

## Leiden-Edinburgh Ph.D Studentships for Integrated One Health Solutions

We are pleased to announce a strategic partnership between the Universities of Leiden and Edinburgh to offer six Ph.D studentships fully funded for four years focused on Integrated One Health Solutions. The aim is to foster collaboration and to build on existing synergies in the identified themes of this call. Our universities have a long record of collaborative research and teaching, in particular in the fields of medicine and infectious diseases. We envisage that each University will fund three studentships to commence in the autumn of 2019 in areas where significant joint interest and expertise were identified. These include, but are not exclusive to:

- Development of vaccines or treatments, in particular for diseases shared by humans and animals.
- Combatting antimicrobial resistance.
- Understanding the role of microbiomes in health and disease.
- Host-directed therapies for infectious diseases of humans and animals.
- Developing and exploiting novel infection model systems (e.g human challenge, large animal genome editing/genome scale mutagenesis)
- Development of rapid point-of-care diagnostic tests, including for low resource settings.
- Computational and other approaches for predicting the outcomes of host-pathogen interactions.

It is envisaged that students will be registered for their degree at one or other host institution. However, projects must involve at least one supervisor from each organisation and it is anticipated that research exchanges between Leiden and Edinburgh will occur during the projects with the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 12 months in the second host institution. Lists of investigators from Leiden and Edinburgh with interests aligned with 'One Health' are attached, but in forming collaborations colleagues are encouraged to consider partners beyond this initial list. Applications will need to emphasise the value of each partner to the project and outline how existing funding will be leveraged to support directly incurred costs of the project.

Applications are to be made using the pro forma attached and submitted to [infectieziektenstaf@lumc.nl](mailto:infectieziektenstaf@lumc.nl) by **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**. Proposals will be evaluated by the scheme coordinators (below), with emphasis on their strategic fit, evidence of equal partnerships where both Universities add significantly to the training provided, quality of science, training potential of the projects, and feasibility. We expect to advertise more projects than can be funded. If there are a large number of projects, some review to check fit to scheme objectives will be performed by the coordinators. Since three projects will be primarily associated with each institution, we will ask projects to identify their primary site. If there are more projects than can be accommodated at the primary site, we will need to know if the project could be assigned to the secondary site. Accordingly, we will ask the applicants at the time of proposing project outlines to indicate if there is flexibility to allow the primary and secondary sites to be reversed. Following advertisement, potential supervisors will be asked to identify their top two candidates for interview. Interviews will be carried out with panel representation (n=2-3) from each University, independent of potential supervisors. After shortlisting, students called for interview will be asked to meet with supervisors in person or via video link, and supervisors are free to share any views or concerns with the panel at this stage. Studentships will then be offered to the best candidates, who will in turn select their preferred project.

If you wish to seek advice regarding the scope of the scheme and eligibility, contacts include: In Edinburgh, Professors David Dockrell ([David.Dockrell@ed.ac.uk](mailto:David.Dockrell@ed.ac.uk)), Ross Fitzgerald ([ross.fitzgerald@roslin.ed.ac.uk](mailto:ross.fitzgerald@roslin.ed.ac.uk)) and Mark Stevens ([Mark.Stevens@roslin.ed.ac.uk](mailto:Mark.Stevens@roslin.ed.ac.uk)) In Leiden, Professors Leo Visser ([L.G.Visser@lumc.nl](mailto:L.G.Visser@lumc.nl)), Louis Kroes ([A.C.M.Kroes@lumc.nl](mailto:A.C.M.Kroes@lumc.nl)) and Maria Yazdanbakhsh ([M.Yazdanbakhsh@lumc.nl](mailto:M.Yazdanbakhsh@lumc.nl)).