

MRC Skill Priorities

The MRC plays a leading role in ensuring that the UK science base across all sectors (including industry) is provided with future research leaders who possess advanced research skills, particularly in areas of unmet national need. This list presents MRC's current cross-cutting priorities for skills provision. These priorities were established by the MRC through consultation with the research Boards, Panels and external partners using evidence gathered via an open consultation of vulnerable skills in 2014 and updated in December 2017¹.

The current list includes the following cross-cutting themes:

- **Quantitative skills** (mathematics, statistics, computation, data analytics and informatics, machine learning and Artificial Intelligence, developing digital and technology excellence,) as applied to a variety of data sources (from 'omics' to health records).
- **Interdisciplinary skills** (at all interfaces including chemical/physical/engineering/computational, social/economical and clinical, including for example imaging, health economics, antimicrobial resistance, and translational medicine).
- **Whole organism physiology** (including *in vivo* training, systems biology, clinical pharmacology, and translational medicine).

Further details of these priority areas can be found in the 2017 update to the **MRC and BBSRC Review of Vulnerable Skills and Capabilities**¹

These priorities are used to:

- Communicate MRC's skills priorities, so that Research Organisations in receipt of MRC PhD studentship funding can align their strategy with MRC's.
- Aid the systematic monitoring of strategic skills training provision across MRC's training portfolio.
- Inform the targeting and prioritisation of specific MRC capacity building interventions.
- Inform MRC's Research Boards and Panels training and capacity building decisions (e.g. by providing a strategic uplift where two proposals are otherwise deemed to be of identical quality).

¹ <https://mrc.ukri.org/documents/pdf/review-of-vulnerable-skills-and-capabilities/>