

Dear potential CASE partner,

The SWBio DTP is a PhD training partnership and includes core partners (universities of Bath, Bristol (lead), Cardiff and Exeter, and Rothamsted Research) and new associate partners (Marine Biological Association (MBA), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), SETSquared Bristol, Swansea University, UCB and University of the West of England (UWE)). This consortium presents a distinctive cadre of bioscience research staff, with established international, national and regional networks and widely recognised and complementary research excellence. Strong collaborations already exist between these institutions including the GW4 alliance as well as a substantial number of other doctoral training partnerships and centres.

If you would be interested in acting as a CASE supervisor on a SWBio DTP CASE project, further details about our programme can be found below.

Students will be initially recruited to broad multi-disciplinary projects across research areas that encompass the full BBSRC remit. It is important to highlight that the SWBio DTP differs from most other bioscience doctoral training schemes as it provides a hybrid scheme, combining the best of traditional project-focussed studies with a supporting but focussed taught first year with directed rotation projects.

For the structured taught year that follows an MRes programme, students experience two rotation projects, both allied with but in different disciplinary areas related to their PhD project. One of these rotation projects could take place within your organisation as part of their placement. These rotation projects allow the student to gain experience in different research areas and techniques and where possible, gives the student the opportunity to refine their project with their emerging research interests.

Students also complete three common taught units which are specifically designed for the DTP and meet the strategic training needs of the BBSRC. These include training in statistics, bioinformatics, experimental design; data skills and machine learning; understanding the impact of science in society, business and industry. These units are also underpinned by our 4 cross-cutting themes; training in innovation, core skills for life scientists, professional development and collaborative working. These are taught as a single cohort in concentrated blocks (~1/3 of the taught year) at a single site, instilling a strong cohort identity from the beginning of the programme.

As part of the DTP, students also have the opportunity to undertake cohort activities. These are invaluable networking experiences for the students and encourages peer-to-peer learning and sharing of knowledge. Cohort activities include; Annual Student Conferences, student-led away days, workshops, site visits and journal clubs.

[Further information about the SWBio DTP >>](#)

Your prospective collaborating SWBio DTP partner will need to complete an online project pro-forma, of which the relevant sections about you as the CASE partner that will need to be completed. In addition, we ask that a **formal letter of support** is submitted alongside the project.

[What to include in your CASE letter of support >>](#)

If the project is successful and a student recruited, a SWBio DTP CASE legal agreement will need to be put in place between the registered university and CASE partner in advance of the student starting in September.

[Overview of the SWBio DTP CASE studentship agreement >>](#)

If you have any general enquiries or further questions, please e-mail [swbio-dtp@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:swbio-dtp@bristol.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jon Lane (SWBio DTP Director)