MRC Diagnostics ICURe Discover January 2027

Key Dates & Expectations

Programme Outline*	
Applications Open	**8th October 2026**
Applications Close	**10th December 2026, 23.59**
Welcome Call	**21st December 2026**
Bootcamp Online Day 1	**4th January 2027**
Bootcamp Online Day 2	**5th January 2027**
Options Roundabout Training	**9th February 2027**
Options Roundabout Practice	**16th February 2027**
Options Roundabout	**26th February 2027**
***Exact timings for sessions will be confirmed on your Welcome Call**	
***The research student/technician will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying.** ***Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend all sessions, but it is not obligatory.**	

About MRC Diagnostics ICURe Discover

MRC ICURe Discover is a UKRI council pathway programme delivered by Innovate UK ICURe in partnership with the Medical Research Council (MRC) during 2026/27. This call welcomes applications from researchers across the full breadth of MRC's remit and particularly encourages proposals with the potential to advance innovative diagnostics and medical devices towards patient benefit and commercial impact.

This is an 8-week, part-time online market discovery programme developed using the lean startup methodology, which applies the scientific method (hypothesise, test, evaluate) to business ideas. Participants will learn how to use this approach to gauge their potential customers' opinions about their idea, product service or experience.

This programme is suitable for participants looking to explore the potential of their early-stage projects or those who require a part-time commitment for market exploration.
If you are unsure whether your technology or research fits these sectors, please get in touch with the ICURe team.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to icure@warwick.ac.uk

Delivered by

Who can apply?

MRC ICURe Discover is open to researchers at UK universities and eligible public sector research establishments (PSREs) undertaking research across the full breadth of MRC's remit. Applications from all areas of MRC relevant research are welcomed, with particular interest in innovations in diagnostics and medical devices that have the potential to address significant health challenges in the UK and globally. The opportunity is open to researchers irrespective of their current source of funding.

We particularly welcome applications from individuals in:

- universities who have not previously participated in the ICURe programme
- universities who do not receive HEIF funding
- under-represented groups including women, people of colour, those living with disabilities, and those from the LGBTQI+ communities
- approved public sector research establishments (PSREs) conducting research within the specified domains

What's included?

The programme includes:

- Up to £2,500 support for testing assumptions and market discovery activities
- Part-time, intensive market discovery over 3 weeks (75 hours)
- Training on how to gather market feedback that indicates the next steps for your research and potential for commercialisation
- Access to our team of experts; we will proactively connect you to our network of entrepreneurs, investors and funders
- Training in commercial viability using tools such as the Value Proposition Canvas (VPC)
- Develop an understanding of existing market offerings and competitive landscape for your sector
- Give a reflective presentation to our panel of experts and gain further traction for your commercialisation plans

You will need to have engaged with your University Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and your Principal Investigator prior to applying.
Please contact us if your university does not have a TTO or IP Manager and we will endeavor to help.