# PGR Studentship Information Template 2021 entry

* Please complete the template with as much information as possible.
* \*fields are essential.
* If you have information that does not have a label, please create a new row in the table for it.

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| **\*Title of studentship** | Comparison of SARS-CoV2 detection in saliva and nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs. |
| **Value / what is covered?** |  |
| **Awarding body** | DfE |
| **Number of studentships** | 1 |
| **\*Summary descriptive text / Example of research project** | Saliva has been shown to be a reliable method of SARS-CoV2 detection by several recent studies. It has the advantage of being a more acceptable sampling process, causing less discomfort than conventional nose/throat sampling. It may also be more convenient for particular age groups (e.g. children). This study will involve comparison of saliva with nose/throat swabs using a variety of nucleic acid detection platforms (e.g. LAMP, RT-PCR), and in a range of patient cohorts.  This project will provide an opportunity to join a world leading research group, at the cutting edge of tackling the current challenge of a pandemic. The successful candidate will be an integral part in developing and validating novel rapid diagnostic technologies in order to accurately detect SARS Co-V2 in various clinical samples. The student will also gain an awareness of the regulatory framework involved in the diagnostic process.  This studentship will be part funded by our research group. |
| **\*Supervisor(s)** | Prof Michael Tunney, Dr Deirdre Gilpin |
| **\*Eligibility / residence Status** |  |
| **Country** |  |
| **\*Start date and duration** | September 2021, 3 years |
| **\*Faculty** | FMHLS |
| **\*Research centre / School** | School of Pharmacy |
| **Subject area** | Respiratory Medicine, Microbiology, Infection, Clinical Pharmacy |
| **Candidate requirements / Key skills required for the post** | Applicants should have a 1st or 2.1 honours degree (or equivalent) in a relevant subject. Relevant subjects include Pharmacy, Molecular Biology, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Biochemistry, Biological/Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Engineering, or a closely related discipline. Students who have a 2.2 honours degree and a Master’s degree may also be considered, but the School reserves the right to shortlist for interview only those applicants who have demonstrated high academic attainment to date |
| **\*Deadline for applications** |  |
| **\*How to apply / contacts** | Postgraduate Research applicants for Pharmacy who are interested in applying for a fully funded DFE studentship must have applied to Queen’s, via the Direct Applications Portal, and submitted all required supporting documents by the closing date, which will be announced later in the Academic year.  <https://dap.qub.ac.uk/portal/user/u_login.php> |
| **Relevant links / more information** | <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/PostgraduatePositions/>  <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofPharmacy/Research/> |
| **Keywords for search filters** | SARS-Co-V2, infection, diagnostic |
| **Training provided through the research project** | The study will provide extensive training in molecular techniques (RT-PCR, LAMP and Illumina sequencing), clinical studies, data validation, viral diagnostics. |
| **Expected impact activities** | This study will help determine more acceptable means of virus detection, a key to effective control and transmission studies in the current pandemimc. This will directly feed into public health and surveillance data and contribute to decision making around measures for preventing transmission of SARS-CoV2. |