MRC-funded IMPACT (Integrated Midlands Partnership for Biomedical Training) Doctoral Training Partnership 3.5 Year PhD Studentship available for September 2019

**Department:** Department of Health Sciences, University of Leicester

**Supervisors:** Prof Frank Dudbridge, Prof Louise Wain, Prof Gisli Jenkins (University of Nottingham)

**Eligibility:** UK/EU applicants only

**Project Title:** New ways to deal with selection bias in genetic studies of disease progression

**Project Description:**
In this project you will develop and apply new statistical methods to identify which genes affect survival time with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and which genes affect growth rates of abdominal aortic aneurysms. The findings will indicate new approaches to treatment and management of these diseases.

Such studies of disease progression can be biased by unknown factors that affect both the risk of developing disease and the course of disease once established. Our group has recently developed new statistical approaches to correct this bias, using the results of genome-wide association studies. A substantial part of this project will be evaluating and developing improved methods building on our initial approaches. This will require programming of statistical analyses and computer simulations, and you should therefore have a demonstrated aptitude for statistical programming.

You will also analyse large datasets in Leicester and Nottingham on disease progression in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and abdominal aortic aneurysm. You should therefore have an aptitude for working with big data and for presenting results to cross-institutional collaborators clearly and succinctly.

You will join one of the largest genetic epidemiology groups in the UK, with excellent opportunities for networking and career development in a fast moving and high profile area.

**Interviews will be held 17th May 2019**

**Funding details:** MRC IMPACT DTP

**Entry requirements:**
Applicants are required to hold/or expect to obtain a UK Bachelor Degree 2:1 or better in a relevant subject. The University of Leicester [English language](#) requirements apply where applicable.
How to apply:

Please apply via: https://more.bham.ac.uk/mrc-impact/phd-opportunities/

Project / Funding Enquiries: Prof Frank Dudbridge, frank.dudbridge@leicester.ac.uk, 0116 252 5474

Application enquiries to mrc-impact@contacts.bham.ac.uk

Closing date for applications midday 6th May 2019