation of the digestive tract.

Charity name	Kidney Research UK
No. of studentships	Three full time studentships
Total funding	£255,000
Project details	Corinna Brockhaus was awarded the Masonic Charitable Foundation PhD studentship at Leeds University. Corinna will be looking at kidney transplant rejection treatment through virus blocking. Miguel Barroso Gil was awarded the Masonic Charitable Foundation PhD studentship at Newcastle University. Miguel will be looking to understand how different mutations lead to the same childhood kidney failure in Joubert Syndrome and incorporating this knowledge into the search for treatments.