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**BBSRC EASTBIO Doctoral Training Partnership**

**Call for PhD Project Proposals 2021**

**Please read the guidance notes at the end of this document BEFORE completing your project proposal.**

**Project Proposal Form**

***Section 1: For all Projects (all fields must be completed).***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of Principal Supervisor** |  | |
| Institution and Department (e.g. Dundee, School of Life Sciences) |  | |
| Principal Supervisor Email address |  | |
| Current PhD students and year of study |  | |
| Lab website/Online Profile |  | |
| **Name of Second Supervisor**  *In case of a third or fourth Supervisor/s, please copy in these lines, as necessary*. |  | |
| Institution and Department (e.g. Dundee, School of Life Sciences) |  | |
| Current PhD students and year of study |  | |
| Lab website/Online Profile |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| **Project Title** (Please note this title will be used to advertise the project to students)**:** | | |
| **Project Description for Advert (max 500 words)**. This will be the text that is advertised to prospective students**:** | | |
| **Project Description for Management Group review if different to above** (max. 500 words and up to 3 references):  Please provide a description of the PhD project which includes information about the project and the research training it will provide. |  | |
| **Full-time or Part-time PhD Studentship** Please indicate whether this project can be a full-time and/or part-time PhD. | Full-time PhD project |  |
| Part-time PhD project |  |
| If the PhD is a part-time project, and the student will be based outwith an EASTBIO partner, please indicate where the student will be based. |  | |
| **BBSRC Remit Area**  Please select ONE remit area as that closest to your project. | Advancing the Frontiers of Bioscience Discovery (including Understanding the Rules of Life; Transformative Technologies) |  |
| Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture & Food (including Crops and Soil; Livestock; Production; Biology and Health; Aquaculture) |  |
| Bioscience for an Integrated Understanding of Health |  |
| Bioscience for Renewable Resources and Clean Growth |  |
| Please explain in max. 300 words how your project is relevant to the BBSRC remit and strategic priorities, using the call text for guidance. |  | |
| **BBSRC Transformative Technologies**  Please select which of the BBSRC Transformative Technologies will be exploited by your project. | New tools and facilities |  |
| Data-driven biology |  |
| Integrative and systems biology |  |
| Synthetic Biology |  |
| Not applicable to this project |  |
| Please explain in max. 300 words how your project will exploit the BBSRC’s Transformative Technologies if applicable. More information here: <https://www.ukri.org/files/about/dps/bbsrc-dp-2019/> (p. 8). |  | |
| **Interdisciplinarity**  Please select supervisor disciplines where they are other than biological/biomedical sciences. | Chemistry |  |
| Physics |  |
| Mathematical Sciences |  |
| Computer Science/Informatics |  |
| Psychology/Neuroscience |  |
| Engineering |  |
| Veterinary Science |  |
| AI /Machine Learning |  |
| Other (please specify here) |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Cross-institutional collaboration**  Please indicate whether the two supervisors are based in different institutions. | Yes |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Standard Collaborative Studentship**.  Please indicate whether this will be a collaborative CASE project. If Yes, please complete Annex 2 and Annex 3 | Yes (please read guidance notes) |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Match-funded Standard Collaborative Studentship with Industry**.  Please indicate whether this will be a collaborative CASE project, where the partner offers 50% of the cost. If Yes, please complete sections 2 and 3 | Yes (please read guidance notes) |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **BBSRC Classification for JeS**  Please select ONE BBSRC classification as that closest to your project. | Animal Systems, Health and Wellbeing |  |
| Plants, Microbes, Food and Sustainability |  |
| Technologies and Methodological Development |  |
| Molecules, Cells and Industrial Biotechnology |  |
| **Would the project involve the use of vertebrate animals or other organisms covered by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act?** | Yes |  |
| No |  |
| **Subject areas for Find-a-PhD**  Select at least 1 and up to 10 to help searchers find your project. | Agricultural Sciences |  |
| Biochemistry |  |
| Bioinformatics |  |
| Biomedical Engineering |  |
| Biophysics |  |
| Biotechnology |  |
| Botany/Plant Science |  |
| Cancer/Oncology |  |
| Cell Biology/Development |  |
| Dentistry |  |
| Ecology & Conservation |  |
| Endocrinology |  |
| Evolution |  |
| Food Science/Nutrition |  |
| Genetics |  |
| Immunology |  |
| Marine Biology |  |
| Medical/Biomedical Physics |  |
| Medical/Clinical Science |  |
| Medical Imaging |  |
| Microbiology |  |
| Molecular Biology |  |
| Neuroscience/Neurology |  |
| Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Reproduction |  |
| Palaeobiology |  |
| Parasitology |  |
| Pathology |  |
| Pharmacology/Toxicology |  |
| Pharmacy/Pharmaceutics |  |
| Physiology & Sports Science |  |
| Psychology & Psychiatry |  |
| Public Health & Epidemiology |  |
| Structural Biology |  |
| Veterinary Medicine |  |
| Virology |  |
| Zoology/Animal Science |  |

***Section 2: Additional Collaborative Studentship Proposal Details (for industry linked project proposals only)***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Company/Non-Academic Partner Information** |  | |
| **Legal Name** |  | |
| **Registration Number** |  | |
| **Full legal address** |  | |
| **Type or organisation: SME (<50 employees) or non-SME (≥50 employees)** |  | |
| Website url |  | |
| **Name of Supervisor at Partner** |  | |
| Partner Supervisor work address |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| **Recruitment**  Does the Non-Academic Partner wish to be involved in the recruitment of the candidate selected for their Collaborative Studentship? | Yes |  |
| No |  |
| **Industrial Sector and Challenges**  Please describe in max. 300 words the industrial sector this project aligns to and the specific industrial challenge or development opportunity it is addressing. |  | |
| **Risks**  Please detail risks to successful completion of the project, including an assessment of impact as well as proposed mitigations |  | |
| **Risks considered and electronically signed off** by the Business Development or Engagement Executive/Manager locally:   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Name: |  |   Date:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Outcome: |  | No obvious risks identified | | | |  |  | OR |  | | |  |  | Risks identified: | | | |  |  | |  | Suspect company or contact is on a sanctions list | |  |  | |  | High risk sector | |  |  | |  | High risk country | |  |  | |  | Potential reputational risks | |  |  | |  | Credit report | | | |

***Section 3:* *Collaborative Partner Support Letter Template (compulsory submission for industry linked Collaborative Studentship project proposals only)***

Please provide **a** **letter from the industrial partner** using this format.

[COMPANY HEADING]

To Whom It May Concern

I hereby confirm that the [COMPANY NAME] is committed to supporting a 4 year BBSRC studentship starting in Academic Year 2021-22 on the project [NAME OF PROJECT] with [NAME OF SUPERVISOR] on the following basis, should a student be recruited by the EASTBIO Doctoral Training Partnership.

I will ensure that the associated student will spend at least three months and up to a maximum of eighteen months at the [COMPANY NAME]. I understand that this placement will be part of an Industrial Collaborative Studentship, supported by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and subject to the BBSRC terms and conditions. I confirm that we will provide suitable supervision and training as well as covering any travel, accommodation and subsistence costs during this period.

Option [SELECT ONE]:

1. UKRI-BBSRC ‘standard Collaborative’ studentships

2. 50% industry match-funded Collaborative studentships

3. Part-time Collaborative studentships

[And where relevant] In addition we will provide £ \* towards project costs in total to support a full 4 year BBSRC studentship starting on the following basis. We will also provide £ \* per annum in enhanced stipend for the student.

Year Company Support £

2021/2022

2022/2023

2023/2024

2024/2025

A formal contract to this effect will be entered into with the University in due course.

Yours faithfully [NAME OF CONTACT][ROLE OF CONTACT IN COMPANY, e.g. Finance Director]

**Guidance Notes**

***A: Introduction to EASTBIO***

The BBSRC East of Scotland Doctoral Training Partnership ([EASTBIO](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/)) comprises the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling, St Andrews, along with SRUC, IBioIC, the James Hutton Institute and the Moredun Research Institute as Full Partners. The Cool Farm Alliance and SULSA are Associate Partners.

For the DTP3 funding, the EASTBIO programme will award standard 4-year Studentships and 4-year Collaborative Studentships - collaborative with non-academic organisations - to start in October 2021. For DTP3 we have developed a part-time doctoral study route, plus a flexible model for industry partnering that offers three routes for industrial studentships.

The studentships cover fees, stipend, research training support costs of £5,000 per year (this is reduced to £1,500 in the final year) and a small travel and conference allowance for each student. Students are a part of the EASTBIO training programme and are required to undertake enhanced subject-specific, core bioscience and generic skills training and a 3-month professional internship (PIPS) out with academia or a placement (3 to 18-months) with their collaborative partner. They are required to submit their thesis within 4 years.

**In proposing an EASTBIO DTP project, academic supervisors and any non-academic partner are committing to actively support their PhD student’s career development and full participation in the programme. In addition, the academic supervisor is committing to attend the EASTBIO induction and annual symposia and to participate in the provision of training in the BBSRC strategic priority area (thematic group training) to which their student’s project is aligned**.

Please note that first supervisors for 2020 cohort students are not eligible to put in projects this year, though an exception may be made for studentships which are collaborative with industry.

For more information about our programme see our website: <http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/>.

***B: Project Eligibility***

Project proposals must:

1. **Align to one of the 4 BBSRC Strategic Priority Areas**: I) Advancing the Frontiers of Bioscience Discovery, covering the sub-themes of Understanding the Rules of Life and Transformative Research Technologies; II) Bioscience for Sustainable Agriculture and Food, covering sub-themes on: Crops and soil, Livestock production, biology and health, and Aquaculture; III) Bioscience for an Integrated Understanding of Health; IV) Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth.

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/news/planning/bbsrc-delivery-plan/>

In addition, projects fulfilling one or more of the following criteria are strongly encouraged and may receive positive weighting at interview:

1. Develops a **collaboration with an industrial or non-academic partner**. Please see additional guidance below.

1. **Exploits/addresses strategic bioscience skills and capacity challenges** outlined in the Forward Look for UK Biosciences as defined by BBSRC:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/forward-look-for-uk-bioscience-pdf/>

1. Is **interdisciplinary** (we are encouraging truly interdisciplinary projects), perhaps drawing on a second supervisor’s expertise from another department.
2. Develops an **inter-institutional collaboration** through cross-supervision with another EASTBIO partner or associate partner.

***C. How to submit your project proposal***

Eligible staffin each of the partner Institutions are invited to submit a standard project proposal using the project proposal form. Queries on supervisor eligibility should be directed to the local academic management group member for EASTBIO: <http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/eastbio-contacts>. Those submitting an Industrial Collaborative project proposal must also complete the additional form at Section 2 and provide a support letter from their industrial partner, template provided at Section 3.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is the 10th October 2020 or amend to locally preferred date. Projects should be submitted in Word format to insert institution email address for projects to come to.

Projects will be approved by the EASTBIO Management Group prior to advertisement based on the criteria outlined above.

***D. Additional information about Collaborative (CASE) Studentships***

Collaborative studentships are developed as partnerships between academia and industry or other non-academic partners. The PhD can be done full time or part time. The project should be a genuine collaboration of mutual benefit, focused on providing excellent training and supervision to the student. BBSRC Industrial CASE details: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/>.

Please check the eligibility of your proposed partner by reading the Collaborative Studentships Information Pack, downloadable here: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/>. If you have questions about eligibility, please email [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk).

There are three routes for the Collaborative Studentships:

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 £40,500 over the total part-time PhD studentship. The partner is expected to continue staff salary for the duration of the PhD.

For all three routes, all projects must be within UKRI-BBSRC remit. We will inform you of any DTP3-relevant changes to the amounts given in 1), 2) and 3) above as and when known.

Studentships must include a placement with a non-academic partner doing high quality collaborative research work that is directly related to the research project in one of the areas of science relevant to BBSRC’s strategic priorities. This period must be between three and eighteen months long. The student placement at the non-academic partner can be taken in one 3-month block at any point during the PhD or a number of shorter blocks up to a maximum of 18 months giving the flexibility to plan in sync with their business priorities. An integral component of the placement training is that it provides students with a training experience unavailable at the academic institution. The non-academic partner should ensure the student receives the appropriate level of management support, direction and training, especially during their placement at the non-academic partner. This should include training in, for example, project management, business strategy and finance.

Academics applying for a Collaborative Studentship project proposal are required to:

* Ensure industry partner is eligible.
* Avoid a Collaborative studentship project description that does not demonstrate how the industry commitment will be achieved within the PhD research project proposed.
* Use Annex 3 wording. Generic letters of support will not be accepted.

The industry linked Collaborative Studentship Proposals will be reviewed by the EASTBIO Industry Group to ensure the project falls within our remit, attains the desired standard of scientific excellence and addresses our BBSRC EASTBIO DTP3 key strategic themes. Once approved and ranked, PhD project uptake will be driven by student choice.

Please note that unless requested in this form, EASTBIO will not arrange for there to be a second interview done by the non-academic partner organisation to confirm they are happy with the candidate selected for their Collaborative Studentship.

At the stage where the BBSRC-funded Collaborative studentshiphas been awarded to a particular University Supervisor / Industry partnership project, EASTBIO DTP expects the individual department/University to put in place whatever agreement they feel is appropriate in keeping with UKRI terms and conditions (outlining agreed IP and publication arrangements).

Any changes to the collaboration agreement, including changes of partners, will require the EASTBIO DTP Director approval. The Director will need to be satisfied that the original aims of the project can still be met and that the project continues to meet the BBSRC rules.

**It will be the responsibility of the partners** to establish any possible risk to the Collaborative studentship project and have contingencies in place should there be changes in the priorities of the non-academic partner that challenge their meeting project commitments.

**Liability for Industry Partner Funding**

For the industrial contribution of a Collaborative (CASE) studentship, the contract is established between the industry partner and the local institution, not the EASTBIO DTP3 grant. For audit purposes, the local institution is required to send a copy, for information only, of the final signed Collaborative studentship agreement to the EASTBIO Administrator of the core grant at [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk).

The EASTBIO DTP3 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 local institution to fund shortfalls of industry partner contributions locally and to include that risk in the assessment of the local recruitment potential.

It is the responsibility of the Supervisor of the awarded Collaborative studentship to initiate the local process for retrieving industry contributions and the responsibility of the local institution the collaborative student is registered with, to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the letters of support from industry partners in Annex 3.

