**PhD Studentship Reviewer’s Guidance and Scoring Criteria**

**Background to the Glasgow Children’s Hospital Charity Research Fund - PhD Studentship**

Applications are invited for PhD studentships for research projects that will advance knowledge and application in the broad field of children’s health. The Studentship Scheme aims to embed the concept of children’s health in the training of young researchers from a broad skills base. Proposals can complement existing research or can be made in their own right. Applications that integrate a range of disciplines are especially welcomed.

Please note:

* There is only one studentship per year
* Each application can request a studentship of a fixed duration of 3 years (or longer if part-time)
* Detailed costing breakdowns are not requested as the successful application will be provided with a flat rate of 20K per annum to cover the student stipend and other associated costs.
* This scheme is not suitable for clinical fellowships.

This round of peer review seeks to assess and score all the applications received. A minimum of two referees will be allocated to each application.

**Assessment criteria**

Completed assessment forms should be returned to the GCHC Research Fund Co-ordinator (jillian.bryce@glasgow.ac.uk)

In your assessment of the studentship application, please consider the following:

1. Distinctive contribution to, and likely impact on children’s health.

2. The quality of the science and the standing of the research group in the proposed area of research.

3. The quality of the research environment, supervisory arrangements and the likely quality of training programme(s) and preparation for academic research at PhD level or research-related employment in industry or the public sector

4. Added value achieved through specific partnerships, e.g. across disciplines and departments, between academic institutions, with industry, the NHS or other private and public sector organisations.

5. The availability of a suitable student (refer below)

In addition, referees are asked to identify any ethical issues that need further attention.

**Suitable Student**

Candidates for studentships must hold qualifications at the level of, or equivalent to, a good honours degree from a UK academic institution, in biological sciences. This should be a first or upper second class honours degree. Qualifications, or a combination of qualifications and experience, which demonstrate equivalent ability and attainment should also be considered. For example, a less than sufficient first degree may be enhanced to meet the requirements by the acquisition of a Masters degree for example from 2(ii) to 2(i). Suitability of student should be scored from 10 to 1 (10 – exceptionally able student; 1 – no evidence of ability)

**Scoring the application**

Please ensure that you provide an overall score (1-10) based on the criteria overleaf, which should reflect your overall view of the application. You must first decide whether the application is excellent quality, good quality, potentially useful or not fundable. You may then use the descriptions within the relevant band to select a score that reflects your overall view, using whole numbers only.

**Deadline for your assessments**

Please complete and return the assessment form no later than the date specified in the email to you. If you are unable to help with any of the applications, I would be grateful if you could provide the name of an alternative referee(s). If you cannot provide your comments by the due date, please notify us as soon as possible.

**Feedback**

Any feedback on the the system will be gratefully appreciated. Your anonymised comments may be fed back to the applicant upon request.

**Confidentiality**

Any applications sent to you are sent in confidence and you should destroy any files or printouts after use.

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| **Score** | **Indicator** |
| **Excellent quality** | |
| 10 | Exceptional. This training programme would be recognised internationally as a world leader in its field. Research environment and training potential is outstanding. Will produce a significant increase in UK capacity in this scientific field and in children’s health. |
| 9 | Excellent application which is, or has exceptional potential to come, at the forefront internationally. Training will be undertaken at an excellent institution/group for training and career development, with internationally pre-eminent science in the relevant field(s). Several unique, high value features. Addresses very important questions and is likely to have a high impact on children’s health. |
| **Good quality** | |
| 8 | Intermediate (between 7 and 9). |
| 7 | Good quality application, few concerns (or uncertainties), good quality research environment. The institution/group has a strong track record in training and career development in the field, and has international quality science in this field. Likely to produce a significant impact on children’s health |
| 6 | Good quality application from an institution/group on the border between national and international standing. Training is strong. However, no particularly unique, high value features. Good potential of impact on children’s health |
| 5 | Overall, good quality application from an institution/group which has a good track record in training and career development, and a mix of nationally and internationally competitive science in the field. No or few unique, high value features. There are some significant concerns (or uncertainties) about the application, but these could reasonably be addressed following feedback. To be undertaken at an institution/group capable of providing training and career development in this field. Good prospects of having an impact on children’s health. Fundable. |
| **Potentially useful** | |
| 4 | Potential for good quality research exists, but the application is flawed. There are some significant concerns (or uncertainties) about the application which could not reasonably be addressed following feedback. Little impact on children’s health. |
| **Not fundable** | |
| 3 | Training programme contains some good ideas or opportunities, but which are very unlikely to be productive and/or successful. Significant concerns where major improvements would be needed to make the application competitive. Institution/group has a limited track record of providing training and career development in this field. Low impact on children’s health. |
| 2 | Potentially capable in some aspects, bordering on unacceptable in others. Low impact on children’s health. |
| 1 | Serious training, career development, scientific or ethical concerns. Should not be funded. No impact on children’s health. |

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| Reviewer  Reference Number |  |
| Application Reference Number |  |
| Lead Applicant Name |  |
| Overall Score |  |
| Student Score |  |
| Comments (maximum 200 words) |  |