**EASTBIO DTP Research Experience Placements Scheme - Summer 2023**

*Projects submitted by the 15 March 2023*

*Student Applications by the 18 April 2023*

*Submissions by email to enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk*

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# General information about the Scheme

EASTBIO DTP3 continues to support the **BBSRC-funded Research Experience Placements (REPs)** **scheme** run under DTP1 and DTP2. In DTP3 we aim to specifically use the scheme to support 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, promoting 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 residential Summer School exploring bioscience-related careers at the end of May 2023, before they will undertake an 8-week lab placement in June-July 2023, thus receiving a ‘research taster’ experience. Details of the 2022 event can be found [here](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/research-experience-placements).

Each REP awardee will receive a salary (Grade UE03 – Step 2) from the University of Edinburgh School of Biological Sciences (award holder) for a total of 8 weeks, plus a maximum of £500 (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).

Students interested in applying to the REP Scheme should either:

1. check the REP projects 2023; **a full list of available projects will be advertised on the** [**EASTBIO website**](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/research-experience-placements) **after the 15 March; guidance and application forms will also be uploaded on the** [**EASTBIO website**](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/research-experience-placements) **before the end of February 2023.**

or

1. contact directly an academic based in one of the above institutions and discuss whether they would agree to sponsor them for a project at their lab**.**

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 by late April**

**2023.** EASTBIO will contact successful students to confirm the schedule of the Induction events we ask students to attend in May 2023.

*Please read the information below if you are interested in applying for a REP award.*

# Guidance for prospective student REP applicants

**Eligible 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 their family in higher education; home postcode in the final year of secondary school; 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* <https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/eastbio-dtp-rep-diversity-inclusion-form-2023> *before the Application Closing Date (18 April 2023). 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 EASTBIO 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 ecology, mathematics, machine learning and engineering) or veterinary degree at a UK university.
* 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 at the end of May 2023 (Dundee); all students expenses, including their travel to Dundee, will be covered by EASTBIO.

**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*.

# Guidance for prospective REP supervisors

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

* select a suitable undergraduate student according to the Widening Participation remit of the Scheme (see guidance, above) and support them so that they can complete and submit to EASTBIO a REP Application Form;
* identify a suitable project that relates to one of the strategic areas specified above;
* alternatively, if you are approached by a prospective candidate you wish to support, you can develop a REP project with them and proceed directly (without submitting a project to EASTBIO) to completing the REP Application Form with the candidate; in that case, please make sure that you read carefully the project specifications, below.
* ensure that appropriate supervisory arrangements are in place for the student during the 8-week placement.
* Be aware of the Scheme’s Widening Participation remit and explicitly provide in the Application Form’s relevant section examples of supervisory measures that add value to the placement in terms 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.
* Be willing to attend and/or contribute to the REP Summer School at the end of May (Dundee)
* Submit your REP project to EASTBIO [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) **no later than the 15 March 2023 via the simple form, below:**

# Guidance regarding the lab placement project

**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 2023, as possible

# REP Project Proposal form 2023

To submit a project to be advertised by EASTBIO DTP to prospective applicants, please detach this form, complete and submit it to [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) **no later than the 15 March 2023**. Note that the information you provide below will be shared with prospective applicants via the EASTBIO website and across the DTP. You can either develop a project to be advertised openly by EASTBIO or you can do so after being contacted directly by a prospective student you wish to sponsor for the REP scheme.

Email us if you have further questions.

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| --- | --- |
| **EASTBIO REP Project Proposal Form 2023** | |
| **Your name** |  |
| **Your affiliation (JHI, University of Dundee, SRCU, etc.) and staff webpage** |  |
| **Your email** |  |
| **Project title** |  |
| **Details of the local administrator to liaise with EASTBIO** (*name and contact email address*) |  |
| **Project’s Strategic area** | Choose an item. |
| **A 200-word Project summary**  *Make sure that the project has a clear objective, is feasible within the maximum REP duration, and clearly demonstrates how it supports the student’s skills training & development and their confidence in considering and undertaking further research* |  |
| **Proposed Project Start Date**  *Recommended June-July 2023 (max 8 weeks). We will ask you to confirm the project start and end dates after awards are made*. |  |

All projects approved by the EASTBIO Management Committee for fit to the REP’s remit will be advertised on the EASTBIO website and via our Twitter and LinkedIn, as well as via the local websites of our partner institutions. EASTBIO will contact you should there be any queries about your project before it is publicised.

The closing date for student applications is the **18 April 2023**.

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)**.**

# Application Form 2023

## Summary of guidance to candidates

* Deadline for applications: 18 April 2023 – notifications of outcome by late April 2023
* Once you will have read carefully the guidance provided above, please detach the form, then complete it together with the project supervisor of the project you are applying for and submit it to [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk).
* To apply for the REP scheme, students must have a clear confirmation from the supervisor that they support their application for their project.
* All fields below are mandatory. The form should be completed by *both the student and the sponsoring project supervisor* after having discussed the project together. *No incomplete applications will be considered.*
* Email [enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) if you have any questions about the call and application.

## Student Application Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Student to complete** | |
| **Full Name:** |  |
| **Email Address** (institutional): |  |
| **Department/University (*if different from the project supervisor’s*):** |  |
| **EDI Survey unique receipt number via** <https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/eastbio-dtp-rep-diversity-inclusion-form-2023>  *(this is the number the applicant will receive automatically upon completing the EASTBIO EDI Survey)* |  |
| **Other schemes student applied for:** |  |
| **Please answer the following questions briefly (between 100 and 300 words max).** | |
| **Why do you wish to undertake a Research Experience Placement?** |  |
| **Please provide a brief statement of what you can contribute to the host lab/institution.** |  |
| **What skills do you hope to gain (technical, transferable, methods-wise)?** |  |
| **What are your professional/career aspirations?** |  |
| **Please note here any achievements that you are particularly proud of and wish to highlight to the selection panel. These can be academic or non-academic.** |  |
| **Have you had any previous research experience (apart from your course projects)? If so, please provide a brief description of this – e.g. duration, focus, goals, any further directions that you realised you wish to follow.** |  |
| **Would you like to work on a part-time basis? (Leave blank if not.)**  **If yes, please indicate your preferred working pattern (e.g. 3 days a week, or half days full week).** |  |
| **Date and signature:** |  |
| 1. **Supervisor to complete** | |
| **Full name & title:** |  |
| **Partner Department/University:** |  |
| **Email Address:** |  |
| **Date and signature:** |  |
| 1. **Project Details (supervisor to complete with the student)** | |
| **Project Title:** |  |
| **Strategic Area:** | Choose an item. |
| **Project Summary (max. 200 words):** *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.* |  |
| **Support Statement (max 150 words):**  **Summarise (a) why you support this application and (b) how you will be supporting the candidate in terms of their personal/professional development during the project; please use concrete examples where possible.** |  |
| **Expected Project Start Date (*max placement duration 8 weeks*):**  ***(recommended) June-July 2023***  ***The final project’s start and end dates will be confirmed after awards are made.*** |  |
| ***Thank you for your application to EASTBIO REP Scheme. We will notify you of the outcome of your application by the end of April 2023. If you have any further questions, please email the EASTBIO Support Officer at enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk.*** | |