**First Deadline: 13 December 2013 – first round interviews will take place during February 2014. If all positions are not filled, there will be a rolling selection process until 1 July 2014**

Stipend: £13,726 per annum (2013/14 rate) Start date: 1 October 2014

This MRC funded programme provides students with cutting-edge research opportunities in medical research. Projects will align with MRC strategic priorities: www.mrc.ac.uk

**Project summary:**

One core property of brain networks is the ability to predict sensory events and to anticipate the consequences of one’s own actions. Recent evidence suggests that failures in predictive mechanisms may also be fundamentally involved in neuropsychiatric disorders, such as schizophrenia. Specifically, patients with schizophrenia are characterized by a reduced ability to distinguish between self-generated actions and externally generated stimuli that could underlie the development of core symptoms of the disorder, such delusions of control and auditory hallucinations.

The proposed project will examine sensory predictions and its relationship to neural oscillations in schizophrenia through Magnetoencephalography (MEG). MEG is ideally suited to explore this link because of its excellent temporal resolution and previous evidence suggesting that rhythmic activity is related to cognitive dysfunctions in schizophrenia. Specifically, we will investigate the neural signatures underlying the ability to differentiate between self-generated sensory events and externally generated stimuli in the auditory domain. To this end, we will develop a MEG-compatible paradigm to examine sensory predictions in patients with schizophrenia as well as in a group of individuals who are at an elevated risk for developing psychosis to investigate the potential role of predictions failures as a biomarker for early detection and diagnosis.

Visit our website for more information:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/mvls/graduateschool/researchopportunities/studentshipopportunities/medicalresearchcouncil/#two=&tabs=0>

Applicant Instructions:

These are 3.5-year PhD studentships and students should apply online here:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/opportunities/howtoapplyforaresearchdegree/>