



NITISH RAI

Newton-Bhabha PhD placement scholarship recipient



India



Newton-Bhabha PhD Placement Programme



Universities UK
International

Nitish Rai is a Department of Science & Technology (DST) INSPIRE fellow from India. He will start a placement at the School of Healthcare Science (Division of Biomedical Sciences) at Manchester Metropolitan University in June 2017.

'At the age of 14, I was diagnosed with rheumatic heart disease. It became the turning point of my life: it motivated me to study science, in particular Human Biology. Now I am working as a PhD scholar in the department of Biophysics at the All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, India.

'I am studying the potential role of the antioxidant protein Sestrin in early detection of Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease – two major forms of neurodegenerative diseases in the elderly population. I am hoping that early detection of neurodegenerative diseases can stop them from progressing before the irreversible stage. With the global rise in elderly population, my research would help save a developing country like India from the huge burden of such disease management and eventually have a positive impact, not only on the economic development of the country but also on the quality of life of patients and caregivers.'



@UUKIntl

newton@international.ac.uk

'I RECOMMEND EVERY FUTURE APPLICANT USE UUKi'S STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICE BECAUSE THEY WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.'

Nitish's research neatly fits into the overall Newton-Bhabha objective of promoting the economic development of India and social welfare of its population. It addresses some of the Grand Challenges identified by the programme, including Public Health and Wellbeing.

'The credit for my selection in Newton-Bhabha PhD placement programme goes to UUKi. I applied for the UUKi support as soon as the call opened and the team immediately provided me with continuous advice and guidance to identify and contact potential supervisors in my area. Since space is not easily available in all research units, I was starting to get concerned that I would not find a suitable host institution in time for the deadline. And then, just a few days before the application deadline, the UUKi team called to tell me that my institution of choice, Manchester Metropolitan University, was interested in my application!

'I think that the UUKi team provides a tremendous support for students who want to undertake exchange and mobility programmes. It is making dreams come true for many international students!'

His advice to future applicants:

'One of the major hurdles of the application process is finding and getting accepted by the UK host supervisor so I would suggest future applicants research prospective host institutions and prepare a list of potential supervisors. To better deal with this crucial step, I recommend every future applicant use UUKi's Student Support Service because they will be able to help you, bring to your attention some excellent research centres and direct you through this process.'



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