

**Call for PhD Project Proposals 2026**

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*Please read carefully this guidance carefully* before *completing your online project proposal. You can familiarise yourself with the online form via the PDF preview EastBio shares alongside this guidance.*

# Guidance Notes

## A. Introduction to EastBio

EastBio is amongst the largest UKRI BBSRC-supported PhD programmes in the UK, with continuous funding since 2012. EastBio is currently supporting the training of 300+ life sciences students across five partner universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh CSE and CMVM, Stirling and St Andrews), Scotland’s Rural College and two research hosting institutes (the James Hutton Institute, the Moredun Research Institute). EastBio delivers an innovative researcher development programme in partnership with non-hosting partners: the Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre (IBioIC), the Cool Farm Alliance, Scottish Policy & Research Exchange, SULSA and In2ScienceUK. In 2024, we were awarded the BBSRC Doctoral Landscape Award (DLA) to recruit and train a further 5 student cohorts (2025-2029).

All EastBio studentships are 50% match-funded by the hosting partner institutions to maximise the number of BBSRC-supported students. EastBio encourages the development of CASE projects, including those that are matched-funded at 50% by an industrial (CASE) company/organisation (for more, see section F).

The EastBio PhD studentship, funded by the UKRI BBSRC, covers:

* UK tuition home fees of £5,006. Successful international students will be funded at home-level as EastBio partner institutions are committed to implement a fee-waiver arrangement for successful international students at local level.
* Minimum stipend of £20,780 in line with the national living wage (the stipend is based at the minimum [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/) that is confirmed annually and is inflation-adjusted);
* research training support (RTSG) costs of £5,000 per year, from PhD year 1 to year 3. This is reduced to £1,000 RTSG in the final year; unspent RTSG funds can roll into the following year and can be spent on research or training at any point during the 4-year funded period.
* Additional support is provided for the mandatory 3-month student professional placements and disability (Disabled Students Allowance).
* The studentship *does not cover* additional costs incurred by international students – e.g. visa fees or health charges - and the EastBio grant cannot support such costs separately.

The funding details are confirmed by EastBio when we make PhD offers to successful students, together with information about the UKRI terms and conditions around student entitlement (sick, family, special leave), disability support, studentship changes, extensions, etc. This information is also shared through several channels (the EastBio website, the [Student Handbook](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/eastbio-handbook) and at in-person EastBio events, such as the induction and other Q&A sessions), thus providing plenty of opportunities for clear communication and appropriate support to students and supervisors.

For full student eligibility criteria, please refer to Annex B of the [UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions](https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UKRI-28032025-UKRI_Training-Grant-Terms-And-Conditions-Guidance-April-2025.pdf). Funded students join the EastBio Training Programme and are required to undertake enhanced core bioscience, methods, professional and career skills training, as well as a 3-month professional internship (PIPS) outwith academia, or a placement with a CASE partner (from 3 to 18 months). All students are expected to submit their thesis within their funded period of 4 years.

By proposing an EastBio PhD project, academic supervisors and non-academic (CASE) partners commit to:

* *actively support their PhD student’s researcher and professional 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 another lab member to attend in their place;*
* *participate in the provision of thematic training their project is aligned with (3 annual thematic group sessions in Year 1, each organised by one or more student-supervisor team hosts) by assisting their students to plan a session, offer to run a workshop or give a talk, recommend contacts or ideas, etc.;*
* *advise and support their supervisee when planning their mandatory placement and, if possible, attend the EastBio Placements Q&A event (online, early February Year 1) and follow-on drop-in sessions (e.g. September Year 2);*
* *advise, encourage and support their student with their professional and personal development across the PhD programme, and their career preparedness in the final stages of completion;*
* *Volunteer to lead on the delivery of one of the EastBio foundational masterclasses in their area of expertise (for a training overview, see https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/training/training-overview);*
* *consider engaging with the EastBio recruitment by sitting at interview panels or helping to shortlist nominated candidates;*
* *respond to our* [*impact survey*](https://forms.office.com/e/Adu52wu7Yc) *call to enable us to collect cases of impact, whether research or broader (industry, policy, etc.);*
* *Respond to our annual call for researcher and industry-collaborative profiles on the* [*EastBio Research Directory*](https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/about-eastbio/collaboration-with-industry)*;*
* *help the EastBio Management Group review government processes and programme aims by providing feedback and further recommendations when requested (e.g. via our annual programme survey), or at in-person briefing, Q&A and other networking sessions.*

For more information about our programme:

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

## B. Supervisor Eligibility

1. Lead supervisors who recruited an EastBio student (with thesis submission up to September 2026) are not eligible to submit a project.
2. Lead supervisors who will have more than three (3) PhD students in October 2026 in their labs (not counting students who are yet to be recruited) are not eligible to submit a project.
3. Lead supervisors must be on campus.
4. Supervisors can only propose one project as Lead supervisor.
5. Supervisors must be up to date with supervisor training within their institution.
6. CASE projects will have no supervisor restrictions.

For academics based at EastBio partner institutions that have no degree-awarding status (the James Hutton Institute and the Moredun Research Institute), we expect that you will ideally partner with another EastBio partner institution. If you develop a project in collaboration with a non-EastBio partner institution, please discuss this first with your local academic lead to ensure that they are eligible under the conditions of our grant.

## C. Project Eligibility

Project proposals must align to one of the 5 UKRI BBSRC Strategic Priority Areas:

* 1. Advancing the frontiers of bioscience discovery, covering the sub-themes of Understanding the rules of life and transformative research technologies;
	2. Bioscience for sustainable agriculture and food, covering sub-themes on: Crops and soil, Livestock production, biology and health, and aquaculture;
	3. Bioscience for an integrated understanding of health;
	4. Bioscience for renewable resources and clean growth.

We strongly encourage projects fulfilling one or more of the following criteria:

1. Develop a collaboration with an industrial or non-academic partner. For additional guidance, see section F.

1. Exploit/address strategic bioscience skills and capacity challenges outlined in the UKRI BBSRC [Forward Look for UK Bioscience](https://www.ukri.org/news/bbsrc-launches-refreshed-forward-look/).
2. Are genuinely interdisciplinary by drawing, for example, on co-supervisors’ expertise from another department or partner institution. Please describe the expertise of your co-supervisor(s) on the Proposal form.
3. Develop an inter-institutional collaboration through cross-supervision with another EastBio partner.

## D. How to submit your project proposal

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

University of Aberdeen: <https://forms.office.com/e/JVLETW1eJQ>

University of Dundee: <https://forms.office.com/e/R3gQf2LM3V>

University of Edinburgh CMVM: <https://forms.office.com/e/H38DqpzfF8>

University of Edinburgh CSE: <https://forms.office.com/e/J2Vm0ASc94>

University of St Andrews: <https://forms.office.com/e/VkdezC6WtW>

University of Stirling: <https://forms.office.com/e/QUA6uawvdh>

SRUC: <https://forms.office.com/e/243ZRZKFbx>

Moredun Research Institute: <https://forms.office.com/e/Nf9Tg2HLzg>

James Hutton Institute: <https://forms.office.com/e/M7U7rDrnFP>

IBioIC: <https://forms.office.com/e/DGkC6FjeFw>

**The deadline for projects is the 20th of October 2025.**

We have introduced the online Microsoft form for project proposals in 2024 in response to supervisor feedback. We also share a pdf preview (Appendix 3) and on EastBio website: <https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/how-to-apply/information-supervisors> so that you can check the range of questions before you start completing the form. We recommend that you work on your responses offline before you start filling in this form. If you need to edit the form after you have submitted (before the closing date), make sure you select 'save my response' when you submit and you will then be able to access and edit your form by going to your 'filled forms' on Microsoft Forms.

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 via FindAPhD (under an EastBio campaign) and any other local websites. Before approval, you may be asked to review aspects of your proposal to ensure compliance with the BBSRC remit and/or with the selected thematic area (to avoid, for instance, oversubscription in one area). Only projects approved via this process will be advertised.

## E. EDI Survey for prospective supervisors

EastBio is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment that is fair at every stage, from recruitment to research training to collaborations, ensuring that all staff and students can reach their full potential.

In the previous EastBio grant (2020-2024), we have collected and analysed candidate diversity data and implemented several measures to address evidence of bias, such as for instance in home BAME students after the pandemic. In the 2024 recruitment, we have piloted a similar EDI survey for prospective supervisors, and we will continue to statistically assess evidence of underrepresentation of partner labs through the DLA grant period (2025-2030). As a potential supervisor, we ask you therefore to provide EastBio with certain personal data and your consent to its use. In line with principles of equality, diversity, and inclusion, our goal is to identify and understand any patterns of underrepresentation among supervisor groups in attracting candidates and/or securing studentships, develop and test supportive measures and continue to monitor the impact of these measures in subsequent recruitment cycles. At supervisors’ request, the EastBio EDI committee chair Dr Tom Otto presented an analysis of the first set of data from the 2024 recruitment cycle in the EastBio 2025 Symposium.

Please complete the EastBio EDI survey via <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/edinburgh/eastbio-recruitment-2026-supervisor-edi-survey> - this is part of your project proposal (all questions have a ‘Prefer not to say’ option). Once you will have completed the survey, copy the automatically generated unique ‘receipt number’ from the final survey page to the relevant section of your EastBio Project Proposal Form. Please do not complete the survey more than once and contact EastBio if you have any questions or concerns.

## F. Collaborative (CASE) Project Guidance

Our DLA commitment is to award a minimum of 25% studentships per year to CASE projects (approximately 10 projects per year). CASE studentship projects are developed as partnerships between academia and industry or other non-academic partners. The CASE PhD project, which can be either full- or part-time, should be a genuine collaboration of mutual benefit, leading to a PhD and focused on providing excellent training and supervision to the student.

### Benefits for CASE partners

We encourage prospective supervisors to discuss these examples of potential benefits from collaborating on a PhD CASE project:

* 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>

* Direct access to a highly skilled talent pool.EastBio seeks to recruit and nurture the development of talented and ambitious individuals from diverse backgrounds. We will recruit and train ~40 students per year in a world-class research environment. EastBio offers a robust and diverse array of enhanced training opportunities that includes life sciences, computational and advanced methods training, as well as enterprise/business skills and transferable skills training.

<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>

* You will join a growing network of industrial collaborators and stakeholders that have included: Mialgae; Drax Power Station; Fujifilm Diosynth Technologies; Massive Analytics; AbascusBio Ltd.; Boehringer Ingelheim; Elasmogen; Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science; Cairn Research Ltd.; Biobest Laboratories; Syngenta, Stemnovate Ltd.

<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.

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

### Eligibility and review criteria

CASE partner eligibility:

* organisations eligible for funding from any UKRI Council (excluding Innovate UK) cannot act as a CASE partner.
* International CASE partners are eligible provided that they are a non-academic organisation and they provide the student with an opportunity to gain skills that could not be provided by a UK-based industrial organisation.
* As an exception to the above, public sector research establishments (PSREs) are eligible to act as a CASE partner for BBSRC studentships. PSREs wishing to be involved in a proposal are required to choose whether they wish to do so either as a hosting partner or a CASE partner.

In addition to the CASE studentships, there are also the Collaborative (non-CASE) studentships. Any number of studentships may be 'collaborative' when the partner organisation does not meet the above requirements for CASE and no formal partnership requirements are necessary.

For detailed information, see [BBSRC information on CASE projects](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20210901103222mp_/https%3A//bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/case-information-pack-pdf/) and [UKRI BBSRC Collaborative Studentships Information](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20210901101319/https%3A/bbsrc.ukri.org/skills/investing-doctoral-training/case-studentships/).

The CASE projects are reviewed separately by the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee to ensure that the submitted projects fulfil the following eligibility and quality criteria or are amended before approval.

* Comply with the BBSRC remit.
* Conform with the desired standard of scientific excellence and represent viable PhD-level research that can be completed within the funded period of 4 years (full-time equivalent)
* Identify mitigation measures for risks to the project’s completion.
* Provide evidence of clear and robust engagement of partners.
* Include clear plans about the student placement at the CASE partner’s headquarters (for details, see below).

#### CASE Placements

All CASE studentships include a mandatory student placement at the industrial partner’s headquarters doing “first-rate challenging research training work” that is directly related to the research project and leading to a PhD. It adds value to the PhD by giving the student high-quality experience unavailable at their academic institution that is beneficial for the CASE partner’s business goals and enables an interface with current research. EastBio will invite both the academic and the CASE supervisors to the Induction and the Placements Q&A events where we discuss expectations, support and lived experiences.

CASE placements can be between 3 and 18 months long and can take place at any point during the 4-year programme. Placements can be taken in a single 3-month block (full-time equivalent) or several shorter placements, as appropriate, affording CASE partners the flexibility to plan in sync with their business priorities.

The CASE partner is responsible for providing the student with the appropriate level of line management, direction and training, in relation to their PhD project and, especially, during the student placement. The training experience at the CASE placement may include, for instance, project management, business strategy and finance. We also stress our expectation that the partner ensures that the student has appropriate personal support and, as necessary, access to wellbeing services during their placement, in line with the [UKRI training grant terms and conditions](https://www.ukri.org/publications/policy-statement-review-of-the-training-grant-conditions/).

For queries, email recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk, the [EastBio Industry Engagement committee](https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/contact-us/eastbio-dtp-committees), or contact the [EastBio academic lead](https://www.ed.ac.uk/biology/eastbio/contact-us/programme-contacts) of your local institution. For assistance by your local industry service, see contacts listed at Appendix 2.

### CASE Studentship pathways

There are three routes that you can consider when you develop your CASE project:

1) **Standard CASE Studentship**. EastBio prioritises collaboration with SMEs. Financial contribution to the PhD project depends on the partner’s size:

* Companies that have more than 50 employees, must provide a minimum of £5,700\* in total towards project costs (consumables, etc.) to support a 4-year Standard CASE studentship.
* For SME that have 50 or fewer employees, there is no financial contribution required towards project costs.

In both cases, the CASE partner is required to cover all costs related to the student’s placement project (consumables, material, use of facilities and equipment) and consider providing additional funding towards the student’s travel to the CASE partner location and accommodation during the placement.

2) **50% Industry Match-Funded CASE Studentship**. In this route, the industrial partner provides 50% of the overall studentship costs (for a breakdown, see above). 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](https://www.ukri.org/news/ukri-is-increasing-phd-stipends-and-improving-student-support/). Please note that approved studentship extensions for sick or family leave are funded pro rata by the CASE partner. The CASE partner financial commitment must be captured in a Support Letter signed by the industrial partner and submitted as part of the CASE Project Proposal to EastBio and the partner institution academic lead; no CASE project proposal will be considered without a Support Letter. Where industrial partners are able to fund at this level, the academic institutions may decide to ring-fence these projects. Note, however, that only students who reach the expected high standard of candidates in our main interview round will be recruited to these studentships.

The CASE partner is required to cover all costs related to the student’s placement project (consumables, material, use of facilities and equipment) and consider providing additional funding towards the student’s travel to the CASE partner location and accommodation during the placement.

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.

*\* At the time of sharing this Guidance, the figures above 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. We will inform you of any changes asap.*

Collaborative projects in the BBSRC remit areas but not funded by EastBio may be linked to the EastBio Training Programme – as ‘associated CASE studentships’ - so that we maximise the opportunities for networking, engagement and collaboration across our student cohorts.

### How to submit a CASE project proposal

* Eligible academics engage industry and develop collaborative ideas for a research project prior to submitting the online EastBio Studentship **Project Proposal form** together with a Word **Support Letter** from the industrial partner (see Appendix 1) before the annualautumn deadline. You must submit the CASE Support Letter **to both your local academic lead for EastBio and to** **recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk**. Your project will not be eligible for review without a filled out Support Letter specific to your project. After successful recruitment, EastBio will ask you to follow the CASE Support Letter with a Memorandum of Agreement, completed by you the primary PhD supervisor and the CASE supervisor. The relevant Business Development/Industry Engagement service of your host institution will help you with this process; we encourage you to contact the service as soon as possible during the project development to avoid any detrimental delays in the CASE collaboration.
* The recruitment cycle starts in autumn; for a timeline, see [here](https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/how-to-apply/information-supervisors).
* Please note that EastBio expects that the CASE partner is involved in any local selection of candidates before nomination in whatever manner is appropriate. The CASE partner supervisor is also asked to co-sign the **Candidate Nomination form** with the academic supervisor as evidence of their full support of the candidate.
* CASE studentships are awarded to students based on the strength of their application, their overall researcher potential, interest in the project and ability to carry it out. Selection interviews run online in the middle of March.
* Work closely with the CASE partner, the academic Institution hosting the CASE PhD project must put in place a Memorandum of Agreement outlining IP and publication arrangements, in keeping with UKRI BBSRC requirements.
* Once approved and advertised, PhD project uptake is driven by student choice; projects without candidates can be advertised again in subsequent recruitment rounds.

#### CASE project submission flow-chart



### Supervisory responsibilities

Academics submitting a CASE project proposal are encouraged to be aware of the following EastBio expectations. Please read this together with relevant guidance shared with EastBio, i.e. the Supervisor Handbook, the EastBio website, etc. By default, we contact all new supervisors prior to the Induction with a summary of our expectations and provide opportunities for in person discussion at the Induction Day (early October).

Before submitting the Project Proposal form:

* Read the EastBio guidance carefully and contact the EastBio team if you have any queries or concerns.
* Ensure that your CASE partner is eligible.
* Demonstrate in your proposal how the industrial partner contributes to the project and the student’s development; this will help the EastBio Industry Engagement Committee to approve it.
* Work with the CASE partner to fill in and sign the CASE Support Letter and submit it to both the academic lead of your institution and EastBio; generic letters of support will not be accepted and proposals without a signed CASE Support Letter will not be approved.
* Establish (with support from your local academic lead and the local Business/Industry service) any possible risk to the CASE project and have contingencies in place to mitigate such risks. Risks may, for instance, include: evidence that company or contact is on a sanctions list; high risk sector; high risk country; potential reputational risks from association; unethical investment; credit report; unreliable supplier links; inability to host a student on placement, etc. Any risk considered should be discussed and signed off by the local Business/Industry service before submitting your CASE project.
* Ensure that you contact and consult the Business/Industry team early on and at two key points: (a) before you submit your CASE project to EastBio and (b) when EastBio recruits a student to your project. This will enable the team to advise you and start drawing up the Agreement for the CASE studentship. The lengthy process – including IP assigning, establishment of liabilities, approval by legal or contracts teams - combined with lack of communication between stakeholders may impact on the smooth start or long-term progress of the PhD, retrieval of committed industrial funding, the student placement and even the completion of the PhD project.

After EastBio recruits a student to your CASE project, the academic supervisor is expected to:

* Liaise with the local Business/Industry team with a view to completing the following:
	+ Put in place whatever formal agreement with the CASE partner is appropriate in keeping with UKRI terms and conditions, outlining agreed IP, disclosure and publication arrangements. Once the arrangement is in place, you must notify the EastBio Partnership by sending us a signed copy. The CASE PhD Studentship Agreement should not only define the terms of the CASE projects but also the details of the mandatory student CASE placement. A separate agreement for that purpose may be necessary depending on the timing of the CASE student placement.
	+ Any significant change to the CASE PhD Studentship Agreement, affecting the CASE partners and the PhD and placement plans, will require the approval of the EastBio Management Group. The Industry Engagement Committee Chair and the Eastbio Director must be satisfied that the original aims of the project can still be met and that the project will continue to meet the BBSRC CASE conditions. A discussion will follow to explore and agree on options available for the CASE studentship.
	+ Help to make any arrangements necessary so that your host institution can invoice the CASE partner for any financial contribution recorded on the CASE Support Letter.
* Support the student placement at the headquarters of the CASE partner and, from an early stage, inform the EastBio of the agreed plans so that we can monitor compliance with the BBSRC CASE conditions.
* Inform EastBio ASAP should there be any concerns regarding the CASE studentship or if the CASE partner pulls out after the start of the project. EastBio will work with your local academic lead and BBSRC to mitigate for any disruption in the project.
* Share with the recruited student all relevant project details, including formal agreements so that expectations and forms of engagement are clear for all parties from an early stage and throughout the PhD project life. For example:
	+ discuss with your student and the CASE supervisor the project requirements, expectations and contributions from the CASE partner with a view to arriving at an agreed workplan and schedule of meetings that ensure the collaboration’s success. You are responsible to ensure that the student understands the commitment and anticipated contributions of the CASE partner to carry out confidently any work that depends on such contributions. A welcome pack with key partner contact details, a calendar of meetings, a set of dynamic objectives, etc. should be part of the student onboarding as a guarantee of a robust collaboration during the PhD project life.

Further info:

[EastBio Research Brochure](https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/research)

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

### Liability for Industry Partner Funding

The CASE partner and the academic institution finalise the contract (CASE PhD Studentship Agreement) that sets out the details of the industrial contribution to the PhD CASE studentship. For audit purposes, the local institution must send a copy of the final signed CASE PhD Studentship Agreement to the EastBio Partnership Manager as soon as the process is completed. The EastBio Partnership carries no liability for any shortfalls arising throughout the studentship from any changes to the CASE partner’s contribution, or from additional student costs, in line with the UKRI training grant terms and conditions. The CASE PhD Studentship Agreement should acknowledge and comply with UKRI policies on sick, family, special leave and support for students with a plan of adjustments based on a disability. It is the responsibility of the academic supervisor to initiate the local process for retrieving industry contributions and the responsibility of the host academic institution to collect all financial contributions as committed to in the CASE Support Letter signed by the CASE partner and submitted to EastBio with the PhD Project proposal.

## Appendix 1: CASE Project Support Letter

**EastBio CASE Project Support Letter**

*This section must be submitted together with your proposal for a Collaborative (CASE) Studentship Project. The lead PhD supervisor must provide the CASE Support Letter working closely with the CASE partner, signed also by your local Business Development/Industry Engagement contact using the template below. Your proposal will not be approved without a completed and signed Support Letter, submitted to EastBio and to the academic lead of your host institution before the closing date 20th of October 2025. Please ensure that you have read the EastBio guidance for CASE Studentship Projects and worked with your local Business Development/Industry Engagement team and the CASE partner to finalise the details of their financial and in-kind contributions to the proposed PhD project. It is your responsibility to liaise early with the Business Development/Industry Engagement team of your institution and your CASE partner to help draw up any necessary contracts or formal agreements that describe the commitments recorded in this Support Letter.*

*Please detach this appendix, complete the form and submit it to (a) EastBio at recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk and (s) the local academic lead within the closing date for EastBio project proposals (details provided in the Project Call email sent to PIs by your local graduate school).*

**EastBio CASE Support Letter**

[*Use Company Heading*]

To Whom It May Concern

I hereby confirm in my capacity as [enter role of representative of the CASE Partner Company] that the [*enter name of CASE Partner Company*] is committed to supporting a 4-year UKRI BBSRC PhD studentship starting in the autumn of Academic Year 2026/27 on the PhD project [*enter Title of Project*] with [*enter Name and title of lead PhD Supervisor*] on the following basis, should a student be successfully recruited by the BBSRC-funded EastBio 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 and mandatory part of the EastBio Industrial Collaborative Studentship (or CASE 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](https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/). I confirm that we will provide the student with suitable supervision and professional development training (including business, project management, finance, etc.), as well as covering any travel, accommodation and subsistence costs the student will incur during the period of their CASE placement at the headquarters of the [*enter Company name*], especially if the placement is fully in person and at a distance 50 miles or more from the recruited student’s term-time address. I confirm that we will work with the PhD supervisor and the recruited student to finalise the placement details (including project definition, timings, onboarding, IP, Health & Safety, and Insurance) and sign a formal CASE Placement 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 [*Select one option*]:

1. Standard Collaborative (CASE) Studentship

2. 50% Industry Match-Funded Collaborative (CASE) Studentship

3. Part-time Collaborative (CASE) Studentship

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Company Support £ |
| 2026/2027 |   |
| 2027/2028 |   |
| 2028/2029 |   |
| 2029/2030 |   |

In due course and as early as possible to the start of the CASE PhD studentship in autumn 2025, we will put in place a formal contract – EastBio CASE PhD Studentship Agreement - with the EastBio partner academic institution [enter name] hosting the PhD Project in line with the commitments recorded in this CASE Letter of Support.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| CASE Partner company representative[Name & role of contact in CASE partner]Date and signature[Enter here] | Business Development/Industry Engagement officer on behalf of the Academic Institution hosting the CASE PhD Studentship[Name & role of contact in host institution)Date & signature[Enter here] |

## Appendix 2: EastBio Partner Industry Contacts

Prospective CASE partners can either contact a known academic from any EastBio partner institution or the relevant officer in the partner institution’s business or industry teams. See the table below for named contacts within the EastBio Partnership.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EastBio Partner Institution** | **Named Contact & details (local business/industry engagement team)** |
| EastBio Team | For queries on CASE Studentships, please contact:* **EastBio Industry Engagement Committee chairs**, Professor Eileen Wall and Dr Mary Doherty; details at

<https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/contact-us/eastbio-dtp-committees>* The **EastBio Industry Engagement Manager**, to be in place in autumn 2025; email placements@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk
 |
| Aberdeen | **Dr Ann Lewendon**  (Commercialisation Manager, R & I) <a.lewendon@abdn.ac.uk>                                  |
| Dundee | **Fiona Mitchell** (Research and Innovation Services) <f.m.mitchell@dundee.ac.uk> |
| Edinburgh - College of Science and Engineering | **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> |
| Edinburgh – College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine | 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> |

## Appendix 3: Project Call PDF Preview

*Double click on file below to open*

