 

# Collaborative PhD Studentship Opportunities in the EASTBIO Doctoral Training Programme (DTP3)

EASTBIO is the East of Scotland Bioscience Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), established in 2012 with continuous funding from the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). EASTBIO DTP is amongst the largest BBSRC-funded programmes in the UK, currently supporting the training of 240+ life sciences students across five universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Stirling and St Andrews) in partnership with the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC), Moredun Research Institute, Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC), The James Hutton Institute, Cool Farm Alliance and SULSA.

The primary aim of EASTBIO is to deliver world-class interdisciplinary training to bioscience PhD students to help build a highly skilled workforce.

EASTBIO seeks to support 75 Collaborative Studentships (up to 15 per year between 2020 and 2025) in collaborative partnerships between industrial stakeholders and academic supervisors from EASTBIO partner institutions.

## Benefits:

* **Opportunities, encapsulated in collaborative agreements, to devise cutting-edge research projects, capture IP, obtain patents and help translate research findings.** EASTBIO PhD students enjoy full access to all facilities and expertise available across the partnership.
* **Direct access to a highly skilled talent pool.** EASTBIO seeks to recruit and nurture the development of talented and ambitious individuals, valuing diverse backgrounds. We will recruit and train over 60 students per year in a world-class research environment. EASTBIO offers a robust and diverse array of enhanced training opportunities that includes enterprise training, advanced skills training (computing, in vivo skills, leadership) and public engagement.
* **Direct access to a highly collaborative and interdisciplinary research network.** Annual research and impact symposia, EASTBIO training events and research activities form the basis of a highly connected and collaborative environment where interdisciplinary research is valued and promoted.
* **Join a growing network of industrial collaborators and stakeholders.** You will join a growing network of industrial stakeholders that include Mialgae; Drax Power Station; Roslin Technologies; Massive Analytics; AbascusBio Ltd.; Boehringer Ingelheim; Elasmogen; Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Acquaculture Science; Cairn Research Ltd.; Biobest Laboratories; Fios Genomics and Scottish Bioenergy.
* **A training programme that is tailored to meet the needs of students, staff and stakeholders.** We offer a flexible training programme that supports students and staff irrespective of circumstance (for details, please see our flexible model for industry partnering below).

EASTBIO can help your organisation operate at the cutting edge, forge academic collaborations, explore new opportunities, tap into funding streams and encourage PhD talent to work in your sector.

## What are Collaborative Studentships?

Collaborative (CASE) Studentships are collaborative research projects between EASTBIO academic(s) and industrial/non-academic partner(s). Students working on collaborative projects benefit from the full EASTBIO training programme, along with time spent at the industrial partner (on site internship range from 3 minimum to 18 months maximum). The academic and industry partner collaborate to write a PhD project proposal (see [here](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20210901101319/https%3A/bbsrc.ukri.org/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/) for more information).

### A flexible model for industry partnering that offers three routes:

1) **UKRI BBSRC Standard Collaborative Studentship with an industrial**. EASTBIO prioritises collaboration with SMEs for studentship allocations. Financial contribution depends on the partner’s size:

* Companies that have more than 50 employees, will provide a minimum of £5,600\* in total towards project costs to support a full 4-year UKRI BBSRC Standard Collaborative studentship.
* For SME that have 50 or fewer employees, there is *no financial contribution required* towards project costs.

2) **50% Industry Match-Funded Collaborative Studentship**. EASTBIO has introduced an additional collaborative studentship stream, where the industrial partner provides 50% of the overall studentship costs. Where industrial partners are able to fund at this level, partner institutions may decide to ring-fence a number of these studentships. Only students who reach the standard of candidates in our main interview rounds will be recruited to these pre-committed studentships. Industry will have the option of being involved in recruiting these students. The total estimated costs to the industrial partner of a 50% Industry Match-Funded Studentship will be **£57,226.50\*** over the total PhD studentship, subject to UKRI annual increments. The commitment must be captured in a Support Letter signed by the industrial partner and submitted together with the Project Proposal; no Collaborative project proposal under this stream will be considered without a Support Letter.

3) **Part-time Collaborative studentship** route for industry-based employees. The total estimated current costs of covering fees -- but not PhD stipend -- will be £40,500\* over the total part-time PhD studentship. The partner is expected to continue paying staff salary for the duration of the PhD.

*\* At the time of sharing this Guidance, the figures were accurate. EASTBIO reserves the right to update these figures in line with any amendments to the UKRI minimum stipend levels for funded studentships, confirmed annually every autumn.*

### Criteria

The Collaborative Studentship Project Proposals will be reviewed by the EASTBIO Industry Engagement Committee led by the IBioIC representative to ensure that the project falls within the BBSRC remit, conforms with the desired standard of scientific excellence, aligns with the BBSRC EASTBIO DTP3 key strategic themes and provides adequate evidence about the engagement of the non-academic partner in the PhD project and the recruited student’s professional development; for more information, see [here](https://www.ukri.org/publications/a-forward-look-for-uk-bioscience/). The purpose of the additional review is practical, to ensure the quality of Collaborative projects and to enable required amendments to the project before its approval. To check your organisation’s eligibility to become a partner, see [here](https://www.ukri.org/apply-for-funding/before-you-apply/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-research-and-innovation-funding/). Once approved and advertised, PhD project uptake will be driven by student choice.

### How to submit your Industry project proposal for an EASTBIO Collaborative Studentship

* Eligible academics engage industry with their research and develop collaborative ideas prior to submitting the ‘EASTBIO Studentship Project Proposal form’ with a Support Letter from the industrial partner before the annualend of September deadline.
* The recruitment cycle starts in autumn; for info see [here](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/funding-opportunities-within-eastbio).
* Please note that EASTBIO expects that the academic supervisor will ensure that the non-academic partner organisation is involved in any local selection of candidates before nomination. The non-academic supervisor is also asked to co-sign the Candidate Nomination form with the academic supervisor as the document confirms full support of the candidate to EASTBIO (27 November 2023). Moreover, non-academic supervisors may suggest an additional question to the EASTBIO panel chair interviewing nominated candidates.
* Collaborative Studentships are awarded to students on the basis of the strength of their application, potential and investment in the project; selection interviews run online in February for a 4-year PhD to start in October.
* The EASTBIO partner Institution with the industrial partner will put in place an agreement outlining IP and publication arrangements, in keeping with UKRI terms and conditions. For more information [here](http://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/).

## Liability for Industry Partner Funding

The industry partner and the EASTBIO partner institution establish a contract that sets out the details of the industrial contribution to the Collaborative Studentship and EASTBIO is notified when the contract is signed by all partners. The EASTBIO DTP 3 grant carries no liability for any shortfalls arising from either changes to the industry partner contribution throughout the studentship or from additional costs for the industry partner share for sick, maternity and paternity leave. The industry partner agreement should comply with UKRI policies on sick, maternity and paternity leave. It is the responsibility of the academic supervisor of the awarded Collaborative Studentship to initiate the local process for retrieving industry contributions and the responsibility of the local institution the collaborative PhD student is registered with to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the Letters of Support from industry partners submitted with the EASTBIO Project proposal form.

It is the responsibility of the Supervisor of the awarded Collaborative Studentship to initiate the local process for retrieving industry contributions and the responsibility of the local institution the collaborative student is registered with to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the Letters of Support from industry partners in Section 3 of the Project Call.

## EASTBIO Partner Industry Contacts

Industry wishing to establish links with academics in order to develop Collaborative Studentship project ideas can either work directly with a known academic from the EASTBIO organisations listed below or contact the relevant contact within the partner institution’s business or industry support. See the table below for specific named contacts within the EASTBIO DTP.

For any questions, please contact the EASTBIO DTP Manager at <Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk> or <placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk>

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| **EASTBIO Academic Partners** | **Named Contact Person within the Associated Enterprise Unit / Industry Engagement Broker**  |
| University of Aberdeen | **Javier López Vidal** (Impact & Knowledge Exchange, Research and Innovation) javier.lopezvidal@abdn.ac.uk  |
| University of Dundee | **Fiona Mitchell** (Research and Innovation Services) <f.m.mitchell@dundee.ac.uk> |
| University of Edinburgh  | BD contacts for SBS:**Emma Elliott** – BD Manager – emma.elliott@ei.ed.ac.uk**Axel Thomson** – BDE – axel.thomson@ei.ed.ac.uk**John Morrow** – BDE – john.morrow@ei.ed.ac.uk**Sarah Stevens** (Business Development Executive, School of Chemistry) <sarah.stevens@ei.ed.ac.uk> |
| University of St Andrews | **Claire Gorby** (Business Development Manager) <busdev@st-andrews.ac.uk> |
| University of Stirling | **Stuart Cronin (Business Engagement representative)** <stuart.cronin@stir.ac.uk>  |
| Scotland’s Rural College | **Professor Eileen Wall** <pg.research@sruc.ac.uk> |
| Moredun Research Institute | **Richard Mole** (Business Development Manager) <richard.mole@moredun.org> |
| James Hutton Institute | **Jonathan Snape** (James Hutton Limited) <<https://www.huttonltd.com/contact-us>> |
| Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre  | **Dr Mary Doherty** (IBioIC) <mary.doherty@ibioic.com> |