

Student handbook 2016-17

BBSRC EASTBIO

Doctoral Training Partnership



eastbio
the East of Scotland Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership



BBSRC
bioscience for the future

Welcome to EASTBIO

EASTBIO is the East of Scotland Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP). It was established in 2012 and is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Our partnership comprises the universities along the east coast of Scotland, a key region in the UK for life sciences in terms of both academic excellence and industrial support and investment. The primary aim of EASTBIO is to deliver world-class interdisciplinary training to bioscience PhD students and to build interactive vibrant student cohorts. In addition to providing enhanced training to our students, the partnership offers outstanding opportunities for collaborative research, access to expertise and research facilities across the universities of the east of Scotland.

The EASTBIO academic partners are:

University of Aberdeen

University of Dundee

University of Edinburgh

University of St Andrews

Our associate partners are:

The James Hutton Institute

Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Scottish Universities Life Science Alliance (SULSA)

Studentships:

Our first cohort of 35 students started in autumn 2012, with core funding from the BBSRC coupled with additional funding from each of the partner universities. This autumn we welcome our fifth cohort of 35 students.

Research themes:

The EASTBIO student projects are designed to meet key priority areas, outlined in the BBSRC strategic plan: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/priorities/priorities-index.aspx>

Agriculture and Food Security

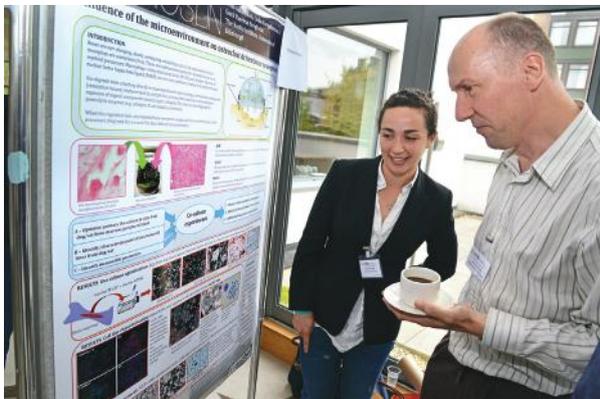
Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy

Bioscience for Health

World Class Bioscience



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Poster session - Impact Symposium 2015



EASTBIO students at the Impact Symposium 2015

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Welcome from the EASTBIO Management Group

Dear PhD students,

Welcome to the EASTBIO Doctoral Training Partnership community. You have beaten off stiff competition to receive one of our prestigious studentships and are at the start of an exciting 4-year journey through your PhD. We hope that this handbook, our Induction Day and the EASTBIO website will help you familiarise yourself with the aims of the partnership and our training programme.

EASTBIO is a partnership of four universities – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and St Andrews - and each of you will be registered in a host school or department within your university. Although you will follow the local training and assessment programme of your host institution, you are an EASTBIO PhD student and will receive additional training including:

- research training through participation in interactive discussion groups run across the partnership which will provide you with insight into the key questions and challenges in your research area and enable you to build your own collaborations with researchers working in your field across the four universities;
- enhanced training in quantitative and analytical core bioscience skills through our masterclass programme;
- access to advanced technology and core bioscience training courses across the partnership; specific transferable skills training with your peer cohort;
- an exciting opportunity to undertake a Professional Internship for PhD Students (PIPS) training, which will provide you with an opportunity to learn valuable professional skills in the workplace;
- an opportunity to attend a student retreat on Loch Tay;
- finally, our annual symposia are a platform for you to share your research with the EASTBIO community and learn more about the impact of bioscience research on the world around us.

We expect that throughout your PhD each of you will take a proactive approach to your own training and development with the support of your supervisors and EASTBIO. You will be asked to complete and update your training plan and record each year and we will monitor these to help ensure that you complete your PhD within four years, and graduate with a set of valuable skills that will enable you to compete successfully with the best in the world in your chosen career.

As a new PhD student, you will be establishing yourselves in an exciting, vibrant research environment – meeting lots of new people, possibly finding your way around in a new city, country or culture and being bombarded with information on just about everything. If any of us can assist you with settling in, please don't hesitate to contact us (contact details are provided at the end of this handbook).

We look forward to meeting you in person at our Induction Day, which is hosted by the University of Dundee on **Thursday the 6th of October 2016** at the West Park Conference Centre. The induction day will be followed by a masterclass on Statistics and Experimental Design on **Friday the 7th of October 2016**. You will meet the other new EASTBIO students and supervisors at this induction and networking event.

We wish you an excellent start to your studies,

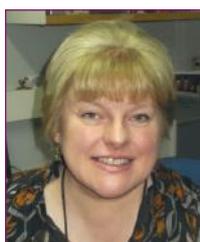
The EASTBIO academic management group



Professor Bernadette Connolly
University of Aberdeen



Dr Judith Sleeman
University of St Andrews



Professor Carol MacKintosh
University of Dundee



Professor Colin Farquharson
University of Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Dr Irina Stancheva
University of Edinburgh

Introduction to the EASTBIO Training Programme

The EASTBIO training programme is aligned with Vitae Researcher Development Framework and aims to support your professional and personal development throughout the four years of your PhD. As an EASTBIO PhD student you will be part of a wider network of postgraduate bioscience research students and we hope that the interactions that you will establish with your fellow EASTBIO students will extend beyond your PhD.

The bioscience careers of the future require individuals equipped with knowledge and cutting-edge skills that combine **quantitative** and **interdisciplinary approaches** to addressing complex biological problems with **expertise in advanced technologies**. The EASTBIO training programme in Years 1 and 2 is designed to help you develop these crucial skills.

To be successful in your future career you also have to develop **a range of personal skills** such as effective communication, leadership and initiative. The EASTBIO transferable skills programme in Years 2, 3 and 4 and the EASTBIO Annual Symposia, which you can help organise, both aim to build your personal skills, your confidence and independence.

Finally, the EASTBIO **Professional Internships for PhD students** provide you with the unique opportunity to try something different from your research in the lab. The invaluable experience of working in a non-academic environment will make the transition into your professional bioscience career much easier at the end of your PhD.

The EASTBIO training programme incorporates four main strands:

Training Strand 1: Research Skills

Training Strand 2: Bioscience Skills

Training Strand 3: Transferable Skills

Training Strand 4: Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS)

The following pages provide more detailed information about the training within each strand and explain what is expected from you at each stage of your PhD. As well as the information in this handbook, you should keep an eye on your inbox and the EASTBIO website (www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) for further updates, news and developments.

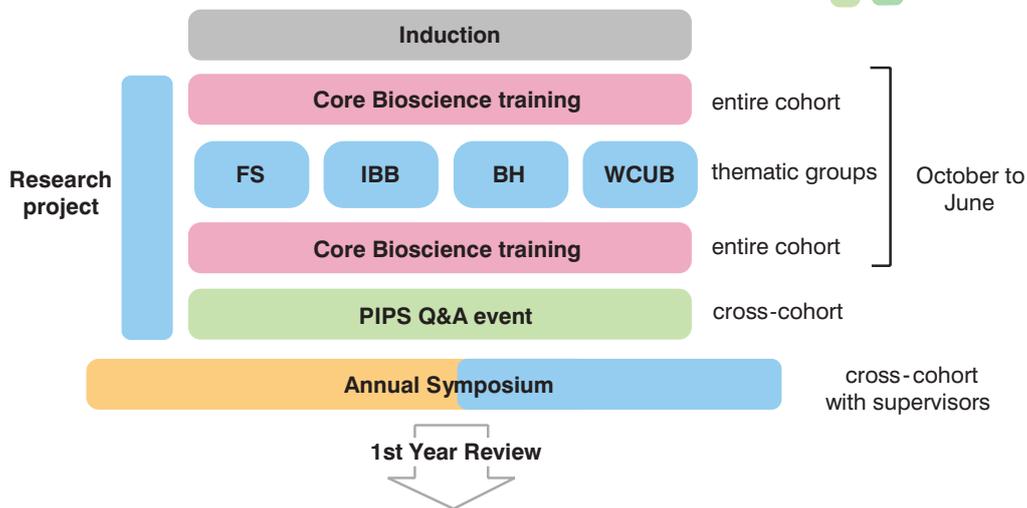
Overview of the Training Programme

We recognise that each of you will start the EASTBIO PhD programme with different abilities and aspirations. For this reason we have specific minimum expectations regarding the amount of training we expect you to complete each year during the 4 years of the programme, including some key events and components that are mandatory for all EASTBIO PhD students (see page 21).

EASTBIO Training Programme

- Research skills
- Core bioscience skills
- Transferable skills
- Professional skills

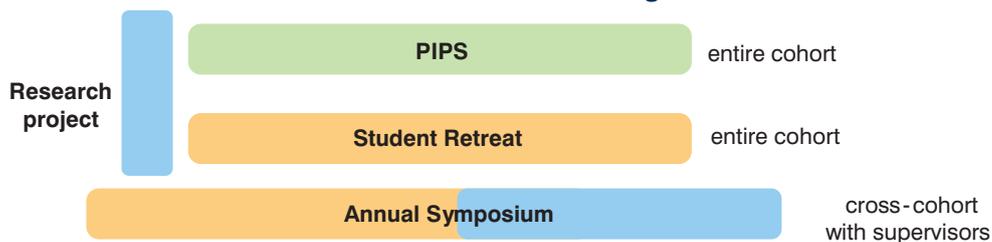
Year 1 Foundation training



Year 2 Advanced training

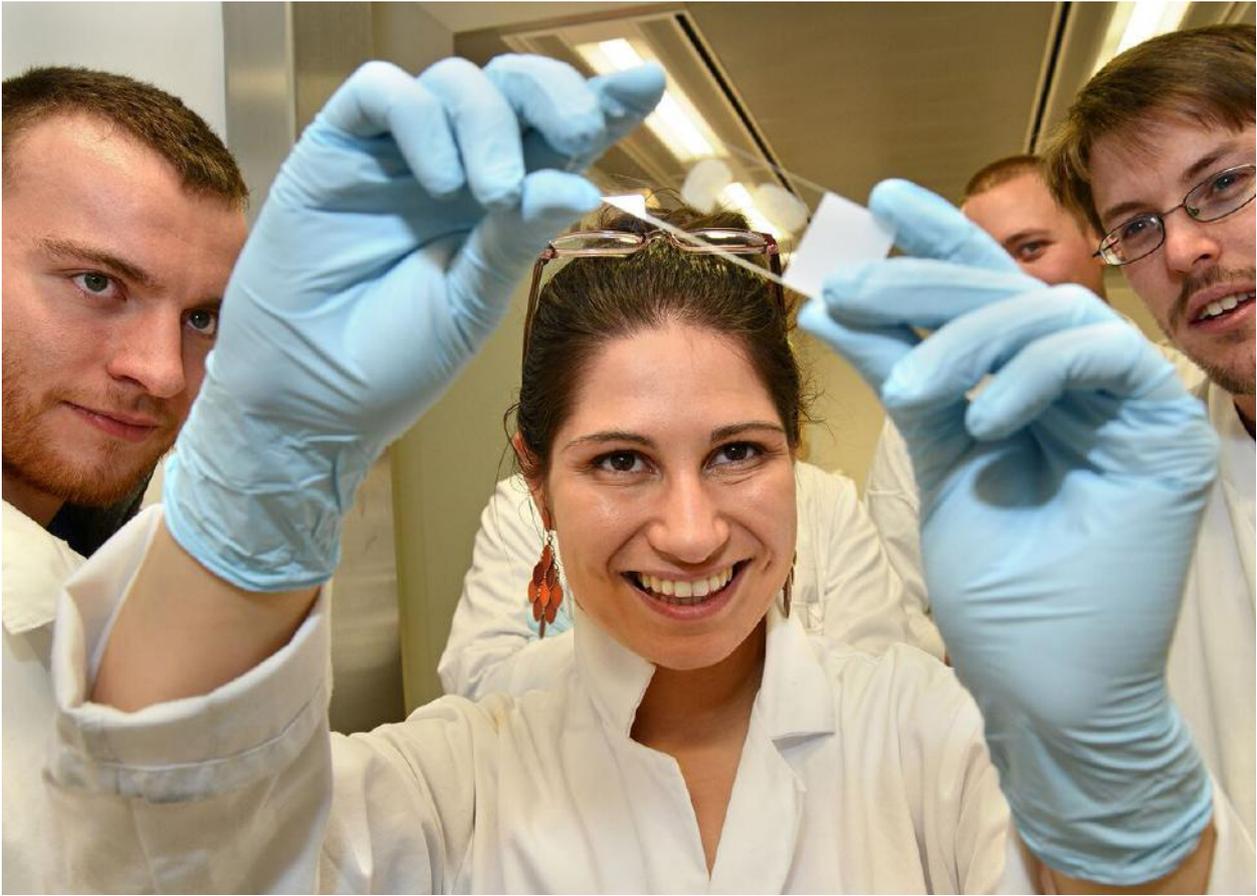


Year 3 Professional training



Year 4 Consolidation





Year 1 - Foundation Training

In the first year of the EASTBIO PhD, we expect you to establish the foundation upon which you will build the development of your skills in subsequent years. Therefore, most training events in Year 1, such as the **thematic group meetings** (Research skills), **masterclasses** (Bioscience skills) and the Presentation skills workshop (Transferable skills), are mandatory and carry training points for attendance at these events (see page 21). This may sound like a lot of training, but based on our past experience, we are sure that you will enjoy interacting with experts from different universities and research fields, meeting frequently with your fellow EASTBIO students from across the partnership and building your own research and support network.

To progress into Year 2 you have to achieve a minimum of **120 training points** in addition to passing successfully the first year assessment at your host university/department. We expect you to complete the 120 points within 18 months of the study start date, with a minimum of 100 points collected by the end of Year 1.

Year 2 - Advanced Training

In the second year, we expect you to focus on your research and to develop further your core bioscience skills by taking optional advanced training courses. Many courses are available locally, but as an EASTBIO student you have access to all **practical advanced technology training** and **advanced core bioscience courses** at all four partner universities. Information of these training opportunities is published on the EASTBIO website (Bioscience skills). We strongly encourage you to make the most of these excellent training opportunities that are available to you uniquely as an EASTBIO student.

As you will be expected to actively participate and help organise the EASTBIO Symposia and the Student Retreat, EASTBIO will provide you with specific transferable skills training through two separate **workshops** on '**Science Communication**' and '**Leadership & Entrepreneurship**' respectively. You will also be invited to attend the EASTBIO Year 1 '**Presentation skills**' workshop.

EASTBIO will not prescribe which specific training courses you should take, but we expect you to undertake at least **20 hours** of core bioscience training in Year 2. However, attendance to EASTBIO-specific transferable skills training workshops is mandatory for all second-year students. We also expect you to attend **at least one of the four thematic group meetings** and interact with the first-year students.

Year 3 - Professional Training

Anytime between month 12 and 36 of your PhD, you will be undertaking your **Professional Internship (PIPS)**, which you will plan and prepare for in the first year. Therefore, this year is mostly free from other mandatory training events. However, we expect you to share your PIPS experience with your fellow EASTBIO students at the PIPS Q&A event and the Annual Symposia. EASTBIO will provide funding for a **third-year Student Retreat** and will help you organise specific retreat activities.

Year 4 - Consolidation

In the final year of your PhD, we expect you to focus on finishing your research project and writing up your thesis. We expect you to submit your thesis before the end of August 2020. To help you with taking the next step in your professional career, EASTBIO will hold two workshops on '**Making the most of your final year**' and on '**PhD Career Paths**' for all final year students (attendance mandatory).

To make the most of the training offered by EASTBIO and partner universities, as well as keep track of your development, we require all students to develop and update regularly their training plan in each academic year. You will be sent reminders about the deadline for submitting your training plan and record to EASTBIO at the end of Years 2 & 3.

Training plan and record

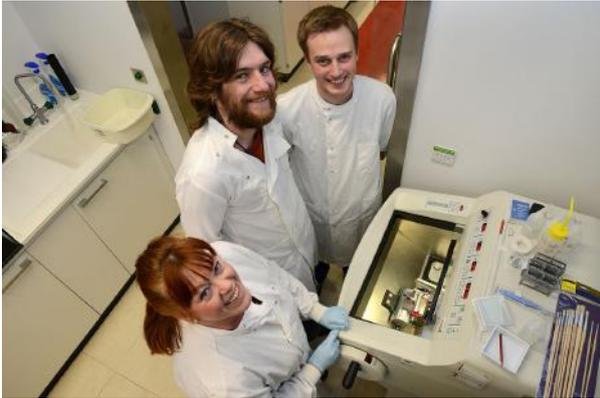
In Year 1, you should assess your training requirements and complete your online training plan after you have discussed the available options with your supervisor(s). You should record your training throughout the year and update your training plan at the beginning of each new academic year. The online training plan and record form is available at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/jwpbJv1kENY97TVq1>.

All first year students must finalise their choice of masterclasses and the rest of their first-year training plan by **Monday the 17 October 2016**. On submitting the form, **please save the link provided on the final submission confirmation page**, as you will need this link to edit your plan in the future.

You must update your training record at the end of your first year by the **31 May 2017**. Please record both EASTBIO and local training that you attend. It is your responsibility to ensure that all your training documents are up to date and submitted on time. Please remember that progression to the second year of your PhD depends on whether or not you have fulfilled the EASTBIO training requirements.

Delayed submission of your training plan and record may result in late or cancelled stipend payments.





EASTBIO Bioscience for Health training 2015



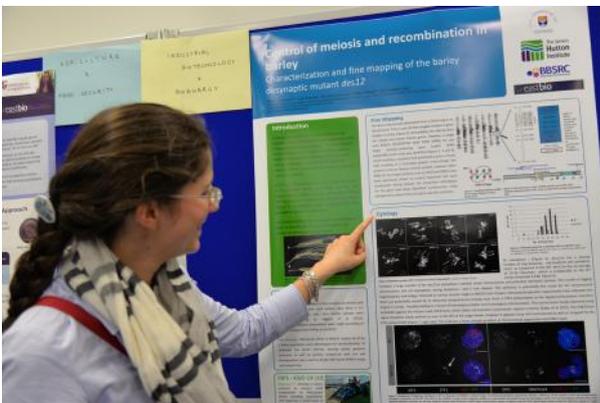
Poster session - Impact Symposium 2015



Impact Symposium 2015



Research Symposium 2016



Poster presentations - Research Symposium 2016



Research Symposium 2016



Impact Symposium 2015



EASTBIO DTP team - Symposium 2016

Training Strand 1:

Research Skills Subject-specific theoretical training

EASTBIO student projects starting in 2016 are designed around four key research themes:

- **Agriculture and Food Security**
- **Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy**
- **Bioscience for Health**
- **World Class Bioscience**

Details of which research theme you belong to and how the thematic discussion groups will operate will be given at Induction on 6th of October.

During this training, you will take part in **4 face-to-face meetings** taking place every two months at different locations across the partnership. These meetings will be based on group discussions, presentations and literature review aiming to introduce challenges, questions and tools that are key in your theme-specific research area and to develop your critical reading skills. The thematic groups will also provide you with an excellent opportunity to get to know other EASTBIO students and supervisors working in complementary research areas, to share expertise and establish collaborations. Students and supervisors are encouraged individually or as a group to host at least one meeting at their university/department. For examples of thematic group training activities, please visit the EASTBIO website:

www.eastscotbiotdp.ac.uk/research-skills-training-strand-1

Schedules of thematic group meetings and additional materials that will help you prepare will be posted on the EASTBIO website and regularly updated throughout Year 1.



Advanced technology training

Most courses offered by the partner universities are available to EASTBIO students across the partnership. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Microscopy:** Locations - UoE, UoD and UoA. Advanced practical courses in light, confocal and 2-photon microscopy. In addition, the Edinburgh Super Resolution Imaging Consortium (ESRIC) runs a summer school in Super-Resolution imaging techniques, which is open to all EASTBIO students.
- **Genetic Engineering and Genome analysis:** Location - UoE. This is a 2-week practical course for PhD students in advanced genetic engineering of mammalian cells. The course runs every year in December.
- **Proteomics and protein purification:** Locations – UoE. A SULSA-supported practical course in protein expression, purification and characterisation, including an array of biophysical analysis techniques is available twice a year at the Protein Purification Facility (PPF).
- **Protein crystallography:** Location - UoStA. A one-week summer school in Protein Crystallography is held every year.
- **Mass spectrometry:** Location - UoE. A practical 2-part course in preparation and analyses of protein samples for a variety of mass spectrometry applications is available twice a year.
- **Flow cytometry:** Location - UoA, UoD, UoE. Courses covering the theoretical basis and practical application of flow cytometry, instrumentation, data analyses and presentation.

The research training provided by EASTBIO will supplement the training you will receive in your research group and host department. Do take advantage of any training opportunity available to you, including optional undergraduate and MSc modules, journal clubs, seminars and conferences in your field. We expect all EASTBIO students to be actively involved in the research culture of their host institution and to act as EASTBIO ambassadors by widening the PhD student network across Scotland.

Training Strand 2: Bioscience Skills

Conducting cutting-edge bioscience research in the 21st century requires you to develop a **broad understanding of multidisciplinary approaches** that are used for addressing complex biological problems, as well as **strong quantitative skills** to analyse the vast datasets that are the output of contemporary bioscience research. The EASTBIO training will enable you to build the foundation of your multidisciplinary and quantitative skillset in Year 1 and develop it further in subsequent years.

Year 1: Foundation Masterclasses

The following one-day foundation masterclasses will be offered to all first-year EASTBIO students:

- Statistics and Experimental design
- Dynamic Modelling for Systems Biology
- Genomic approaches
- Proteomics and Mass spectroscopy
- Primer for Synthetic biology
- Imaging
- Introduction to MATLAB

All masterclasses will be held in Dundee. Dates and summary outlines can be found on the EASTBIO web site at: www.eastscotbiotdp.ac.uk/foundation-masterclasses.

SysMIC: Systems training in Maths, Informatics and Computational Biology

SysMIC is an outstanding online course, which provides extensive training in mathematics, statistics and computational methods used in life sciences. The course is put together and delivered by scientists from University College London, The Open University and the University of Edinburgh.

In 2016-2017, EASTBIO offers a total of 6 funded spaces to first-year students on a competitive basis. You will be invited to apply after the Induction Day and will be given information to this effect. If you are successful, you will have 2 years to complete the course and gain either 30 points for Module I, or 50 points for both Module I & II. Failure to complete the course may carry a financial sanction.

For more information see: http://sysmic.ac.uk/course_details.html

Year 2-3: Advanced core bioscience skills

These courses build on the skills developed in Year 1 through the foundation masterclasses and are open to all second and third-year EASTBIO students. Courses include:

I – Mathematics and data analysis

- Advanced statistics and error analysis
- Programming in Python
- R/Bioconductor and Unix
- Next-Generation sequencing data analyses and mining
- NVivo qualitative data analysis

II – Multidisciplinary approaches to understanding biological systems

The EASTBIO partners offer a large number of postgraduate taught MSc courses open to all EASTBIO students, addressing directly the development of multidisciplinary areas of research. These include MSc course modules in:

- Synthetic Biology
- Medicinal Chemistry
- Drug Discovery
- Chemical Biology
- Physical Techniques in Chemistry

Further information and relevant links for each course can be found at

www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/year-2-advanced-training#advancedbioscience



Training Strand 3: Transferable Skills

To be competitive in your future career it is vital that you engage with training beyond the essentials needed for your own research. As the knowledge economy expands, employers expect advanced professional skills in addition to excellent qualifications. Therefore, the acquisition and development of personal transferable, employment-related and research-oriented generic skills is an important part of your postgraduate training. These skills, which complement your academic research and enhance your employability prospects will give you a competitive edge both now and in future.

You will be undertaking some of this training locally, at your host institution, and we expect you to plan and record this training in your training record. However, EASTBIO trains the future leaders in bioscience research and to enable you to develop as such we provide both a specific transferable skills programme in Years 2-4 of your PhD and the opportunities to apply these skills by contributing to the organisation of EASTBIO Annual Symposia and the Student Retreat.

EASTBIO News

If you have any publications, scientific presentation or an interesting knowledge exchange & outreach experience, please email enquiries@eastscotbiotp.ac.uk or Tweet to [@EastbioDTP](https://twitter.com/EastbioDTP). We will be happy to publicise your news on our website.

Tailored Transferable Skills Workshops

All EASTBIO students are required to attend specific transferable skills training events at key stages of the programme. You should record this training in your training record form.

- **Presentation Skills:** this event is for *first and second-year students*. It helps to develop presentation skills with emphasis on interdisciplinary audiences.
- **Science Communication Workshop:** this event is for *second-year students*. It focuses on developing the skills you need to communicate your research effectively to scientific and non-scientific audiences.
- **Leadership and Entrepreneurship Workshop:** this event is for *second-year students* and it focuses on different aspects of leadership and entrepreneurship.
- **Student Retreat:** this is a student-led event for *third-year students*. In a three-day residential retreat you will have the opportunity to meet other EASTBIO students and share your research and experience as a PhD student.
- **Making the Most of your Final Year:** this event is for *fourth-year students*. It will provide you with advice and information on how to balance your work, thesis writing and submission with interviews, grant and job applications.

- **PhD Career Paths Workshop:** this event is for *fourth-year students*. It will provide an overview of your career opportunities both within and outwith academia.

In addition to EASTBIO-specific training you will find a rich provision of transferable skills training in your host university and places can be made available on training courses at partner universities for EASTBIO students upon request. You will also find that the BBSRC and Vitae provide additional opportunities. As well as information provided to you by your host department, you will find key links to identify essential courses for Training Strand 3 on the EASTBIO website.

Annual symposia

The EASTBIO Annual Symposia are student-led events that are organised by second-year student representatives from all four universities with help from a member of the EASTBIO academic management group and the EASTBIO administrator. The Symposia are hosted each year by a different partner university and normally take place in mid-June. Of these, two are *Research Symposia* and the other two are focused on the *Societal* and *Commercial Impact* of bioscience research respectively.

The EASTBIO Symposia are an **essential part of your training** and provide you with excellent opportunities to present and discuss your research with the wider EASTBIO community, invite the speakers you like to hear, chair sessions and contribute to debates and discussions.

The next EASTBIO Annual Symposium, to be hosted by the University of Aberdeen, will be focused on Societal Impact and will take place on the **12 June 2017**. Look out for emails and check the EASTBIO website regularly for updates.

Student Retreat

EASTBIO will provide funding and support to student representatives to organise a **third-year student retreat at the Firbush Point Outdoor Centre**, located on the shores of Loch Tay near Killin, Scotland. During the retreat we expect you to discuss your science, your future career plans and how you will stay in touch with EASTBIO and each other after you finish your PhD. EASTBIO will provide additional support for these retreats should you decide to invite speakers or run a specific transferable skills workshop. The retreat will also give you an ample chance to relax and have fun with outdoor activities. For an example of last year's retreat, please visit the EASTBIO website: www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/year-3-professional-training

The Firbush centre is equipped with a seminar room, excellent social space and extensive equipment for outdoor sports. For more information please visit www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/sport-exercise/outdoor-centre/about-us/introduction-firbush and have a look at the Firbush virtual tour.

Training Strand 4:

Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS)

The Professional Internships for PhD students are unique to BBSRC-funded DTPs and form an essential and mandatory component of the EASTBIO PhD programme. The only exception to this requirement is of CASE students who must spend a minimum of 3 months placement with their CASE partner company instead. Undertaking a PIPS or CASE internship will expose you to a **non-academic professional work environment** and provide you with experience and confidence that will make the transition into the next stage of your career easier to achieve. PIPS is an excellent opportunity to explore your aspirations and try something new. Internships can be undertaken in any field or sector of non-academic activity including biotech industry, business administration, communications, scientific publishing, project management, teaching and outreach.

You will receive guidance, advice and support while organising your placement. To prepare you for PIPS, the EASTBIO PIPS coordinator Dr Caroline Pope will hold a specific event which you must attend:

PIPS Q&A event (24 February 2017, Dundee - Year 1)

EASTBIO PIPS are undertaken sometime in the second or third year of your PhD. You will find all essential information about PIPS in the EASTBIO 'PIPS Student Guide' and on the EASTBIO website at:

www.eastscotbioldtp.ac.uk/professional-internships-phd-students-pips.

What type of internship is suitable for PIPS?

PIPS is a defined project with tangible outcomes that can be carried out in any non-academic organisation, as long as it gives you a professional experience outwith your immediate research-related environment. This is a chance to think creatively about the types of experience you would like to gain so that PIPS will benefit your career in the long term. This is not a stop-gap but a valuable life experience.

The following are just a few examples:

- an applied research project in industry;
- managing a non-research project;
- administering a research project or grant;
- developing policy for a research council or government;
- carrying out a marketing project for a company or organisation;
- communicating science to the public or younger audiences through an outreach programme;
- developing or helping to develop a new product or service for a company.

Planning your PIPS

It is important to think of the following possible constraints:

- the timing of your most important experiments;
- field-work seasons you may need to work around;
- resource bottle-necks in your research project;
- conferences, meetings and training you may want to attend;

- family commitments;
- costs associated with your internship such as travel and accommodation.

You may also want to complete some relevant generic skills training in preparation for PIPS, such as:

- CV-writing and interviewing skills;
- entrepreneurship;
- time management;
- communication skills

What is expected from you with regards to PIPS?

We are confident that you will take a proactive approach in organising your placement. The following points summarise what EASTBIO expects from you:

- source a suitable PIPS project with a suitable PIPS provider;
- plan the PIPS into your PhD work in collaboration with your PhD supervisor(s);
- complete all the necessary paperwork (forms, agreements, approvals) for your PIPS and communicate them to EASTBIO, host university and/or host organisation, in accordance with milestones and deadlines set out in the 'PIPS Student Guide';
- engage with your PIPS provider in a professional manner when you are developing your PIPS project;
- carry out and complete a PIPS of suitable length and scope, whilst adopting a professional behavior in the host organisation;
- report on the outcomes of your PIPS to EASTBIO and BBSRC according to the requirements set out in the 'PIPS Student Guide'.

There are four mandatory forms/documents to be filled in and returned to EASTBIO for approval.

- PIPS Student Planning Sheet (FORM 1)
- PIPS Internship Agreement (FORM 2A)
- PIPS Host Organisation Feedback (FORM 3)
- Case Study

There are additional mandatory documents to be communicated to the BBSRC:

- BBSRC DTP PIPS Placement Report (online)
- Case Study

If your PIPS require overseas travel or an expenses application there are two optional forms to be filled in by you only:

- PIPS Abroad Pre-departure Checklist (FORM 2B for overseas PIPS)
- PIPS Additional Expenses Application (FORM 2C - optional)



EASTBIO Impact Symposium 2015

Get involved!

PhD Students

There are many ways in which you can engage more closely with EASTBIO and contribute to building a vibrant cross-institutional student network. You can enhance your leadership skills and volunteer as a student representative; you can join the student communication group and collect information for our News web page; you can also tweet about the EASTBIO training events or write a blog on the EASTBIO website.

We are looking for **student representatives** for the 2017 student cohort from each of the four partner universities. As a student representative you will join our student committee and will have the opportunity to (1) get first-hand experience in organising the EASTBIO Symposia and Student Retreats; (2) attend the EASTBIO management group meetings and shape new developments in training; (3) collect the feedback and opinions of your fellow students; (4) organise social events.

We will ask for volunteers at the Induction Day.

If you would like to represent your university or contribute in any other way, please send an email to Maria Filippakopoulou at enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk

Student profiles

In the first year, you will be asked to create your personal profile for the EASTBIO web site, which provides brief information about your background and your research project. This information helps other EASTBIO students and the wider scientific and non-scientific community to find out who you are and what your research is about.

To see the current cohort profiles go to:

www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/eastbio-student-cohort-2015

EASTBIO on LinkedIn

As the first cohort of EASTBIO students is about to complete their PhD studies, we have set up 'EastBio Alumni', a closed LinkedIn group to enable everyone to keep in touch. We ask you to consider joining the group and help us keep in touch beyond graduation.

EASTBIO website

We want our website to be highly interactive. We are keen for you to contribute to it by commenting, blogging or engaging with the online forum. For login access and further details, please email Maria Filippakopoulou at enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk

PhD supervisors

We expect that your supervisor(s) will not only actively support your research and development throughout your PhD, but also contribute to the training of the EASTBIO student cohorts by (1) contributing to the thematic groups training; (2) attending the EASTBIO Annual Symposia and providing feedback to students during poster sessions and talks; (3) hosting EASTBIO students from other institutions in their laboratories if there is a need for these students to acquire specific expertise. We monitor the engagement of supervisors with the EASTBIO programme and those who fail to engage will not be permitted to take on the supervision of new EASTBIO PhD students.

Costs incurred through training

We aim to provide all your training free of charge or at a minimal cost. Each of you will have access to the following funds (in addition to fees and stipend) to support your training:

- **Travel and conference allowance:** £230 per year which will cover most of the expenses involved where training is delivered in person rather than online. Please ask your local administrator if you are unsure how to access these funds.
- **Research Training Grant:** £5000 per annum (this is reduced to £2000 in year 4). This grant may be held directly by you or your supervisor or it may be held by your department. It should be used to cover the research costs incurred by your project and may also be used to purchase a laptop at the start of your programme and cover any additional travel and training costs incurred during each year. Please ask your local administrator if you are unsure how to access these funds.
- **PIPS Additional Expenses:** Where your PIPS will incur significant additional costs you can apply to our competitively allocated small bursary competition. Further details can be found in the 'Professional internships for PhD students Guide for Students'.

Feedback on training and new developments

One of the aims of the EASTBIO DTP is to share existing training provision across the partnership and develop new training in response to the needs that you, your supervisors and your potential future employers may identify. We will ask you for feedback on existing training and will ask you for input on developing our training strands further. **Please respond to these requests. Your opinion is very important and helps improve the training components of the programme.**

If you cannot find the training you need, please contact your local EASTBIO managers or the representative of the EASTBIO academic management group. They will have a good overview of the training offered across the four partner institutions and through SULSA. You can also contact enquiries@eastscotbioldtp.ac.uk.



Student presentations at the Research Symposium 2016

EASTBIO Training Programme: Summary and Requirements

Key deadlines for Year 1:

Monday 17 October 2016: Choice of masterclasses and training plan due (please note that you can update your plan).

31 May 2017: Online Training Plan and Record update due.

Online Training Plan and Record Form: <https://goo.gl/forms/UQallQqwinEyRVj13>

The following table summarises the EASTBIO Training Programme and the mandatory components associated with each year. Your first-year training plan should lead to an aggregate of at least **120 training points**.

Event	Year	Requirements
Induction	1	Mandatory; 10 training points
Symposium	All	Mandatory; 20 training points in Y1

Training strand 1: Research skills

Thematic group meetings (4)	1 (& 2)	10 training points each
Practical Advanced Technology Training	1 & 2	Optional

Training strand 2: Bioscience skills

Foundation Masterclasses (7)	1	10 training points each
SysMIC	1	Limited places, offered on a competitive basis; 30 training points (module I); 50 training points (module I and II)
Advanced Core Bioscience Skills	2-3	Optional

Training strand 3: Transferable Skills

Presentation Skills Workshop	1 (& 2)	Mandatory, 10 training points for Year 1
Science Communication Workshop	2	Mandatory
Leadership & Entrepreneurship Workshop	2	Mandatory
Residential Student Retreat	3	Mandatory
Making the most of your final year Workshop	4	Mandatory
Careers Workshop	4	Mandatory
Other training		Optional

Training strand 4: PIPS

PIPS Q&A event	1	10 training points
PIPS	2-3	Mandatory

EASTBIO Contacts

All of these contacts are very happy to be contacted with any queries you have about EASTBIO so please do get in touch!

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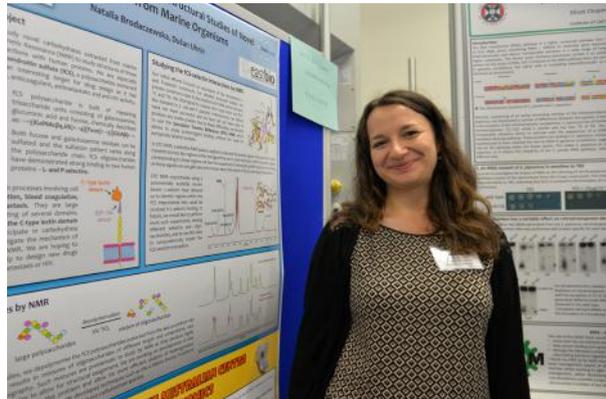
Research Symposium programme



Poster presentations - Research Symposium 2016



Impact Symposium 2015



EASTBIO student poster presentations - Research Symposium 2016



EASTBIO group photo - Research Symposium 2016

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this handbook is correct at the time of publication. EASTBIO training courses are subject to ongoing development which could necessitate cancellation of, or alteration to, the advertised courses. The EASTBIO DTP reserves the right to make changes at any time without prior notice. Should you notice any errors or inaccuracies in this handbook or on our website, please let us know by emailing enquiries@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk.



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