

## BBSRC DTP Studentship Information for offer holders (2019 entry)

As a BBSRC DTP student, there are some unique features in the way your PhD programme operates. To help clarify things (it can be confusing to begin with!) we have provided you with some specific information below to outline some of these unique BBSRC DTP features:

**Registration:** The DTP is a cross-faculty programme, meaning that there are DTP students registered in both of the science faculties within the university; Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health and Faculty of Science and Engineering. The faculty and school that you will register in is dependent on where your main supervisor is located. You may, however, have co-supervisors who are based within other schools and faculties. Although the DTP programme is officially administered through the Doctoral Academy, general PhD issues (unrelated specifically to the DTP) will be managed via your registering school/faculty.

The schools where DTP students are registered are listed here:

Faculty	Science and Engineering	Biology, Medicine and Health
School/ Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural Sciences</li> <li>Engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological Sciences</li> <li>Medical Sciences</li> <li>Health Sciences</li> </ul>

**Rotation Projects:** During the first 6 months of your PhD you will complete three 8 week skills-training rotation projects. These may be based in your main supervisor, co-supervisor or another academic's lab, depending on your skills training needs. The aim of these rotations is to ensure student gain a multidisciplinary skill set which will enhance their research project and future careers. Your supervisor will confirm details for your rotations when you begin your course.

**Maths Training:** As part of your DTP PhD training, you will be required to complete an in-house systems biology maths course during your first year.

This course, run by [Dr Pawel Paszek](#) will take place over five 1-day sessions during the autumn; the dates will be confirmed in the BBSRC DTP Handbook.

**Professional Internship Placement (PIPs):** It is a requirement of your DTP programme that you complete a 3-month long internship during. Placements are usually taken at the start of your 2<sup>nd</sup> year of study. During your first year you will start thinking about organising your placement. There will be workshops and training sessions to attend, as well as individual support to help ensure you get a placement that you will find useful and fulfilling. The first training session will be held in

December. You will be expected to have either applied for a University organised PIPS placement, or submit a proposal for your own placement by May of your first year.

PIPs placements are designed to give you the opportunity to experience working life outside the lab and outside academia, and therefore can be in any employment sector and do not necessarily even need to be related to science (although many students do choose science-related placements). In order to fulfil these objectives, your PIPS must be in an area that is un-related to your PhD project, and away from academic research.

**Induction/Welcome Week:** In addition to attending all Welcome Week activities put on by your registering faculty, you will also be attending a DTP induction session. This will take place the week after Welcome Week, on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 11am - 1:30pm in Simon Building 4.38, followed by a networking session with all the new and old DTP students, supervisors, board members and administrators present – this will be an excellent opportunity for you to meet the people you will be working alongside over these next few years.

**Student Reps:** DTP students will elect their own DTP student reps for each cohort. The reps are responsible for attending board meetings, acting as a channel of communication between students and the university, and for organising DTP events and socials. You will elect your reps during your DTP induction session in Welcome Week.

**DTP Mentoring:** A student mentoring programme is available to BBSRC DTP students. The DTP programme is unique in many ways and has the additional challenges of PIPS, Maths training, etc. Being part of a mentoring relationship can help you get through some of these challenges smoothly. Mentors on the programme are BBSRC DTP students in their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> years of study. They can help you find your feet when you start, and provide support beyond this. If you would like to sign up to have a mentor, please contact the Doctoral Academy ([doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk)).

**Handbook:** A copy of the BBSRC DTP Handbook will be sent to you before you start. You should use this in conjunction with your School handbook which will be provided to you by your registering School.

**Social Media:** Make sure you join the dedicated BBSRC DTP Group and follow us on Twitter:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/374907015860665/>  
[https://twitter.com/uom\\_bbsrc\\_dtp](https://twitter.com/uom_bbsrc_dtp)

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **Q: When will I get my stipend?**

A: For BBSRC-funded DTP students, the stipend rate is set by Research Councils UK, and is expected to increase annually in-line with inflation. The value of the award for the academic year 2019-20 will be £15,009.

In order to receive your stipend, you must first enter your bank account details into the student system (Campus Solutions) as part of the registration process. Payments will normally be made by bank transfer (BACS). We will provide full instructions on how to do so closer to registration.

Stipends will be paid monthly. Payments will be made on or around the first day of each month. Please contact [doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk) if you are unsure of how and when you will receive payments.

### **Q: What is a 'supervisory team'?**

All PhD projects on the BBSRC DTP are interdisciplinary. This means that you will have a number of different supervisors specialising in different areas. You will generally have one main or 'principle' supervisor, and up to 3 co-supervisors. The 'percentage split' of supervisory responsibility that each of your supervisors take on will depend on your individual project.

#### *The Supervisors*

All students have a main supervisor and additional co-supervisors that bring particular expertise to a project.

#### *The Advisor*

In addition to your supervisor and co-supervisors, you will be assigned an advisor. Students are assigned an advisor for the duration of their research programme. The advisor should be independent of the student's immediate lab grouping and they are primarily responsible for dealing with any academic concerns arising from formal eProg meetings with the student. Students are advised to contact them in the first instance if they have any concerns that cannot be managed by approaching their supervisor.

#### *DTP Cohort Leads*

The DTP Cohort Lead is responsible for overseeing cohort activities and providing pastoral support to their cohort of DTP students. Any concerns that are either academic or personal can be discussed in confidence with the DTP Cohort Lead; they will do their best to support you, whatever the problem is. You will meet your cohort tutor during DTP Induction.

### **Q: Who to contact if I have any questions?**

At present recruitment is underway to appoint a dedicated DTP programmes officer, so if you have any questions at all, please contact the Doctoral Academy – [doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk)

### Who are the previous DTP student reps?

A: The current DTP student reps and their contact details are listed below. Feel free to get in touch with them if you would like to ask them any questions about their role.

Current DTP Student Reps	Contact	School
<b>Stuart Johnson</b>	<a href="mailto:Stuart.johnson-4@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk">Stuart.johnson-4@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk</a>	Natural Sciences
<b>Chris Sweeney</b>	<a href="mailto:christopher.sweeney@student.manchester.ac.uk">christopher.sweeney@student.manchester.ac.uk</a>	Natural Sciences
<b>Lauren Phipps</b>	<a href="mailto:Lauren.phipps@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk">Lauren.phipps@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk</a>	Biological Sciences
<b>Liliana Correia</b>	<a href="mailto:liliana.correia@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk">liliana.correia@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk</a>	Biological Sciences