PIPS Advert DATE 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 | West Cumbria Rivers Trust Ltd | | |
| Host Organisation Sector Type  Please select from list in [Appendix](#Appendix) | Environmental Charity, Conservation | | |
| Please write a brief, plain description of what your organisation does (max 200 words) | WCRT is an environmental charity in the heart of the Lake District National Park. The trust is dedicated to protecting, restoring and improving the rivers and lakes of West Cumbria for the benefit of wildlife and the people living and working around them. Our dedicated and passionate team work hard all year round partnering with landowners, farmers, organisations, local businesses, schools and communities to deliver for rivers and inspire a love for and understanding of our waterways. From projects that aim to help boost numbers of specific species such as Atlantic salmon and freshwater mussels, to creating features that slow the flow of water to help reduce flood risk, to educating our next generation to respect and look after our blue spaces, to tackling invasive species, we have a wide portfolio of successful projects that we are really proud of and lots of great opportunities to get involved. | | |
| Postal address | West Cumbria Rivers Trust  Keswick Convention Centre  Skiddaw Street  Keswick  Cumbria  CA12 4BY | | |
| Website | <https://www.westcumbriariverstrust.org/about-us> | | |
| 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).* | Ruth Mackay  Fisheries Project Officer | | |
| Contact person email and phone number | [ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org)  07507763334 | | |
| 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:  Working from our office in Keswick is essential, this placement cannot be done from home or the university as this involves site specific survey work. West Cumbria Rivers Trust will provide all specialist equipment and support. | | |

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| **PIPS Internship Details and Desired Outcomes** | |
| PIPS Project Title | Survey & Monitoring Assistant |
| Description of the internship project you are offering, which will be shared directly with eligible PhD students (max 500 words). | Much of our work at West Cumbria Rivers Trust is data driven and we would like to provide the opportunity for a PhD student to help collect some of this vital information and learn how we use the data in real world environmental projects. The data collected helps guide where projects are needed and helps determine the successfulness of projects we have delivered. We also use the data in funding bids to help build a case for funding these projects. We have recently submitted a large funding bid to DEFRA and subject to funding/ project approval, the student may get the opportunity to work on a pioneering landscape recovery project - ‘Resilient Glenderamackin’- that’s striving to enhance and improve biodiversity, mitigate against the impacts of climate change, support sustainable farming and reduce flood risk to Keswick.  The internship will involve helping conduct fish surveys, habitat surveys, invertebrate surveys, as well as collecting hydrological readings, water samples, and looking after kit that’s in situ in the field. This will be a practical internship, the successful student will be expected to be comfortable working outdoors in all weathers, as well as competent at working with data in an office environment. Full training will be provided and over the course of the internship there will be opportunities to work alongside some of our work parties: tackling invasive species, helping at educational events and other conservation work. |
| Option for inviting interested students to apply directly by CV to generate a tailored internship project with your Organisation |  |
| Geographic location of this internship?  AND/OR  Option for a remote or hybrid placement, and a rationale for a virtual internship (max 150 words) | The internship will be based at our offices in Keswick, Cumbria, with fieldwork conducted across our patch: <https://www.westcumbriariverstrust.org/our-area> |
| What range of professionals will the PhD student work with during this internship? | The internship will give the opportunity to work with as many different staff across the Trust as possible, from Project Officers with specialisms such as fisheries, freshwater mussels, invasive species, to Farming Officers who work with farmers/ landowners to deliver interventions to improve water quality or habitats; working with our Data and Monitoring Officer, as well as help the Education Team. From time to time the intern will work alongside our dedicated volunteers, other organisations, or with our apprentice team.  Most of the intern’s time will be spent with the Trusts Fisheries Project Officer, who has hosted numerous student placements in the their 10 years at the Trust and delivered and coordinated a long term fish survey programme across the Derwent catchment for the last 10 years; and with the Trust’s Data and Monitoring Officer who is responsible for developing and delivering the monitoring programme for the Resilient Glenderamackin project. |
| Based on the project’s objectives, what specific results do you want the PhD intern to achieve? | * To assist with the collection of scientific data, including assisting or undertaking fish, habitat, invertebrate surveys, taking water samples and hydrological readings. * Entry of data into spreadsheets, management of data and if the student has the appropriate ability, data analysis. * Help with invasive species control work parties, * Help with educational events such as spreading the word about the importance of biosecurity. * Assisting with the preparation, wash down and maintenance of survey equipment daily. * Assisting with the production of social media publicity. * Helping on any of our projects when needed and undertaking other relevant tasks. * Learn how to conduct fieldwork safely adhering to the relevant Health and Safety requirements. * Learn about our projects and how we use the data collected. * Overall gain some valuable experience working in the environmental sector and conducting fieldwork. |
| How do these outcomes fit with your wider business objectives? | Much of our work at West Cumbria Rivers Trust is data driven, the data collected during the internship will help guide where projects are needed and helps determine the successfulness of projects we have delivered and help elicit funding for our 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* | PIPS start date (DD/MM/YY)    Provisional start date – June 2026 | | PIPS end date (DD/MM/YY)  Provisional end date – September 2026 | |
| 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 a week) ideally, but part time will be considered. You will need to be flexible as fieldwork often requires working around weather conditions and river levels. Some days you may work longer and then days where fieldwork cannot be undertaken, these can be shorter days or days off. | | | |
| Name of person who will act as the PhD student supervisor/mentor (line manager) during this internship (if different to the contact mentioned above) | Ruth Mackay | | | |
| Supervisor position in the host organisation | Fisheries Project Officer | | | |
| Supervisor Contact email and phone number | [ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org)  07507763334 | | | |
| 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? | We **may** be able to offer a grant as a contribution towards travel/ accommodation as we are aware it can be difficult to get to our offices. This is subject to approval of a funding bid we are waiting to hear about. The Trust **will** cover any expenses incurred conducting any fieldwork, i.e travel from office to survey site. | | | |

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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? | * Ability to work as part of a team and individually. * Good communication skills. * Excellent organisational skills and keen attention to detail. * Confidence working outdoors and in watercourses. * A good degree of fitness to undertake physical tasks and sometimes lengthy walks into survey sites carrying equipment. * Ability to use of Microsoft Excel and Word. * Ability to use social media platforms to promote the project. * Commitment, reliability and ability to demonstrate initiative. * A valid driver’s license. |
| What soft attributes do they need to fit in/contribute? | An interest in and knowledge of conservation, river ecology and/ or fisheries is preferred. |

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| **Application Details** | | |
| If applicable, provide the date by which you will accept expressions of interest from students. | From January 2026 | |
| 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? | Closing date for application 4th May 2026 | |
| Name and contact details for PhD students to submit their CV applications to | Send to [recruitment@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:recruitment@westcumbriariverstrust.org) copying in [ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org](mailto:ruth@westcumbriariverstrust.org) with the subject heading 2026 Survey & Monitoring Intern. | |
| Would you expect further support from EASTBIO regarding this advertised opportunity? | | |
| Any other relevant information: | | |
| Please provide, below, any further comments about his opportunity not covered in the sections above.  WCRT will include the following as part of the internship:   * Standard induction to WCRT including office, vehicles and outdoors working procedures * On-site training in all survey techniques * Possibility to gain external certifications subject to course dates, funding and availability such as Water Safety Training, Outdoor First Aid. * Introduction to all members of the team * Provided with laptop/computer access when required * The relevant PPE such as waders and lifejackets. | | |

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| **Completed & Signed by:** | |
| PIPS Host Organisation Name & Date |  |
| 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 |