# EastBio PhD Application Form for entry in October 2026

# Deadline for application: 15th of December 2025 (midday)

# Guidance

|  |
| --- |
| **Please read carefully. If you have any queries, please contact** **recruitment@eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk****Before you complete this form, you must complete our online Equality, Diversion & Inclusion Form on the link below:** EastBio Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Form 2026: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/edinburgh/eastbio-recruitment-2026-candidate-edi-survey> (onlinesurveys.ac.uk). Make sure you copy the survey **unique ID number** that you will automatically receive after completing the survey and paste it on this application form you will submit to the institution hosting the project of your choice.**To be considered for the EastBio programme, you must ensure that your application includes the following:*** this form, fully completed;
* transcripts of your degrees to date (including interim transcripts if available); these should be in a WORD or PDF format, *not* provided as a link;
* 2 academic or professional references (*details of how & when to submit these are on the FindAPhD advert*).

**To submit your application, please follow the instructions on the FindAPhD advert for the listed project. *Do not submit your application to EastBio.***The selection process following nomination by project supervisors is conducted by the EastBio panels of academics from different partner institutions, who have received training in unconscious bias. Our recruitment process is in line with the EastBio Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy and our commitment to recruit students from as broad a range of backgrounds as possible.**EDI Policy**:EastBio continues to operate **a guaranteed interview system for all nominated home-fees BAME candidates**. In line with our equality and inclusion policy, we also consider diversity information for home-fees candidates with one or more of the other protected characteristics at the shortlisting and interview stages of the recruitment. The characteristics we may ‘flag’ home-fees candidates for include disclosed disability, aged 30+ and socioeconomic features (postcode at the time of leaving secondary education, first generation in higher education, additional caring responsibilities or care-experienced candidates). We will only use data you provide when you apply to the programme for three explicit purposes: (a) to process your application; (b) to report (anonymously) on diversity data to the EastBio funder, UKRI BBSRC, and c) to analyse long-term EDI data to assess our recruitment process for fairness and inclusion and explore evidence-based mitigation measures. |

|  |
| --- |
| If you have used AI in preparing your application, please describe briefly how you have used it (e.g. to check the language or style, etc.). You can consult relevant guidance about acceptable uses of AI at the University of Edinburgh, at <https://information-services.ed.ac.uk/computing/comms-and-collab/elm/guidance-for-working-with-generative-ai> (150 words max) |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Personal Details |
| Last name: |  |
| First name: |  |
| E-mail address: |  |
| Preferred pronouns: |  |
| Current location (country/time-zone): |  |
| \*Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Form Unique ID: *This is the number that you will receive automatically from the Online EDI Survey after completing it*. *Please don’t complete the survey more than once.* |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Please tick the box below if you would like to disclose that you are a BAME student. Identified as BAME [ ]  |

|  |
| --- |
| 2. EastBio (UKRI) Funding EligibilityRegardless of fees-status, graduate students are eligible to apply for a UKRI-funded PhD programme in the UK. However, we are obliged to maintain the UKRI cap on the proportion of international students we can recruit at 30%, or 11 studentships in this intake. It is, therefore, important for us to know your fees status. By default, and to ensure that we will not recruit above the 30% cap, we will mark as international any candidate whose fees status is not clear at the point of processing applications for nomination.For more details, see the UKRI Guidance on Eligibility Criteria at https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UKRI-28032025-UKRI\_Training-Grant-Terms-And-Conditions-Guidance-April-2025.pdf (especially Annex B International Eligibility Criteria for UKRI-funded studentships). |
| Please read carefully and tick the relevant box corresponding to your situation:☐ I am a UK national AND will have been living in the UK/EEA/Gibraltar/Switzerland for at least the last 3 years before starting the course in the UK (October 2026).☐ I am an EU, EEA or Swiss citizen living in the UK who has obtained a settled or a pre-settled status under the EU settlement scheme, AND will have been living in the UK/EEA/Gibraltar/Switzerland for at least the last 3 years before starting the course in the UK (October 2026).*Please provide us with a share code and your DOB for us to double check your immigration status by visiting* [*https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status*](https://www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status)**Share code**:                                       **Date of Birth**: ☐ I am a non-EU citizen and have settled status in UK (indefinite leave to remain or indefinite leave to enter) and I will have been ordinarily resident in the UK/EEA/Gibraltar/Switzerland for at least the last 3 years before starting the course in the UK (October 2026).*Please provide a proof of your ILR or ILE status (copy of card e.g.).*☐ I am not in any of the above categories.Please provide any additional comments or information below: |

|  |
| --- |
| 3. Education |
| University/College attended | Dates attended | Title of Qualification | Overall class/grade & date obtained (or expected) |
| From | To |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 4. Positions, Experiences and HonoursList in reverse chronological order any previous positions you have held, when at university or subsequently (research-related or not), professional and life projects or experiences, and any prizes, distinctions, or honors you have been awarded. We encourage you to include short-term positions, especially if they illustrate a specific skill or interest that would strengthen your application. |
|  Positions, experiences and honours (add more lines, below, as necessary) | Details (for instance, your role, affiliation, and specific dates for each position) |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 5. Which research project are you applying for? Please provide below the details of the project: the PhD project title, the name of the project’s principal/lead supervisor, and the institution hosting the project. You can only apply for one EastBio project. |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Project’s Primary Supervisor** |  |
| **Project’s Host Institution** (college/school and department) |  |
| Preferred mode of study: *Please note, students requiring a visa to study in the UK must be registered full-time on their programme of studies.* | Full-time☐Part-time☐  |

|  |
| --- |
| 6. Please explain below why you are applying for this PhD project (200 words max) |
| [*Type your response here*] |

|  |
| --- |
| 7. Personal StatementGuidance: Drawing on your own background (including your life experiences, journey to/through university, work experiences, or volunteering), please provide in plain language an overview detailing your professional ambitions and goals, preparedness for starting a PhD, personal values and aspirations, and elaborate on how you will benefit from a funded PhD. You might wish to include, for example, personal challenges that you have overcome, achievements that you are proud of in your work, study, or life experiences, and how these correspond to the skills required for a PhD student. Challenges could include (but are not limited to) protected characteristics, socio-economic status, being first-in-a-generation to university or care-experienced. Aim for a simple, clear structure. (max 800 words) |
| [*Type your response here*] |

|  |
| --- |
| 8. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion  |
| Please tell us what Equality, Diversity & Inclusion means to you personally and what would you bring to a positive PhD community? (max 250 words please) |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 9. Additional information – Optional questionGuidance: If you wish to explain factors that have affected your recent productivity, please include a statement in the box below. These factors may include, for instance, acute hardship, family care responsibilities, illness, disability, military service, or other adverse circumstances. If you wish this information not to be disclosed to the project supervisor and only be shared with *the Panel Chairs (members of the EastBio Management Group)*, please submit it as a separate document by emailing the EastBio Manager at Maria.Filippakopoulou@ed.ac.uk (Subject line: Confidential EastBio Candidate Additional information). |
| [*Type your response here*] |

|  |
| --- |
| 10. RefereesGuidance: Two academic or professional references required, both having equal weight at our selection process. The referees should *not* be members of the supervisory team of the project you are applying for. When you contact your referees with a request to complete the EastBio Reference Form that you will have downloaded beforehand, please inform them of the reference submission details, which are provided on the FindAPhD page where the project has been advertised. *It is your responsibility to ensure that references are provided no later than the application deadline (please note that some partner institutions may have earlier deadlines for references or use an online application system to request references automatically)*. The **EastBio Reference** **form** can be downloaded on our ‘[How to Apply](http://www.eastscotbiodtp.ac.uk/how-apply-0)’ page and contains guidance). |
| Please tick the box to confirm that your two referees have agreed to submit their reference by the deadline specified on the FindAPhD advert. |  |
| Referee 1 |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Address |  |
| E-mail |  |
| Referee 2 |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Address |  |
| E-mail |  |

*Thank you for your application to the EastBio PhD Programme.*

*For more application details, check the* [*EastBio How to Apply webpage*](https://biology.ed.ac.uk/eastbio/how-to-apply)*.*