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**BBSRC EASTBIO Doctoral Training Partnership**

**Call for PhD Project Proposals 2019**

**Introduction**

The Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee and St Andrews are partners in the BBSRC East of Scotland Doctoral Training Partnership ([EASTBIO](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/)). The James Hutton Institute and SRUC are Associate Partners.

Subject to renewed funding, the EASTBIO programme will award a minimum of 29 standard 4-year Studentships and 5 4-year CASE - collaborative with non-academic organisations - Studentships to start in October 2019.

The studentships cover fees, stipend, research training support costs of £5,000 per year (this is reduced to £2,000 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 3-month professional internship (PIPS) outwith academia or a placement with their CASE partner. They are required to submit their thesis within 4 years.

**In proposing a project, supervisors and any non-academic partner are committing to actively support their student’s development as outlined. In addition, the academic supervisor is committing to attend the EASTBIO induction, annual symposia as well as participating in the provision of training in the BBSRC strategic priority area (thematic group training) to which their student’s project is aligned**.

***CRITERIA***

***Project proposals must:***

1. Align to **one** of the 4 BBSRC Strategic Priority Areas: Agriculture and Food Security; Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy; Bioscience for Health; World-class research underpinning Bioscience. <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/planning/strategy/>

***And in addition they must fulfil at least two of the following criteria:***

1. Exploit new ways of working as defined by BBSRC: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/planning/strategy/theme-two/>
2. Be interdisciplinary, perhaps drawing a second supervisor’s expertise from another department
3. Develop collaborations through cross-supervision with another EASTBIO partner or associate partner.
4. Develop collaborations with an industrial or other non-academic CASE partner.
5. Provide match-funding (i.e. 50% of studentship costs).

**How to submit your project proposal**

Eligible staff[[1]](#footnote-1) in each of the partner Institutions are invited to submit a standard project proposal using the form at Annex 1. Those submitting an Industrial CASE project proposal must also complete the additional form at Annex 2 and a support letter from their industrial partner, template provided at Annex 3.

The deadline for submitting project proposals is September 14th 2018. Projects should be submitted in Word format to gradbiol@ed.ac.uk.

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

**Additional information about CASE studentships**

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

Please check the eligibility of your proposed partner by reading the CASE 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 .

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

This type of Studentship includes 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 project management, business strategy and finance, for example.

At the stage where the BBSRC funded CASE studentshiphas been awarded to a particular University Supervisor / Industry partnership project EASTBIO DTP expects the following the individual department/University to put in place whatever agreement they feel is appropriate in keeping with Research Council UK 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.

**Annex 1: Project Proposal Form**

***All fields must be completed.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Principal Supervisor** |  |
| Institution and Department (e.g. Dundee, School of Life Sciences) |  |
| Current PhD students and year of study |  |
| Lab website/Online Profile |  |
| Email address |  |
| **Name of Second Supervisor** |  |
| 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** (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; please note this text will be used to advertise the project to students.) |  |
| **Criterion 1. BBSRC Remit Area** (Please select ONE remit area as that closest to your project.) | Agriculture & Food Security |  |
| Industrial Biotechnology & Bioenergy |  |
| Bioscience for Health |  |
| World-Class underpinning Bioscience |  |
| **Criterion 1. BBSRC Remit and Strategic Priorities** (Please explain in max. 300 words how your project is relevant to the BBSRC remit and strategic priorities, using the call text for guidance.) |  |
| **Criterion 2. BBSRC New Ways of Working** (Please select any of the BBSRC new ways of working which will be exploited by your project.) | New tools and facilities |  |
| Data-driven biology |  |
| Integrative and systems biology |  |
| Synthetic Biology |  |
| Not applicable to this project |  |
| **Criterion 2. BBSRC New Ways of Working** (Please explain in max. 300 words how your project will exploit the BBSRC’s New Ways of Working if applicable. More information here: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/planning/strategy/theme-two/> .) |  |
| **Criterion 3. 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 |  |
| Other (please specify here) |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Criterion 4. Cross-institutional collaboration** (Please indicate whether the two supervisors are based in different institutions.) | Yes |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Criterion 5. CASE Collaboration** (Please indicate whether this will be a CASE project. If Yes please complete Annex 2 and Annex 3.) | Yes |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Criterion 6. Does this project provide match funding (i.e. 50% of studentship costs)?** | Yes |  |
| Not applicable |  |
| **Criterion 6. Does this project provide match funding (i.e. 50% of studentship costs)?** (Please indicate source of funding if 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 FindaPhD (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 |  |

**Annex 2: Additional CASE Studentship Proposal Details (for CASE proposals only)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Company/Non-Academic Partner Name** |  |
| Website url |  |
| Number of employees (including employees in parent companies or subsidiaries) |  |
| **Name of Supervisor at Partner** |  |
| Partner Supervisor work address |  |
| Email address |  |
| **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.) |  |

**Annex 3: CASE Partner Support Letter Template (for CASE proposals only)**

Please provide **a** **letter from the industrial partner** in the form suggested below:

[**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 2018-19 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 CASE 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.

*[And where relevant]* In addition we will provide £5,600\* towards project costs in total to support a full 4 year BBSRC studentship starting on the following basis. We will also provide £x per annum in enhanced stipend for the student.

*[\*This is the minimum amount required for organisations with > 50 employees.]*

 **Year Company Support**

 **£**

 **2018/19** 1,400

 **2019/20** 1,400

 **2020/21** 1,400

 **2021/22** 1,400

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]

1. Queries on eligibility should be directed to the local academic management group member for EASTBIO: <http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/eastbio-contacts> . [↑](#footnote-ref-1)