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**Call for PhD Project Proposals 2025**

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*Please read carefully this guidance carefully* before *completing your online project proposal.*

# Guidance Notes

## A. Introduction to EastBio

[EastBio](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/), funded by UKRI BBSRC since 2012, comprises the Universities of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Dundee, Stirling, St Andrews, along with SRUC, IBioIC, the James Hutton Institute and the Moredun Research Institute as full Partners. The Cool Farm Alliance and SULSA are Associate Partners and assist in provision and professional development provision.

During DTP3 (2020-2024), the UKRI BBSRC studentships covered:

* UK tuition fees of £4,786. Note that through a fee-waiver arrangement at local institution level, successful international students will be funded at home-level.
* stipend of £19,237 (at [UKRI level](https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/developing-people-and-skills/find-studentships-and-doctoral-training/get-a-studentship-to-fund-your-doctorate/) and subject to UKRI increments);
* research training support costs of £5,000 per year (reduced to £1,000 in the final year);
* Additional support is provided for student professional placements and disability (Disabled Students Allowance).
* The studentships do *not* cover additional costs incurred by international fees students’ onboarding – e.g. visa fees or health charges.

The studentship financial details are confirmed by EastBio from an early stage and can be found on the current [Student Handbook](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/eastbio-handbook), which we review annually before the EastBio [Induction Day](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training/eastbio-induction-day).

For full student eligibility criteria, please refer to Annex B of the [UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions](https://www.findaphd.com/common/clickCount.aspx?theid=1048&type=185&url=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ukri.org%2fwp-content%2fuploads%2f2020%2f10%2fUKRI-291020-guidance-to-training-grant-terms-and-conditions.pdf). Funded students join the EastBio Training Programme and are required to undertake enhanced subject-specific, core bioscience, methods, and generic skills training, as well as a 3-month professional internship (PIPS) outwith academia, or a placement (from 12 weeks) with their CASE partner. They are required to submit their thesis within 4 years.

By proposing an EastBio DTP project, academic supervisors and any non-academic partners commit to:

* *actively support their PhD student’s career development and full participation in the EastBio training programme;*
* *attend the two key in-person training events – the Eastbio Induction (early October) and the Eastbio Annual Symposia (early June) or arrange for the co-supervisor or a lab member to attend in their place;*
* *participate in the provision of thematic training their project is aligned with (4 annual thematic group sessions in Year 1, each organised by one or more student-supervisor team hosts);*
* *advise and support their supervisee in their planning of their mandatory placement and, if possible, attend the EastBio Placements Q&A event (online, early February);*
* *advise, encourage and support their student with their professional and personal development across the PhD programme of study, and their career preparedness in the final stages of completion;*
* *consider engaging with the EastBio recruitment by sitting at interview panels or helping to shortlist nominated candidates;*
* *help the EastBio Management review government processes and review of programme by providing feedback and further recommendations when requested (e.g. via our annual programme survey), or at in-person Q&A sessions.*

For more information about our programme, see our website: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio> and <https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training>.

## B. Supervisor Eligibility

1. Lead supervisors who successfully recruited an EastBio student in the previous two recruitment rounds (October 2023 and 2024 starts) are not eligible to submit a project for this recruitment round. This excludes supervisors who have CASE projects, who are only ineligible if they successfully recruited an EastBio student starting October 2024.
2. Lead supervisors who will have more than five PhD students as Lead supervisor in October 2025 (not counting students who are yet to be recruited) are not eligible to submit a project for this recruitment round.
3. Supervisors can only propose one project as Lead supervisor.
4. Supervisors must be up-to-date with supervisor training within their institution.

## C. Project Eligibility

Project proposals must:

1. **Align to one of the 5** [**UKRI BBSRC Strategic Priority Areas**](https://www.ukri.org/publications/a-forward-look-for-uk-bioscience/): (I) Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery, covering the sub-themes of Understanding the rules of life and transformative research technologies; II) Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food, covering sub-themes on: Crops and soil, Livestock production, biology and health, and aquaculture; III) Bioscience for an integrated understanding of health; IV) Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth.

In addition, projects fulfilling one or more of the following criteria are strongly encouraged:

1. Develop a **collaboration with an industrial or non-academic partner**. Please see additional guidance below.

1. **Exploit/address strategic bioscience skills and capacity challenges** outlined in the [Forward Look for UK Biosciences as defined by UKRI BBSRC](https://www.ukri.org/publications/a-forward-look-for-uk-bioscience/).
2. Are genuinely **interdisciplinary**, perhaps drawing on co-supervisors’ expertise from another department or partner institution.
3. Develop an **inter-institutional collaboration** through cross-supervision with another EastBio partner or associate partner.

## D. How to submit your project proposal

We are asking eligible staff of the partner institutions to submit your PhD project via an onlineform relevant for your Institution:

University of Aberdeen: <https://forms.office.com/e/C8PeihriGZ>

University of Dundee: <https://forms.office.com/e/pUzDzapUuR>

University of Edinburgh CMVM: <https://forms.office.com/e/UT4J18zHrj>

University of Edinburgh CSE: <https://forms.office.com/e/1KwPmyzjiR>

University of St Andrews: <https://forms.office.com/e/qwVTpe6KNs>

University of Stirling: <https://forms.office.com/e/57p7wN7tEu>

SRUC: <https://forms.office.com/e/4vwcRDSvFJ>

Moredun Research Institute: <https://forms.office.com/e/zKHn1XbW3Q>

James Hutton Institute: <https://forms.office.com/e/1j4ShH9HHj>

IBioIC: <https://forms.office.com/e/KexAmZHxT7>

**The deadline for projects is the 22nd of November 2024.**

We have introduced the online form for project proposals in response to supervisor feedback from previous recruitment rounds. You can save the form and return to it for further edits before the closing date.

If you are submitting a CASE project, you must also separately submit a [**CASE Support Letter** (see Appendix 2)](#_Appendix_2:_CASE) signed by the CASE partner’s representative to your local academic lead for EastBio and to recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk. Your project will not be eligible for review if you do not submit a Letter of Support. After successful recruitment, EastBio will request that the commitment captured in the Support Letter be followed with a Memorandum of Agreement, completed by the academic and CASE supervisors, with the assistance of the relevant Business Development/Industry Engagement service of their host institution.

Projects submitted locally will be approved by the [local academic lead](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/contact-us/programme-contacts) (member of the EastBio Management Group) prior to being advertised across the partnership (should EastBio be successful) based on the criteria outlined above. Supervisors may be asked to review aspects of their proposal to ensure fit with the BBSRC remit and/or with the selected thematic area, for instance in case some of these areas may be oversubscribed. Only projects approved via this process will be advertised via the Eastbio Find-a-PhD campaign and the local partner institutions platforms.

## E. EDI Survey for prospective supervisors

EastBio is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. Our goal is to create a PhD programme that is fair at every stage, from recruitment to research training, ensuring that all staff and students have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

As a potential supervisor, we ask you to provide EastBio with certain personal data and your consent to its use. This will enable a limited group of EastBio staff to process the data to enhance our recruitment practices in line with principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion. Our goal is to better understand the recruitment landscape across EastBio partners through the grant period (2025-2030). If we identify underrepresentation among supervisor groups in attracting candidates and/or in securing studentships, we plan to develop and test supportive measures for these groups and to continue monitoring the impact of these measures in subsequent recruitment cycles.

Please complete the survey via <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/edinburgh/eastbio-recruitment-2025-supervisor-edi-survey>. Once you completed this EDI Survey, copy the automatically generated unique ‘receipt number’ from the final survey page to your EastBio Project Proposal Form.

## F. Submitting a Collaborative (CASE) Project

CASE studentships are developed as partnerships between academia and industry or other non-academic partners. The PhD project, which can be either full- or part-time, should be a genuine collaboration of mutual benefit, focused on providing excellent training and supervision to the student. Please check the eligibility of your proposed partner by reading the [UKRI BBSRC Collaborative Studentships Information](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20210901101319/https%3A/bbsrc.ukri.org/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/). If you have questions about eligibility, please email recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk or contact the [EastBio academic lead](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/contact-us/programme-contacts) that represents your local institution.

There are three routes for the Collaborative Studentships:

1) **Standard Collaborative Studentship with an industrial/non-academic partner**. We will prioritise collaboration with SMEs for our collaborative studentship allocations. Financial contribution depends on the partner’s size:

* Companies that have more than 50 employees, will provide a minimum of £5,700\* in total towards project costs to support a 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**. In this route, 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. Note that only students who reach the standard of candidates in our main interview rounds will be recruited to these 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 ~£60,000\* over the total PhD studentship, subject to UKRI annual stipend increments. The financial commitment must be captured in a Support Letter signed by the industrial partner and submitted together with the Project Proposal; no Collaborative project proposal 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 £41,400\* over the total part-time PhD studentship. The partner is expected to continue paying staff salary for the duration of the PhD.

\*Please note that financial contributions were checked at the moment of publishing this guidance; any amendments will be confirmed with stakeholders before finalising formal processes of registering recruited students.

For all three routes above, all projects must be within UKRI BBSRC remit and represent viable PhD-level research, with mitigation arrangements for any project risks identified in advance and recorded on the project proposal. We will inform you of any relevant changes to the amounts given in (1), (2) and (3) above as and when known.

Please note that Collaborative projects in the BBSRC remit areas but not funded by EastBio may be linked to the Training Programme so that we maximise the opportunities for funded student networking, engagement and collaboration.

### Project Review



The Collaborative Studentship Proposals will be reviewed separately by the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee to ensure that the submitted project:

* falls within the BBSRC remit
* conforms with the desired standard of scientific excellence and represents viable research
* comes with mitigation measures for any identified risks to the project’s completion.

The Committee also wants to see a clear plan of engagement with the non-academic supervisor, details about the anticipated outcomes, and student placement plans from an early stage. Once approved and advertised, PhD project uptake will be driven by student choice; projects without candidates can be advertised again in subsequent recruitment rounds.

EastBio expects that both the academic and the non-academic supervisor co-sign the Candidate Nomination Form. We also encourage CASE partners to engage in any local selection of candidates before nomination, as appropriate.

### Supervisory Responsibilities

Academics submitting a Collaborative Studentship project proposal are required to:

Before submitting the Project Proposal form:

* Read the EastBio Guidance for Industry collaboration (*attached*).
* Ensure that the industry partner identified is eligible; for more information on this, see guidance [here](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20210901101319/https%3A/bbsrc.ukri.org/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/).
* A Collaborative Studentship must demonstrate how the industry will contribute to the research project proposed and work towards its success; provisional workplans with a proposed schedule of meetings should be discussed and agreed in time for recruited student onboarding; such plans inputted on the project proposal will ensure its approval by the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee.
* Fill in and submit to EastBio the Support Letter signed by the CASE partner representative; generic letters of support *will not be accepted*.
* establish (with support from the EastBio academic lead and the local Business/Industry service) any possible risk to the Collaborative Studentship project and have contingencies in place should there be changes in the priorities of the non-academic partner that affect the nature of their commitment to the project. Risks identified may include: suspect company or contact is on a sanctions list; high risk sector; high risk country; potential reputational risks; unethical investment; credit report, etc. Any risk considered should be discussed and signed off by the Business Development or Engagement Executive/Manager locally.
* Ensure that the Business/Industry team at the host institution is contacted and consulted early on and at two points (a) when PIs submit a Collaborative Project to EastBio and (b) when they recruit a student to their Collaborative project. This is so that the local team are in a position to proceed with the drawing of the Collaborative Agreement for that Collaborative Studentship, if successful. Such an agreement is based on separate and lengthy processes, e.g. IP assigning, establishment of liabilities, approval by legal or contracts teams, etc. Delay in involving the relevant local team may result in delays with the PhD progress and/or funding retrieval, as well as uncertainty or frustration for the recruited student.
* Any changes to the Collaborative agreement, including changes of partners, will require the approval of the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee and the DTP Director. The Committee Chair and the Eastbio Director will need to be satisfied that the original aims of the project can still be met and that the project continues to meet UKRI terms and conditions.

After EastBio recruits a student to the Collaborative Studentship project, the academic supervisor is expected to:

* Consult the relevant Business/Industry team at the local institution[[1]](#footnote-1) with a view to completing the following steps:
	+ Put in place whatever agreement with the non-academic partner they feel is appropriate in keeping with UKRI terms and conditions, outlining agreed IP, disclosure and publication arrangements. Once the arrangement is in place, to notify the EastBio DTP Manager with a signed copy of the agreement. This is an important step as it sets the framework for the project’s progress and also the carrying out of the Collaborative student placement at a later date in the PhD life.
	+ Make arrangements at the host institution level to invoice the non-academic partner for their financial contribution promised in the proposal, as relevant.
* Support the student CASE placement at the headquarters of the non-academic partner and inform the EastBio about the plans made to carry out the placement in agreement with UKRI BBSRC terms and conditions (for more on CASE Placements, see section below).
* Inform EastBio ASAP should there be any concerns regarding the Collaborative Studentship or if the non-academic partner pulls out after the start of the project.
* share with the recruited student project details, including any formal agreements so that expectations and levels of engagement are clear for all parties from an early stage and throughout the PhD project life. For example:
	+ discuss with them and the non-academic supervisor the nature of the project and the requirements, expectations and contributions from the industrial collaboration with a view to arriving at an agreed workplan and schedule of meetings that ensure the project’s success. They should make sure that the student sees the project description and understands the commitment and anticipated contributions of the non-academic partner so that they have the confidence to carry out any work that depends on such contributions. A calendar of meetings, a Welcome pack with key partner contact details, a set of monitored objectives, and other similar measures should be part of the student onboarding as a guarantee of a robust collaboration during the PhD project life.

### Placements

All studentships include a mandatory student placement with a non-academic partner doing high quality collaborative research work that is *directly related* *to the research project* in one of the areas of science relevant to the strategic priorities of UKRI BBSRC. EastBio will invite both the academic and the non-academic supervisors to the Induction and the Placements Q&A events that offer opportunities for transparent sharing of expectations, experiences and requirements by all parties.

This placement duration must be between 3 and 18 months long at any point during the 4-year PhD programme. The student placement at the non-academic partner can be taken in one 3-month block at any point during the PhD or a number of shorter blocks up to a maximum of 18 months, giving the flexibility to plan in sync with their business priorities. An integral component of the placement training is that it provides students with a training experience unavailable at the academic institution.

The non-academic partner should ensure that the student receives the appropriate level of management support, direction and training, especially during their placement at the non-academic partner, but also throughout the PhD, as relevant to the project. This should include training in, for example, project management, business strategy and finance. At the same time, the partner should ensure that the student has appropriate personal support and, as necessary, access to wellbeing services during their placement.

The Project Proposal should include some basic details about the planned student placement so that there is transparency and accountability from an early stage and evidence of engagement by all partners.

**Liability for Industry Partner Funding**

For the industrial contribution of a Collaborative Studentship, the relevant contract should be established between the industry partner and the local institution rather than *the Eastbio team*. For audit purposes, the local institution is required to send a copy of the final signed Collaborative Studentship Agreement to placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk. The purpose is to ensure that all Collaborative Studentships that are co-funded by EastBio progress smoothly.

The EastBio core grant carries no liability for any shortfalls arising from changes to the industry partner contribution throughout the studentship or from additional costs for the non-academic partner’s share for sick, maternity and paternity leave. Therefore, the CASE Studentship Agreement should comply with UKRI policies on sick, maternity and paternity leave. *It is the responsibility of the local institution to fund shortfalls of industry partner contributions locally* and to assume that risk in their assessment of the local recruitment/allocation.

*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 partner institution the collaborative student is registered with to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the Support Letters submitted from non-academic partners in the EastBio Project Call*.

### Appendix 1: Guidance for prospective CASE partners

**Collaborative PhD Studentship Opportunities in EastBio**

EastBio is a partnership established in 2012 with continuous funding from the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Amongst the largest BBSRC-funded programmes in the UK, EastBio is currently supporting the training of 300+ 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.

*EastBio has developed a* ***Research Brochure*** *with details of the research and collaborative expertise held within EastBio partner institutions: go to* [*https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/research*](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/research) *for a pdf copy of the brochure. Note that EastBio facilitates academia-industry networking sessions at our annual symposia (Edinburgh, 3-4 June 2025) so get in touch if you would like to be contacted by the team.*

For details, see <https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/collaboration-with-industry>.

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

**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.

[**https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/collaboration-with-industry**](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/collaboration-with-industry)

* **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 40 students per year in a world-class research environment. EastBio offers a robust and diverse array of enhanced training opportunities that includes computational, advanced skills & methods, as well as enterprise/business training, and public engagement.

[**https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/our-community**](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/our-community)

* **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.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training/training-overview>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training/placements>

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training/eastbio-symposia>

* **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 Aquaculture Science; Cairn Research Ltd.; Biobest Laboratories; Fios Genomics and Scottish Bioenergy.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/about-eastbio/collaboration-with-industry>

* **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).

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/training/enterprise-and-industry-skills>

*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?**

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 partners collaborate to write a PhD project proposal (information soon to be updated on our website at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/how-to-apply>).

A flexible model for industry partnering that offers three routes:

1. **Standard Collaborative Studentship with an industrial partner**. EastBio prioritises collaboration with SMEs for studentship allocations. Financial contribution depends on the partner’s size:
2. Companies that have more than 50 employees, will provide a minimum of £5,700\* in total towards project costs to support a full 4-year UKRI BBSRC Standard Collaborative studentship.
3. For SME that have 50 or fewer employees, there is *no financial contribution required* towards project costs. However, companies will be responsible to provide in-kind support to the recruited student for the period of their placement (minimum of 3 months spent at the company’s premises, depending on the project).
4. **50% Industry Match-Funded Collaborative Studentship**. EastBio runs 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 **£58,490\*** 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 to EastBio Management; no Collaborative project proposal under this stream will be considered without a Support Letter.
5. **Part-time Collaborative studentship** route for industry-based employees. The total estimated current costs of covering fees -- but not PhD stipend -- will be £41,400\* 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 separately by the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee led by the IBioIC representative to ensure that the project falls within the [BBSRC remit](file://ed.ac.uk/dst/shared/SCE/BIOLSCI/ADMIN/GRADSCHOOL/EASTBIO/EASTBIO%20ADMIN/Recruitment/Recruitment%202024/1%20Project%20stage/Project%20Call%20-%20docs/BBSRC%20CASE%20files%20TBC%20links%20dead/CASE%20Studentships%20Information%20pack.pdf), 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](file://ed.ac.uk/dst/shared/SCE/BIOLSCI/ADMIN/GRADSCHOOL/EASTBIO/EASTBIO%20ADMIN/Recruitment/Recruitment%202024/1%20Project%20stage/Project%20Call%20-%20docs/BBSRC%20CASE%20files%20TBC%20links%20dead/CASE%20Studentships%20Frequently%20asked%20questions.pdf). 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 and develop collaborative ideas for a research project prior to submitting the EastBio Studentship **Project Proposal form** together with a **Support Letter** from the industrial partner before the annualautumn deadline.
* The recruitment cycle starts in autumn; for info see [here](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/how-to-apply) (process is reviewed annually).
* Please note that EastBio expects that the non-academic partner is involved in any local selection of candidates before nomination in whatever manner is appropriate. The non-academic supervisor is also asked to co-sign the **Candidate Nomination form** with the academic supervisor as the document confirms their full support of the candidate.
* Collaborative Studentships are awarded to students on the basis of the strength of their application, overall potential, interest in the project and ability to carry it out. Selection interviews run online in February/March for a 4-year PhD to start in October.
* The academic Institution hosting the project/student working closely 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](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/UKRI-020424-TrainingGrantTermsConditionsApril2024.pdf).

**Liability for Industry Partner Funding**

The industry partner and the academic institution finalise the contract that sets out the details of the industrial contribution to the Collaborative Studentship and share with EastBio a fully signed copy of the Collaborative Agreement. The EastBio DTP 3 grant carries no liability for any shortfalls arising from any changes to the industry partner’s contribution throughout the studentship or from additional student costs for the industry partner share for sick, maternity and paternity leave in line with UKRI terms and conditions. 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 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 student is registered with to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the Letters of Support from industry partners in the Project Call.

### Appendix 2: CASE Project Support Letter

**EastBio CASE Project Support Letter**

*This section is mandatory for Collaborative Studentship Project proposals. The PhD supervisor must provide a letter from the industrial/CASE partner using the format below and submit to* *recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk* *as well as your local academic lead for EastBio. Please ensure you read the EastBio Guidance in Section D and work with your local Business Development/Industry Engagement team, and the CASE partner to finalise the details of their financial or in-kind contributions to the proposed PhD project. It is your responsibility to ensure that the CASE partner honours the commitments made here, including drawing any necessary formal agreements by engaging early on with the relevant Industry/Business team of your institution.*

**CASE Support Letter**

[*Use Company Heading*]

To Whom It May Concern

I hereby confirm in my capacity as [enter role in the CASE Partner Company] that the [*enter name of CASE Partner Company*] is committed to supporting a 4-year BBSRC studentship starting in Academic Year 2025/26 on the PhD project [*enter Title of Project*] with [*enter Name of PhD Supervisor*] on the following basis, should a student be successfully recruited by the BBSRC-funded EastBio Doctoral Training Partnership.

I will ensure that the associated student will spend at least three months and up to a maximum of eighteen months at the [*enter Company name*] premises to work on a specific project [*Name project if this is known at the time of submitting the form*] appropriate for the said PhD project. I understand that this placement will be integral part of the EastBio Industrial Collaborative Studentship, supported by the UKRI Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the host academic institution, and subject to the UKRI BBSRC terms and conditions. I confirm that we will provide the student with suitable supervision and professional development training, as well as covering any travel, accommodation and subsistence costs the student will incur during the period of placement. I confirm that we will work with the PhD supervisor and the recruited student to finalise the placement details (including project, timings, IP, Health & Safety and Insurance) and sign a formal Memorandum of Understanding to record these details for the attention of the EastBio Management Group that will be monitoring the progress of the CASE studentship.

Collaborative Project Option [*Select one option*]:

1. Standard Collaborative Studentship

2. 50% Industry Match-Funded Collaborative Studentship

3. Part-time Collaborative studentship

[*As relevant, please read the CASE guidance*] In addition, we will provide £..…. towards project costs in total to support a full 4-year UKRI BBSRC studentship starting on the following basis. We will also provide £….. per annum [*as relevant*] in enhanced stipend for the student.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Company Support £ |
| 2025/2026 |   |
| 2026/2027 |   |
| 2027/2028 |   |
| 2028/2029 |   |

A formal contract to this effect will be entered into with the University hosting the PhD Project in due course.

CASE Partner company representative

[Name & role of contact in CASE partner]

Date and signature

[Enter here]

Host Institution Business Development/Industry Engagement officer

[Name & role of contact in host institution)

Date & signature

[Enter here]

### EastBio Partner Industry Contacts

Industrial companies 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 or contact the relevant contact within the partner institution’s business or industry teams. See the table below for specific named contacts within EastBio.

Note that Professor Eileen Wall and Dr Mary Doherty also lead the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee and can be contacted for any queries around project collaborations. You can also contact the EastBio DTP Manager at <Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk>.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| EastBio Partner Institution | Named Contact & details (local business/industry engagement team) |
| Aberdeen | **Dr Ann Lewendon**  (Commercialisation Manager, R& I) javier.lopezvidal@abdn.ac.uk    <a.lewendon@abdn.ac.uk> |
| Dundee | **Fiona Mitchell** (Research and Innovation Services) <f.m.mitchell@dundee.ac.uk> |
| Edinburgh - CSE | **Emma Elliott** – Business Development Manager supporting ISCR – emma.elliott@ei.ed.ac.uk **Susana Direito** – Business Development Executive supporting IMPS and IEE - Susana.Direito@ei.ed.ac.uk **John Morrow** – Business Development Executive supporting IIIR and IQB3 – john.morrow@ei.ed.ac.uk **Rachel Harvey -** Business Development Executive supporting ICB and IQB3 - Rachel.Harvey@ei.ed.ac.uk **Sarah Stevens** (Business Development Executive, School of Chemistry) <sarah.stevens@ei.ed.ac.uk>**EastBio DTP Manager** <placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk> |
| Edinburgh - CMVM | Vet School: EBCampusBD@ei.ed.ac.ukIGC and Usher: **Sarah TREWICK** Sarah.Trewick@ei.ed.ac.uk Any other CMVM enquiries:**Jane Redford** Jane.Redford@ei.ed.ac.uk **Lindsey Millar** <Lindsey.Millar@ei.ed.ac.uk> |
| St Andrews | **Claire Gorby** (Business Development Manager) <busdev@st-andrews.ac.uk> |
| Stirling | **Stuart Cronin** (Business Engagement representative)<stuart.cronin@stir.ac.uk>  |
| James Hutton Institute | **Jonathan Snape** (James Hutton Limited) <<https://www.huttonltd.com/contact-us>> |
| Moredun Research Institute | **Richard Mole** (Business Development Manager) <richard.mole@moredun.org> |
| Scotland’s Rural College | **Professor Eileen Wall** <pg.research@sruc.ac.uk> |
| Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre  | **Dr Mary Doherty** <mary.doherty@ibioic.com> |

1. See the updated contacts list table at the end of the EASTBIO Guidance for Industry Collaboration. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)