# **REP Project Proposal form 2024**

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 2024**. Note that the information you provide below will be shared with prospective applicants via the EASTBIO website and across the DTP. After confirmation by EASTBIO, you can also advertise the project via your local institution and link to <https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/research-experience-placements>. 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 2024**  **https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/research-experience-placements** | |
| **Your name** | Dr Fabio Manfredini |
| **Your affiliation (e.g. University of Dundee, SRCU, etc.) and staff webpage** | University of Aberdeen |
| **Your email** | [fabio.manfredini@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:fabio.manfredini@abdn.ac.uk) |
| **REP Project title** | Behavioural symptoms of DWV infections in Honeybees |
| **Details of the local administrator to liaise with the EASTBIO team** (*name and contact email address*) | Giles O’Donovan  [giles.odonovan@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:giles.odonovan@abdn.ac.uk) |
| **Project’s Strategic area** | **Bioscience for sustainable Crops and Soil** |
| **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 development and their confidence in considering and undertaking further research* | Honeybees are important pollinators of many crop plants and essential for global food security, however honeybee health is declining due to a combination of factors, including climate change, pesticides, and pathogens like the Deformed Wing Virus (or DWV). This research project will focus on improving our understanding of the behavioural symptoms associated with DWV infections in two ways: 1) measuring onset of foraging in infected bees, both in person and using camera monitoring, and 2) using a cognitive test (proboscis extension reflex or PER) to investigate how cognitive performance is impacted by viral infections. The student will gain a variety of basic lab skills in zoology and behavioural ecology and an understanding of how and why behavioural research is conducted. Furthermore, the student will be integrated in Dr Manfredini’s research group currently including five PhD students, one master student and two honours students who will be working at their final year research project over the summer. Interaction with these members of the Lab, as well as with other members of the School, will be key for the project student to have an exposure to a stimulating and inclusive research environment. |
| **Proposed Project Start Date**  *Recommended June-July 2025 (max 8 weeks). We will ask you to confirm the project start and end dates after awards are made*. | June 17, 2024 |

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 **23 April 2024**.

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)**.**