

EASTBIO Student Representatives

General

We call for EASTBIO Student Representatives at the Induction (early October) for new starts to represent EASTBIO students based in each of the nine main partner institutions – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh (College of Science and Engineering), Edinburgh (College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine), St Andrews, Stirling, James Hutton Institute, Moredun Research Institute and Scotland's Rural College. As only one person can represent each partner institution, further volunteers are designated as reserves. If more than two people per institution want to engage, we assume that each representative team will discuss between them and notify EASTBIO of who will represent the institution to a scheduled meeting or in relation to an agreed action.

Each student rep is asked to provide a brief personal profile plus a photo to be uploaded on the EASTBIO website so that they can be approached by EASTBIO students easily; this can be amended at any point upon the student rep's request.

The term is 2-year long. Student reps can step down for a short time or permanently by notifying the EASTBIO team when their availability decreases as a result of increased PhD work requirements, a field trip, etc. Both first and second-year student reps work together to carry out their representative work and they are in contact with the EASTBIO team and the Management Group.

Duties - EASTBIO student representatives:

- represent the students of their host institution or other EASTBIO students across the DTP: as a consequence, they may be approached by individuals who may want, for example, advice, request for information to do with the programme or the EASTBIO general provision of support, social interaction, EASTBIO application, their experience of being a student rep, etc. Student reps are also to encourage students to come and speak to them and they should collect and cascade any significant issues or concerns to the EASTBIO team or the Management Group (depending seriousness), with explicit consent from the affected student(s).
- represent the experiences, feedback, comments, recommendations and concerns they have received from EASTBIO students (whether in their host institution or across the DTP) to scheduled meetings of the EASTBIO Management Group. These primarily concern the EASTBIO training programme, but they can also be on other matters arising that affect the student experience of the programme, such as ad hoc issues, the EDI support provision, study concerns, etc. Student reps may also be invited to meetings with the EASTBIO Advisory Board or the funding body UKRI BBSRC.
- work with the academic lead to plan the Annual Symposium according to the brief and with the logistical support of the EASTBIO team
- may be invited to participate in various EASTBIO WP/EDI events or activities, for instance, the Summer School that is part of the EASTBIO Research Experience Placements for UGR candidates, the Induction Day to speak to new starts, the Placements Q&A, recruitment Q&A sessions to assist prospective applicants to the EASTBIO programme, etc.

- may make a personal recommendation or take an initiative towards a stated goal or after noticing a gap in the EASTBIO provision on any aspect of the programme. This should ideally happen after consultation with peers to ensure as objective an input as possible, via the appropriate channels and with a professional attitude.

Due process

Although personal views and beliefs inform individual commitment and drive, student volunteers give voice and visibility to the views and perspectives of their peers first and foremost. The group forms an inclusive mechanism set up to strengthen the support for students on the programme through direct engagement in decision-making and monitoring processes. We take it for granted that student reps communicate with one another frequently or in view of a scheduled meeting or agreed action.

All formal actions undertaken by student reps - discussions, reporting or responding - should take place within the processes agreed and established in advance and should be underpinned by unfailing respect for all stakeholders according to EDI & dignity and respect principles.

Stressors

Mindful of the role's additional workload and expectations, we ask our student reps to maintain clear communication with one another regarding duties with a fixed deadline (i.e. a scheduled meeting, an invited response), so that these can be passed on and carried out by different reps depending on availability. We expect that student reps will share updates about actions with reserves so that periods of absence will not affect adversely communication and representation.

Should student reps receive input by students that is upsetting to them, we advise them to consult in the first instance the EASTBIO team or the EDI Champion; if appropriate, they can also refer the case to one of the two other students bodies: the EDI student reps or the EASTBIO Mental Health First Aid group.

Recognition

Any travel (including subsistence) student reps will undertake as part of their role's duties will be reimbursed by EASTBIO. Included in the role is a bonus 10 training points in recognition of the additional time investment students will be making.