



Collaborative PhD Studentship Opportunities in the EASTBIO Doctoral Training Programme (DTP3).

EASTBIO is the East of Scotland Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), established in 2012 with funding from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). The EASTBIO DTP is amongst the largest BBSRC-funded programmes in the UK, currently supporting the training of 182 Bioscientists students across five universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Stirling and St Andrews) in partnership with the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (iBIOIC), Moredun Research Institute, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), The James Hutton Institute, Cool Farm Alliance and SULSA.

The primary aim of EASTBIO is to deliver world-class interdisciplinary training to bioscience PhD students to help build a highly-skilled workforce.

EASTBIO seeks to support 75 Collaborative Studentships (15 per year between 2020 and 2025) in collaborative partnerships between industrial stakeholders and academic supervisors from EASTBIO institutions.

Benefits:

- **Opportunities, encapsulated in collaborative agreements, to devise cutting-edge research projects, capture IP, obtain patents and help translate research findings.** EASTBIO PhD students enjoy full access to all facilities and expertise available across the partnership.
- **Direct access to a highly skilled talent pool.** EASTBIO seeks to recruit and nurture the development of talented individuals, valuing diverse backgrounds. We will recruit and train over 60 students per year in a world-class research environment. EASTBIO offers a robust and diverse array of enhanced training opportunities that includes enterprise training, advanced skills training (computing, in vivo skills, leadership) and engagement.
- **Direct access to a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary research network.** Annual research and impact symposia, EASTBIO training events and research activity form the basis of a highly connected and collaborative environment where interdisciplinary research is valued and promoted.
- **Join a growing network of industrial collaborators and stakeholders.** You will join a growing network of industrial stakeholders that include Mialgae; Drax Power Station; Roslin Technologies; Massive Analytics; AbascusBio Ltd.; Boehringer Ingelheim; Elasmogen; Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; Cairn Research Ltd.; Biobest Laboratories; Fios Genomics and Scottish Bioenergy.
- **A training programme that is tailored to meet the needs of students, staff and stakeholders.** We offer a flexible training programme that supports students (and staff) irrespective of circumstance (for details, please see our flexible model for industry partnering below).

In short, EASTBIO can help your organisation operate at the cutting edge, forge academic collaborations, explore new opportunities, tap into funding streams and encourage PhD talent to work in your sector.

What are Collaborative Studentships? Collaborative (CASE) Studentships are collaborative research projects between an EASTBIO academic(s) and an industrial partner(s). Students working on collaborative projects enjoy the full EASTBIO training programme, along with time spent (3 to 18 months) at the industrial partner. The academic and industry partner collaborate to write a project proposal (for more information, visit: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-Studentships/>).

A flexible model for industry partnering that offers three routes:

- 1) **UKRI-BBSRC 'standard Collaborative' studentships.** We will prioritise collaboration with SMEs for our UKRI-BBSRC collaborative studentship allocations. Companies > 50 employees will currently provide a minimum of £5,600 towards project costs in total to support a full 4 year BBSRC 'standard collaborative' studentship BBSRC. For SME < 50 employees there are no financial contribution required towards project costs.
- 2) **50% industry match-funded Collaborative studentships.** We have introduced a new collaborative studentship stream, where the industry partner provides 50% of the overall studentship costs. We will ring-fence up to 5 studentships per year for this mechanism. Where industry partners are able to fund at this level, we will pre-commit studentships to that project. Only students who reach the standard of candidates in our main interview rounds will be recruited to these pre-committed studentships. Industry will have the option of being involved in recruiting these students. The total estimated costs to the industry partner of a 50% industry match-funded studentship will be £51,500 over the total PhD studentship.
- 3) **Part-time Collaborative studentships** route for industry-based employees. The total estimated current costs of covering fees but not PhD stipend will be £40,400 over the total part-time PhD studentship. The partner is expected to continue staff salary for the duration of the PhD.

Criteria Industry partner project proposals must align to one of the 4 BBSRC Strategic Priority Areas (for more information, visit: <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/news/planning/bbsrc-delivery-plan/>).

How to submit your Industry project proposal for an EASTBIO Collaborative Studentship

- Eligible academics engage industry with their research and develop collaborative ideas prior to submitting the 'EASTBIO Studentship Project Proposal form' with a support letter from the industrial partner before the annual September deadline.
- The recruitment phase is in autumn (for more information, visit: <http://www.eastscotbioldtp.ac.uk/we-fund-phd-Studentships-bioscience>).
- Collaborative Studentships are awarded to the student based on the strength of the application and interview the following February for a 4 year PhD to start in October.
- The local EASTBIO Institution will put in place with the industrial partner an agreement outlining IP and publication arrangements in keeping with Research Council UK terms and conditions: (for more information, visit: <http://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>).

Liability for Industry Partner Funding

For the industrial contribution of a Collaborative Studentship the contract is established between the industry partner and the local institution, not the EASTBIO DTP 3 grant. The EASTBIO DTP 3 core grant is not liable for any shortfalls arising from changes to the industry partner contribution throughout

the Studentship or from additional costs for the industry partner share for sick/maternity and paternity leave. Therefore the industry partner agreement should comply with UKRI policies on sick/maternity and paternity leave. It is the responsibility of the academic supervisor of the awarded Collaborative Studentship to initiate the local process for retrieving industry contributions and the responsibility of the local institution, the collaborative PhD student is registered with, to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the letters of support from industry partners.

Table 1: Industry wishing to establish links with academics in order to develop a Collaborative Studentship project ideas can contact a local enterprise unit or work directly with a known academic from the EASTBIO organisations listed below.

| EASTBIO Academic Partners | Named Contact Person within the Associated Enterprise Unit / Industry Engagement Broker |
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| University of Aberdeen | Heather Wallace; School Industrial Liaison Lead; University of Aberdeen, h.m.wallace@abdn.ac.uk |
| University of Dundee | Fiona Mitchell; Research and Innovation Services; University of Dundee, f.m.mitchell@dundee.ac.uk |
| University of Edinburgh | Lorraine Kerr; Edinburgh Innovations Ltd. Lorraine.Kerr@ei.ed.ac.uk Caroline Pope; EASTBIO Doctoral Training and Industry Engagement Manager, caroline.pope@ed.ac.uk |
| University of St Andrews | Prabs Dehal; Business Development Manager; University of St Andrews, pkd@st-andrews.ac.uk |
| University of Stirling | Professor Dave Little: d.c.little@stir.ac.uk |
| Moredun Research Institute | Richard Mole; Moredun Research Institute, Business Development Manager: richard.mole@moredun.org |
| James Hutton Institute | Jonathan Snape; James Hutton Limited, https://www.huttonltd.com/contact-us |
| Scotland's Rural College | Colin MacEwan; SRUC, Director of Commercialization and Innovation Colin.macewan@sruc.ac.uk |
| Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre | Rachel Moir; Skills Programme Manager, rachel.moir@IBiolC.com |