PIPS Advert July 2025

*Organisations Interested in hosting an EastBio-funded PhD student for a 3-month placement, are asked to fill in this form and send it to* [*placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk*](mailto:placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk)*. The EastBio team will advertise the internship opportunity directly to funded students who are between year 1 and 3 of their PhD study. Please make sure you visit our webpage* [*http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/information-organisations*](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/information-organisations)*, or contact the EastBio DTP Manager at* [*Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk*](mailto:Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk) *for further information.*

*EastBio students interested in exploring this PIPS opportunity further, please follow the instructions within the posting and, if contacting the organisation, copy in* [*placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk*](mailto:placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk) *to keep the EastBio team informed of your application.*

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| Host Organisation Details | | | |
| Host Organisation Name | MiAlgae Ltd. | | |
| Host Organisation Sector Type  Please select from list in [Appendix](#Appendix) | Biotechnology, Science & Research | | |
| Please write a brief, plain description of what your organisation does (max 200 words) | MiAlgae aims to revolutionize the current livestock and pet feed industries by producing microalgae rich in polyunsaturated fatty acids (PUFAs) to offer as a replacement to fishmeal in feed.  Feed suppliers need this alternative to fishmeal due to declining wild fish stocks and rising demand for Omega-3s. MiAlgae has developed an environmentally beneficial, effective, and simple solution of producing microalgae which delivers the required nutrients to livestock and pets without the need for fish.  Our zero-waste solution recycles the nutritional co-products from whisky production to grow Omega-3 rich microalgae, returning clean water in the process. Our mission is to create a product that will contribute substantially towards the sustainable production of livestock, a prerequisite to fulfilling the needs of the growing world population. | | |
| Postal address | Unit 12, The Curve, Research Avenue, Riccarton, Currie, EH14 4AP | | |
| Website | www.mialgae.com | | |
| Contact person name and role in the organisation  *Please confirm whether they will be different to the Student Mentor/Supervisor (details to be confirmed below).* | Jamie Gilman, Head of Research and Development  Student mentors / supervisors are drawn from our R&D team and differ depending on the type of work undertaken during the placement. | | |
| Contact person email and phone number | [jamie.gilman@mialgae.com](mailto:jamie.gilman@mialgae.com)  07749 585190 | | |
| Will your Organisation provide physical premises external to the University with professional staff who will support the development of an intern’s professional skills appropriate to PhD level?  *Please note that E*as*tBio DTP may approve remote or hybrid placements as long as the PIPS project is suitable for this*. | **Yes** | ~~No~~ | ~~TBC~~ |
| Any other relevant information, for instance how the project is suited to a remote or hybrid placement:  The roles will be based in our laboratories or production facilities, and as such are not suitable for remote placement. There may be the opportunity for some work from home. | | |

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| **PIPS Internship Details and Desired Outcomes** | |
| PIPS Project Title | From Whisky to omega-3 |
| Description of the internship project you are offering, which will be shared directly with eligible PhD students (max 500 words). | MiAlgae is a biotechnology company that uses co-products from the food and drink industry as a feedstock for microalgal fermentation. We aim to eliminate reliance on wild-caught fish as a source of Omega-3 by harnessing the potential of microalgae as a sustainable alternative. Research at MiAlgae focuses on fermentation and process development for our existing omega-3 products and developing novel products that are sustainable replacements for high-value molecules which are currently unsustainably harvested from the oceans.  Students would be placed in our Research and Development team. The exact projects would be designed to fit with the technical aims of the company at the time of the placement. Previous placements have focused on optimisation of growth media and fermentation conditions, the development of engineering biology tools and techniques in a non-model organism and the scale-up of process to industrial pilot scale.  In all instances, students are placed within one of our multi-disciplinary project teams. These teams are given ownership of a set of technical objectives and have the flexibility to develop their own experimental plans and research strategy to meet these goals. Students are integrated with this process and given the opportunity to contribute to experimental design and decision making, gaining experience of scientific research in of a fast-moving, agile industrial setting. |
| Option for inviting interested students to apply directly by CV to generate a tailored internship project with your Organisation | Yes |
| Geographic location of this internship?  AND/OR  Option for a remote or hybrid placement, and a rationale for a virtual internship (max 150 words) | MiAlgae laboratory / office: Unit 12, The Curve, Research Avenue, Riccarton, Currie, EH14 4AP.  Scale-up projects happen at our commercial demonstrator in Balfron, Stirlingshire. Transport from MiAlgae’s offices to the demonstrator site will be provided if required. Lab-based placement students will be given the opportunity to visit the demonstrator site to gain an understanding of commercial-scale biotechnology. |
| What range of professionals will the PhD student work with during this internship? | Our research projects are run using agile project management, with a focus on inter-disciplinary teams and communication. As such, placement students will have the opportunity to work with members of the R&D team with diverse skills including fermentation, engineering biology and scale-up. There is also the possibility to engage with our engineering, production and quality teams. |
| Based on the project’s objectives, what specific results do you want the PhD intern to achieve? | To be confirmed. |
| How do these outcomes fit with your wider business objectives? | Placement students are always placed within a research team working on an area of research with strategic importance for MiAlgae. Previous students have helped develop media recipes that have been scaled to commercial production, helped develop scale-down fermentation models that have been used to develop commercial processes and worked on the development of engineering biology tools that have been applied in other projects. |

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| **PIPS Internship Timing / Duration / Management** | | | | |
| Timing of the Internship  *If provisional dates at this stage, please mark on the form* | Flexible from September 2025 | |  | |
| Format of the Internship, e.g.  3-month block or a number of shorter blocks | 3-month block | | | |
| Internship anticipated time of work (e.g. full-time, 35 hours/week; part-time option, etc.) | Full time, 35 hours/week, typically 7.75 hrs Mon – Thurs, 4 hrs Friday | | | |
| Name of person who will act as the PhD student supervisor/mentor (line manager) during this internship (if different to the contact mentioned above) | TBC depending on placement start date and focus, but typically a member of our R&D team. | | | |
| Supervisor position in the host organisation | R&D team member – Scientist or Senior Scientist | | | |
| Supervisor Contact email and phone number | TBC | | | |
| Is the Organisation willing to make a contribution towards intern’s travel or accommodation costs?  *Please note that the student will be in receipt of their PhD stipend during the placement and they are also able to apply to EASTBIO for limited funds towards their travel and/or accommodation. If the student lives more than 50 miles from the Organisation’s location, we encourage a contribution from the PIPS host towards their travel or accommodation costs; this is optional. The only financial expectation from the PIPS host is to cover all costs associated with the PIPS project (consumables).* | **Yes** | ~~No~~ | | ~~TBC~~ |
| Any other information relevant to the intern’s financial support from your organisation? | N/A | | | |

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| **Person Specification**  *Please give details of what is required for this internship – skills, experiences and personal qualities, whether essential or desirable.* | |
| What skills does the PhD student need to complete this internship project? | Experience working in a microbiology lab is beneficial, particularly experience of aseptic technique. Molecular biology experience beneficial. |
| What soft attributes do they need to fit in/contribute? | Willingness to learn and adapt, clear and concise communication, comfortable working in a fast-paced environment, interest in industrial biotechnology and sustainability. |

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| **Application Details** | | |
| If applicable, provide the date by which you will accept expressions of interest from students. | Flexible | |
| I wish this internship to be advertised open ended to PhD students? | **Yes** | ~~No~~ |
| If ‘No’, please specify a **closing date** for receiving CVs from interested students? | **N/A** | |
| Name and contact details for PhD students to submit their CV applications to | Jamie Gilman, jamie.gilman@mialgae.com | |
| Would you expect further support from EASTBIO regarding this advertised opportunity? No | | |
| Any other relevant information:  N/A | | |
| Please provide, below, any further comments about his opportunity not covered in the sections above. | | |

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| **Completed & Signed by:** | |
| PIPS Host Organisation Name & Date | A black and white image of a sign  AI-generated content may be incorrect.  Jamie Gilman, 04-JUL-25 |
| Date Advert submitted to EASTBIO |  |
| Date Advert circulated by EASTBIO |  |

*Thank you for your support of the UKRI BBSRC PIPS Scheme.*

**APPENDIX - PIPS Organisations - Sector List**

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| Academia | Fire, Police & Security |
| Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations | Food & Beverage |
| Aerospace & Defence | Government & Civil Service (including public service administration) |
| Agriculture, Livestock breeding & Fishing (including production, animal welfare) | Health & Social Care |
| Biotechnology, Medical & Pharmaceuticals | Hospitality, Leisure, Travel, Tourism and Sports |
| Business and Management (including business intelligence & market research) | IT & Telecommunications (Hardware & Software) |
| Chemicals | Law (including legal services) |
| Clothing, Footwear & Fashion | Logistics, Transport, Purchasing & Supply |
| Consultancy | Media, Communication, Journalism & Publishing |
| Charities & Voluntary work (non-profit / third sector) | Metals & Construction Materials |
| Creative arts, Design and Culture | Product Manufacturing |
| Education & Training (including teaching) | Real Estate & Renting |
| Energy & Utilities (including renewable energy and energy conservation) | Recruitment & Human Resources |
| Engineering (civil and mechanical) | Retail, Buying & Merchandising |
| Environment (including recycling, environmental services, conservationism and industries) | Science & Research |
| Financial services (including accounting, auditing & banking) | Other |