

CRUK-MCRC Training Programme 2025-2026



Guidance for PhD Students

Alongside your PhD research in the lab, MCRC places strong emphasis on your personal and professional development. This programme has been designed to introduce you to a wide range of opportunities across our partner institutions:

- **MCRC-led opportunities – shown in bold Red**
- University of Manchester (UoM) – highlighted in purple
- The Christie Education Fellow activities – highlighted in blue
- CRUK Manchester Institute – highlighted in green
- Wellbeing activities-highlighted in pink

Together, these opportunities give you the chance to plan your year ahead and build skills that will support both your research and your future career.

We recommend that you dedicate 2–3 hours every two weeks to personal development training. This is a guideline rather than a strict requirement — you may need to adapt it to suit your own pace and priorities. That flexibility is exactly why this programme has been designed: to allow you to engage with training at a rhythm that works for you, while ensuring you gain the full benefit of the resources available.

Important notes:

1. Please note that the **MCRC bespoke curriculum sessions (bold black)** are **mandatory for CRUK-funded PhDs**. You must attend at least one of these sessions, held annually, during your PhD journey before graduation.
2. Please also ensure you plan for any mandatory trainings required by your supervisory team, as these form an essential part of your development pathway.
3. For The Christie Institute for Cancer Education training sessions: if you are interested in attending a particular session, please email the Fellowships inbox (the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net). You will then be invited individually.

Month	Training/Event		
	Year 1 of PhD	Year 2 of PhD	Year 3/4 of PhD
October 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UoM Doctoral Academy Induction• MCRC-DCS PGR Welcome Event (13.10.2025) (MCRC)• Starting Postgraduate Research in BMH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conferences, Presenting & Networking• Research Data Management• Reflective Teaching and Learning in Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motivation & Procrastination• Research Data Management• Reflective Teaching and Learning in Practice
November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to Academic Writing for PGRs in BMH• PhD Student Tutorials: How To Read a Paper (MI)• Writing a Literature Review in BMH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motivation & Procrastination• Preparing a grant proposal for PhD or research projects (18.11.2025) (Christie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transition planning for your final year• Preparing a grant proposal for PhD or research projects (18.11.2025) (Christie)
December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UoM inclusive research training• Assess your Digital Skills• Christmas quiz! (16.12.2025) (Christie)• Puppet Theatre Show: All in a Mouse's Night (20-21 December)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UoM inclusive research training• Christmas quiz! (16.12.2025) (Christie)• Puppet Theatre Show: All in a Mouse's Night (20-21 December)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UoM inclusive research training• Planning and Writing your Thesis• Christmas quiz! (16.12.2025) (Christie)• Puppet Theatre Show: All in a Mouse's Night (20-21 December)
January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity * (21.01.2026) (MCRC)• Environmental Sustainability Strategy• Public communication (20.01.2025) (Christie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity * (21.01.2026) (MCRC)• Environmental Sustainability Strategy• Public communication (20.01.2025) (Christie)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity * (21.01.2026) (MCRC)• Comprehensive thesis writing training session (MI)• Environmental Sustainability Strategy• Public communication (20.01.2025) (Christie)

Month	Training/Event		
	Year 1 of PhD	Year 2 of PhD	Year 3/4 of PhD
February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Leadership * (25.02.2026) (MCRC) • Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) • Prioritising your wellbeing and developing personal resilience (17.02.2026) (Christie) • Quatuor Danel lunchtime concert with Cheng Yu (pipa).(19.02.2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Leadership * (25.02.2026) (MCRC) • Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) • Prioritising your wellbeing and developing personal resilience (17.02.2026) (Christie) • Quatuor Danel lunchtime concert with Cheng Yu (pipa).(19.02.2026) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *CRUK MCRC Bespoke Curriculum training session: Leadership* (25.02.2026) (MCRC) • Laboratory Efficiency Assessment Framework (LEAF) • Shut Up and Write • Prioritising your wellbeing and developing personal resilience (17.02.2026) (Christie) • Quatuor Danel lunchtime concert with Cheng Yu (pipa).(19.02.2026)
March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (1)* (18.03.2026) (MCRC) • MCRC-Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Cancer Theme Workshop (17.03.2026) (MCRC) • Conferences, Presenting & Networking • Leveraging foundation models and AI agents: AI to support your clinical work and research (17.03.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (1)* (18.03.2026) (MCRC) • MCRC-Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Cancer Theme Workshop(MCRC) (17.03.2026) • Conferences, Presenting & Networking • Leveraging foundation models and AI agents: AI to support your clinical work and research (17.03.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (1)* (18.03.2026) (MCRC) • MCRC-Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Cancer Theme Workshop(MCRC) (17.03.2026) • Leveraging foundation models and AI agents: AI to support your clinical work and research (17.03.2026) (Christie)
April 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum : Research and Innovation in Healthcare Systems* (22.04.2026) (MCRC) • Preparing for Annual Reviews and Continuation Reports in BMH • Entrepreneurship for Researchers • Developing effective teaching skills: From bedside to big lectures (21.04.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum : Research and Innovation in Healthcare Systems* (22.04.2026) (MCRC) • Preparing for Annual Reviews and Continuation Reports in BMH • Entrepreneurship for Researchers • Developing effective teaching skills: From bedside to big lectures (21.04.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum : Research and Innovation in Healthcare Systems* (22.04.2026) (MCRC) • Entrepreneurship for Researchers • Developing effective teaching skills: From bedside to big lectures (21.04.2026) (Christie)
May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (2)* (13.05.2026) (MCRC) • Enhance your Public Speaking Skills using Improvisation Techniques • Optimising your CV for your next opportunity (19.05.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (2)* (13.05.2026) (MCRC) • Enhance your Public Speaking Skills using Improvisation Techniques • Optimising your CV for your next opportunity (19.05.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (2)* (13.05.2026) (MCRC) • Optimising your CV for your next opportunity (19.05.2026) (Christie)

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June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *PhD Showcase Event 2025-2026* (MCRC) • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Navigating Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship in Research* (17.06.2026) (MCRC) • Masood Entrepreneurship Centre training (MEC) • Designing and delivering translational research at The Christie (16.06.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *PhD Showcase Event 2025-2026*(MCRC) • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Navigating Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship in Research* (17.06.2026) (MCRC) • Masood Entrepreneurship Centre training (MEC) • Designing and delivering translational research at The Christie (16.06.2026) (Christie) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *PhD Showcase Event 2025-2026*(MCRC) • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Navigating Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship in Research* (17.06.2026) (MCRC) • Masood Entrepreneurship Centre training (MEC) • Designing and delivering translational research at The Christie (16.06.2026) (Christie)
July 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (3)* (22.07.2026) (MCRC) • Submit 1st year report to UoM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (3)* (22.07.2026) (MCRC) • Submit 2nd year report to UoM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: Health Data Sciences (3)* (22.07.2026) (MCRC)
August 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflective Teaching and Learning in Practice 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing for your Viva in BMH
September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: 2035: Clinical Trials of the Future* (23.09.2026) (MCRC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: 2035: Clinical Trials of the Future* (23.09.2026) (MCRC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *Bespoke Curriculum training session: 2035: Clinical Trials of the Future* (23.09.2026) (MCRC) • Submit the thesis to UoM

Optional Training to access through the UoM:

- [Introduction to PGR for Disabled PGRs and Additional Support](#)
- [Basic Introduction to Statistics in Research](#)
- [An introduction to qualitative data collection and analysis](#)
- [Systematic Review](#)
- [Critical Analysis of Research Paper](#)
- [Introduction to Project Planning](#)
- [How to get Published](#)
- [Public Engagement Toolkit](#)
- [Student support: wellbeing](#)
- [Upcoming counselling events](#)

GET IN TOUCH



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Building