

# SPONSOR A PHD RESEARCHER: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here's what you need to know about investing in life-saving research by sponsoring a PhD Researcher.

## 1. WHAT IS A PHD?

PhD stands for 'Doctor of Philosophy', sometimes referred to as a 'doctorate'. It is the highest level of degree that a student can achieve.

In the UK a PhD typically lasts four years - there is little taught element involved and students are expected to work independently, supported by their department and a supervisor. During their study students will not only conduct research but also aim to have academic papers published and present their work at conferences, which will allow them to get feedback on their ideas for their thesis.

Their research must be original and aim to create new knowledge or theories in their specialist area, or build on existing knowledge or theories. This usually culminates in a thesis of around 60,000-100,000 words, based on research carried out over the course of their study.

The PhD Researchers we fund play a key role in the running of a lab; through their ongoing research and experiments they add to the base of knowledge in their field of cancer research, and can make significant contributions from an early stage in their careers.

## 2. HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO SPONSOR A PHD RESEARCHER?

We have created this sponsorship programme for gifts of £25 a month/ £300 a year or above, which is a significant contribution to a PhD Researcher's funding and allows us to maintain low operational costs for the programme. Smaller gifts are extremely valued by us, and play a key role in funding CRUK's research – do get in touch with us on 020 3469 6521 if you would like to give a different amount to discuss the impact that this will have.

## 3. WHAT IS THE COST OF A PHD RESEARCHER PER YEAR?

The cost of funding a PhD varies depending on the location but it is approximately £35,000 per year. Of this amount, approximately £17,500 goes towards funding the lab running expenses of carrying out their research project, and £20,000 to the student's stipend (salary) for their living expenses during the time they are doing the PhD.

Your gift will go towards the cost of delivering the research only, through the running expenses, rather than the living expenses of the student.

## 4. HOW DOES SPONSORSHIP WORK?

You can give a monthly donation or yearly cash gift to help support a PhD Researcher funded by CRUK.

To minimise administration costs, these donations are held in a central fund from which all of our PhD Researchers receive CRUK funding. In return for your contribution you'll receive information from your nominated PhD Researcher and their area of research as well as a personal statement, explaining the impact your gift will have on their careers and research.

After this, for the duration of your sponsorship, you'll receive an update from your chosen PhD Researcher every 6 months and updates on CRUK's progress, as well as exciting event invites and a summary of the PhD Researcher's thesis when they finish.

## **5. CAN I CHOOSE THE PHD RESEARCHER I HEAR ABOUT?**

We have a variety of PhD Researchers working on different types of cancer that you can choose to receive your updates from. Please contact Hannah Bussell on 020 3469 6521 with your request and we will let you know the options available.

## **6. AM I THE ONLY SPONSOR OF THIS PHD RESEARCHER?**

No, your donation will go into a PhD Researcher fund, and is allocated to each student from there. Due to the high cost of fully funding a PhD Researcher, this approach is the most cost efficient way of running the programme.

## **7. DOES THE MONEY GO DIRECTLY TO THE SPECIFIC PHD RESEARCHER?**

Yes, your donation will be allocated to the central PhD research funding system, from which the student you receive updates from are allocated their grant.

## **8. HOW LONG DOES SPONSORSHIP LAST?**

As long as you'd like it to. We understand circumstances could change, so you're able to cancel your gift anytime.

If you continue to sponsor a PhD Researcher until they finish their doctorate (usually a 4-year period), we will be in touch to send a summary of their thesis and to reallocate you to a new student to receive updates from.

## **9. HOW ARE MY DONATIONS SPENT? DOES ALL THE MONEY GO TO RESEARCH?**

Yes, all your donations go towards our PhD Researchers and only fund the running expenses of their research, such as lab equipment, rather than their salaries, which are managed separately.

## **10. WHAT WILL I RECEIVE?**

You will receive a personal update from the student you have chosen every 6 months and an update on their research and CRUK's progress. You'll also be invited, if you are interested, to CRUK lab tours and events where you'll be able to find out more about the science behind CRUK. If you continue to sponsor a PhD Researcher until they finish their doctorate (usually a 4-year period), we will be in touch to send a summary of their thesis.

## **11. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE RESEARCHER DOESN'T CONTINUE THEIR RESEARCH?**

Due to unforeseen circumstances such as illness, important changes in their lives or other personal and professional factors, researchers might not continue with their PhD research. Under such circumstances, we will communicate with you promptly and transparently and give you choices about your gift.

## **12. HOW MANY PHD RESEARCHERS ARE CURRENTLY FUNDED BY CRUK?**

We currently fund approximately 550 PhD Researchers.

### **13. CAN I ONLY SET UP A MONTHLY DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT METHOD?**

We suggest monthly donations as it is what most people prefer, but it is also possible to make quarterly, twice a year donation with a Direct Debit payment. Or alternatively you can give a cash gift of £300 by debit or credit card to sponsor a PhD Researcher for a year.

You can call us to make your payment on 020 3469 6521.

### **14. I LIVE OUTSIDE THE UK – CAN I STILL SPONSOR A PHD RESEARCHER?**

Yes, this is possible if you have a UK bank account. Otherwise, some international banks allow Direct Debits. Please contact us directly on 020 3469 6521 to discuss all the options available to you.

### **15. I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS - WHO CAN I SPEAK TO?**

We are happy to answer any questions you have about sponsorship and CRUK's work. **You can call Hannah on 020 3469 6521 or email [hannah@cancer.org.uk](mailto:hannah@cancer.org.uk)**