GP2 Underrepresented Populations Master's Program 2024

UCL MSc Clinical Neurology Program Description

We are inviting doctors who identify as belonging to an underrepresented group in Parkinson's disease (PD) research to apply for funding to pursue a master's by distance learning in Clinical Neurology at University College London (UCL). The prospective student must enroll in the program as part of the September 2024 intake. This 'hybrid' model distance learning program is flexible and can be completed over three years, with some face-to-face research and clinical components at the Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London. Cross-institutional collaboration with other GP2 member laboratories during the studentship is strongly recommended to maximize the benefit to GP2.

This MSc is aimed at doctors who are looking to further their knowledge and skills in clinical neurology and research. The fully interactive course provides scientific and clinical knowledge through online lectures, several opportunities for clinical case discussion, case-based learning through online forums, and video conferences with tutors and research supervisors. This program is delivered online and an option of mixed mode (online and face-to-face teaching/research) is available.

More information about the MSc Clinical Neurology (by distance learning) program such as modules, research projects, and assessments can be found [here](#).

About GP2

The [Global Parkinson's Genetics Program](#) (GP2) is an ambitious project supported by the Aligning Science Across Parkinson's (ASAP) initiative and executed in partnership with the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease Research. GP2 aims to:

- Expand understanding of the genetic architecture of PD through large genotyping and sequencing efforts in more than 200,000 individuals around the world
- Create infrastructure to accelerate the discovery of novel disease-causing mutations
- Democratize efforts, with a significant focus on training, to create a global generation of scientists and provide opportunities for groups that are traditionally underrepresented in research

This collaborative effort will dramatically accelerate the identification of genetic contributors to disease and establish a network of researchers who can best leverage this understanding to research, diagnose, and treat PD worldwide. To find out more, visit [gp2.org](#).

Entry Requirements

Applicants must meet the following specifications:

- A first degree in Medicine such as MD, MBBS, or qualification of an equivalent standard
- Hold registration with the UK General Medical Council (GMC) or be fully registered in their home country
- Have some experience undertaking research projects
- Have co-authored a publication in the area of clinical neurology or neuroscience
- Explicitly state that they have acquired basic research skills through an internship, elective placement, or similar experience
- Submit a written brief research proposal to be reviewed for their application
- Have a clear interest in conducting master's research projects aligning with GP2 goals
- Have a clear interest in developing an understanding of neurodegenerative disease genetics
- Be computer literate and understand the principles of data management and analysis.
- Be committed to collaborative work, locally and globally
- Have good written and oral communication in English (sufficient to present work and write a thesis.
- Be able to develop a capstone project that resonates with GP2's mission and aims to be completed by the conclusion of this fellowship

English Language Requirements

If your education has not been conducted in the English language, you will be expected to demonstrate evidence of an adequate level of English proficiency. The English language level for this program is Level 1.

Level 1: Overall mark of 65% with at least 60% in each of the four elements of the examination. Equivalent to 6.5 in IELTS Academic Version.

The evidence of English language proficiency can be demonstrated from an examination taken within 2 years prior to applying for this program. An offer could also be made conditional on achieving the English language requirements prior to the commencement of the program.

Further information can be found here:

Funding notes

We will support the costs of the overseas tuition fees for the MSc Clinical Neurology (by distance learning) program starting in September 2024. The award will cover:

- University fees that are directly related to the master's program (i.e. tuition and application processing fees).

Selected candidates will conduct research that aligns with GP2 goals while doing the master's. **As a result, selected candidates must generate a manuscript submitted to a preprint server (such as medRxiv, bioRxiv) by the end of the funded program.**

The final funding decision and offer will be made by a panel of GP2 Steering Committee members and UCL academic staff in July 2024. The offer will be contingent on the applicant enrolling by September 2024.

FAQs

- **How many master's opportunities are available?**

  Overall, approximately 20 master's students will be funded throughout the duration of the GP2 program. We support equitable training opportunities and therefore we hope that more than 50% of these will go to candidates from regions of the world that are under-represented in PD genetics research.

- **What should the master's research project focus on?**

  The master's research project should be directly related to the GP2 mission, which centers on expanding our genetic understanding of PD and making this knowledge globally relevant. The master's research project will lead to a peer-reviewed research publication.

- **Who can apply?**

  Clinicians and neurologists (including doctors in training) who identify as belonging to an underrepresented group in Parkinson's disease (PD) research looking to update their knowledge and skills in clinical neurology and apply these for research.

- **What is meant by overseas training and cross-institutional collaboration?**

  These training opportunities are designed to 1) increase research capacity and opportunities within a region currently under-represented in PD research, and 2) contribute to the overarching goals of GP2. We believe that visits and collaboration with sites that are well-established PD research sites and existing GP2 members will maximize the impact to all.

- **Who will review the application?**

  Applications will be screened for eligibility by the GP2 Training and Networking Working Group. Eligible applications will then be reviewed by GP2 Steering Committee members, members of other relevant working groups, and academic representatives from UCL. The highest scoring applications will be reviewed by a decisions panel and the funding decision notified by July 2024. Selected applicants will then be required to submit an application to UCL for final acceptance.

- **What if I want to ask further questions about the program?**

  You are welcome to contact the GP2 Training and Networking Working Group at training@gp2.org with any queries. We can help you decide how closely your background aligns with the entry requirements for this program.

gp2 Global Parkinson's Genetics Program