

EASTBIO DTP Induction Day 2019

Thematic groups break-out sessions, 13:00-15:00 (various meeting rooms)

For training purposes, EASTBIO will confirm the thematic area the student-supervisor team will belong to; this will be featured on name badges. We urge all to speak to the thematic group chair if they have any concerns.

All groups to convene at the Howff Suite and then assemble in their respective break-out room, as follows (rooms will be sign-posted on the day):

- Agriculture & Food Security (AFS) – D’Arcy Thompson Room
Chair: Professor Bernadette Connolly
- Bioscience for Health (BfH) - Walker Room
Chair: Dr Rafael Guimaraes da Silva
- Industrial Biotechnology & Bioenergy (IBB) - Ewing Room
Chair: Professor Dom Campopiano
- World Class Underpinning Bioscience – Howff Suite
Chair: Dr Jo Stevens

For the wrap-up session, we recommend that all groups reconvene to the Howff Suite after the end of their discussion to establish the potential for holding joint sessions.

Purpose: The session will give students and supervisors an opportunity to meet each other and learn about each other’s research projects. It is an opportunity for both to reflect on what they might want to get out of being associated with their theme by discussing key issues in their respective areas, as well as type of training required based on specific research needs, future collaborations, etc. EASTBIO is not prescriptive about the content of the sessions but we will circulate details of previous training (also on our website: <http://www.eastscotbioldtp.ac.uk/thematic-training>).

The main outcome should be a **decision about the 4 thematic meetings during year 1**, starting from December 2019, then February-April-June¹: the topic/focus for each meeting, suitable dates and the supervisory team hosting and organising the meeting’s schedule. Ideally each EASTBIO partner should host at least one meeting. When the session is over, the chair **should have a draft thematic meetings schedule for 2019-2020, with provisional dates, topics and confirmed host teams’ details**. The EASTBIO Administrator will circulate the list and further to all group members, after the Induction, to allow all to engage in the planning of the annual thematic programme.

Proposed structure:

- (1) Ask all participants to introduce themselves and their research projects;
- (2) Discuss shared ground, as well as key issues and challenges in the relevant research areas;
- (3) Explain how the EASTBIO thematic training will operate: 4 face-to-face meetings throughout the year, each focused on a specific topic agreed by those attending; each of the four EASTBIO partner institutions (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, St Andrews) is to host and plan at least one such meeting;
- (4) Discuss and agree on likely topics of interest to the group - major concepts and challenges within the theme-specific area of research, approaches to address these challenges, opportunities for

¹ The reason being streamlining the EASTBIO calendar given that the seven Foundation Masterclasses we deliver to first-year students will run in November, January, March and May.



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- further collaboration, visits to facilities, etc. Participants should suggest at least 4 topics around which each meeting can be structured; a 'bank' of previous topics will be provided in advance of the session but these are not to restrict ideas discussed;
- (5) Confirm supervisors and students who wish to volunteer as theme leaders for each meeting and organised it locally;
 - (6) Participants are to suggest innovative and interactive ways of running these meetings; feedback on previous years' training stressed the need for more interactivity, networking and hands-on work.
 - (7) By the end of the session, each group will have **a draft schedule, with provisional dates, topics and host teams**. The schedule and venue details need to be confirmed by each host team **no later than one month prior to the actual session**.

EASTBIO will provide financial and logistical support to the organisers of each thematic meeting – there is some budget flexibility to accommodate training requirements beyond catering, for instance guest speakers' travel expenses, consumables, facilities fees, etc. Specific guidance and planning tips will be circulated to the chairs and all organisers prior to the Induction.