**EASTBIO DTP Research Experience Placements Scheme - Summer 2022**

Projects submitted by the 14 February 2022

Applications by the 31 March 2022

by email to enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk

1. **General information about the Scheme**

EASTBIO DTP3 continues to support the **BBSRC-funded Research Experience Placements (REPs)** scheme run under DTP1 and DTP2 but specifically target undergraduates from low income backgrounds and cultures in which doctoral training and research careers are often not considered. The EASTBIO 9-week REP programme will focus on the development of an early career in science with a remit for widening participation and addressing diversity and inclusion. The scheme provides an excellent opportunity to first- and second-year undergraduate students from non-research intensive institutions to gain hands-on research experience in bioscience research and receive support that will enable them to consider a career in research. Successful recipients will participate in a one-week blended Summer School exploring bioscience-related careers before they will undertake an 8-week lab placement, thus receiving a ‘research taster’ experience.

Each REP awardee will receive a salary from the University of Edinburgh (award holder) for a total of 8 weeks, plus a maximum of £450 (per project) as a contribution towards research expenses during the placement. A minimum of 12 placements can be held in any of the nine institutions of the EASTBIO DTP partnership: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, St Andrews, Stirling, Scotland’s Agricultural College (SRUC), James Hutton Institute (JHI) and Moredun Research Institute (MRI).

For a decision of sponsoring a student for this scheme, students should approach a supervisor they are interested in working with and discuss with them their suitability for a project the supervisor will have submitted. A full list of available projects will be advertised by EASTBIO and made available with the call guidance and application form.

All projects and applications will be reviewed by the EASTBIO Management Group against the stated criteria below. All applicants will be notified of their application outcome in early to mid-April 2022, following which EASTBIO will circulate to successful students the full schedule of the week-long blended Induction events.

**Selected students** must be:

* in the first or second year of their first degree studies;
* complying with one of the following Widening Participation criteria: be affiliated with/registered at a non-research intensive, post-1992 universities; from a non-conventional educational route; first generation in higher education; adult returner to education; care-giver or care-experienced.

*To collect this information that will allow us to deliver our placements, we ask applicants to complete a brief online* ***Diversity and Inclusion survey****, anonymously, via an online survey, before the applications Closing Date. Once applicants will have completed the survey, they will automatically receive a unique receipt number that we ask applicants to copy and then paste on to the relevant box of the REP Application Form. This will allow the EASTBIO Support Officer to check and ensure your eligibility under the Scheme’s Widening Participation criteria. Your personal data will only be accessible by the Support Officer to check applicant eligibility and will be deleted as soon as the selection process will be completed. No other member of staff from the partnership institutions will have access to these data. Given the confidential nature of some of the information we request, please email us to discuss any additional measures you would like us to consider to protect your data and maintain confidentiality.*

* registered for a basic science (including mathematics, machine learning and engineering) or veterinary degree at a UK university; postcode at time of leaving school.
* expected to provide a statement that will showcase the applicant’s trajectory and commitment to using the placement to find out more about their suitability and aptitude for further research, particularly if the project is in an area of science different from their main subject area.
* committed to attend the week-long blended Summer School that will take place in advance of the start of the lab placement in 2022.

**Please note**: The students applying under this scheme do *not* need to be from the same institution as the prospective supervisor, but *placements can only be undertaken at EASTBIO partner institutions*.

**Lab placement projects** must:

* have a clearly defined objective;
* be within one of the following strategic areas: **Understanding the rules of life; Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food (Crops and Soil or Livestock and Aquaculture); Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth; Bioscience for an integrated understanding of health**;
* be suitable for a student to sensibly complete within the timescale of the award;
* not be part of a normal degree course or be undertaken outside of the UK;
* provide scope for the student’s thought, initiative and development rather than using them as a general assistant.
* Demonstrate quality of student training and potential impact in terms of the student’s development.
* Be carried out between June and July 2022 (if possible)

**Prospective supervisors** interested in hosting a REP are expected to:

* select a suitable undergraduate student according to the Widening Participation remit of the Scheme (see guidance, above);
* identify a suitable project that relates to one of the strategic areas above;
* ensure that appropriate supervisory arrangements are in place for the student during the placement.
* Be aware of the Scheme’s Widening Participation remit and explicitly provide examples of supervisory measures that address student needs from a perspective of inclusion and diversity, for example:
  + building of confidence in managing training and career development
  + access to networking opportunities
  + seeking further advice or feedback
  + building of relationships
  + understanding the academic environment, the role of research in a broader context, opportunities and support signposting, etc.
  + practical help with identifying opportunities, making contacts, seeking support.
* ensure that any necessary ethical committee approvals, animal licences and requirements of regulatory authorities are in place before the work begins and are maintained during the placement;
* be responsible for the identification, protection and exploitation of any intellectual property rights arising from the work;
* ensure that all facilities, agreements about access and collaborations necessary for the work are obtained before the work begins and can be ensured through the period of the work.
* Submit your REP project to EASTBIO [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) **no later than the 14 February 2022**. This should include:
  + Project title
  + Strategic area – from a set of options, including: Clean Growth, Crops and Soil, Agriculture and Aquaculture, Bioscience for Health, Rules of Life.
  + 200-word project summary - Make sure that the project has a clear objective, is feasible within the maximum duration, and clearly demonstrates how it supports the student’s skills development and their confidence in considering and undertaking further research.
  + Expected Project Start Date (max placement duration 8 weeks) - Recommended June-July 2022. The final project start and end dates will be confirmed after awards are made.

Please note*:* The student and their supervisor are required to submit a brief report on the outcome of the REP to EASTBIO within *two* months of completion of the placement.

For any queries, email [**enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk**](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk)**.**