

## **BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Overview**

#### **1.1 What are Doctoral Training Partnerships?**

BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) are partnerships between Research Organisations (ROs) and the BBSRC for the provision of excellent doctoral training supporting BBSRC's Strategic Plan. BBSRC will make funding available to DTPs through provision of a block award (Training Grant) to a RO or a consortium of ROs. DTPs will take a strategic overview of their bioscience PhD training, and provide an integrated and outward looking training environment for students, responding to high-level skills needs for UK biosciences and training the highly skilled workforce the UK needs for its future. The DTPs will recruit and train PhD students in areas aligning with BBSRC's priority research areas, providing a rich and balanced portfolio of research training, and will benefit from enhanced engagement with BBSRC.

#### **1.2 What are the key features of Doctoral Training Partnerships?**

- Continued competitive assessment of training strategy and environment
- Concentration to protect major training centres: around 15 DTPs to be awarded
- Institution-level or multi-institution bids only, with a minimum threshold of £17.5M in BBSRC research grant spend over three-years required for eligibility
- Institutions will work to a Portfolio Agreement
- Applicants will be asked to identify and support vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable subjects
- No mandatory CASE requirement
- Notional studentship cost to be calculated on a 4-year basis, and provision of £5k p.a. research training support grant (RTSG)
- Continued support for Professional Internships for PhD Students
- Use of funding data and analysis within the assessment process to inform decisions and allocations
- Significant and enhanced role for BBSRC in strategic engagement / post-award monitoring

#### **1.3 What are the key features of the second DTP call and how do they compare to the first call?**

The 10 key features of the second DTP call are outlined above (FAQ 1.2). The main changes compared to the first DTP competition are:

- Changes to the target portfolio of studentships
  - The target for PhD projects in the area of World class underpinning bioscience has been reduced to 40% for DTP2 compared to 50% for DTP1
  - The target for PhD projects in the area of Agriculture and food security has been increased to 30% for DTP2 compared to 25% for DTP1
  - The target for PhD projects in the area of Bioscience for health has been increased to 10% for DTP2 compared to 5% for DTP1

- The introduction of Associate Partners to proposals
- An encouragement to identify vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable areas in the biosciences and how the DTP might support them
- An increase in the budget to support Professional Internships for PhD Students from £800 to £1000

#### **1.4 In addition to DTPs, what other funding does BBSRC provide to support studentships?**

BBSRC intends to continue funding four-year PhD studentships through:

- block awards to key industry partners (Industrial CASE Partnerships) (approx. 75 p.a.);
- its Annual Industrial CASE Competition (approx. 90 p.a.);
- and through Targeted Priority Studentships, allocated for example through its Research Technology Clubs or other special initiatives (approx. 20-30 p.a.).

For further details, see [www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/studentships/studentships-index.aspx](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/studentships/studentships-index.aspx).

**2.1 How many studentships does BBSRC expect to make available through the DTP competition?**

Funding for up to 250 studentships p.a. for up to five cohorts (for intakes starting from October 2015) is available, with each studentship supported on a notional four year basis.

However, as usual, the figure given is for guidance only and normal Training Grant flexibility will apply to allow institutions to seek part-funding with other sponsors, or draw down higher levels of consumables costs for specific high-cost PhD projects.

**2.2 How many DTPs does BBSRC expect to support?**

Based on the funding available, BBSRC expects to award up to 15 DTPs.

**2.3 How does a Research Organisation (RO) manage both Quota DTG and DTP awards?**

Institutions regularly hold separate, and overlapping, Training Grants. The flexibility of Training Grants means that institutions can draw funding from different grants to support individual studentships. The DTP Training Grant is, of course, cash-limited and normal end of grant financial reconciliation will apply.

**2.4 Do I still have to create only 3-year or 4-year studentships?**

When BBSRC adopted 4-year funding for its studentships as standard, it strongly recommended that institutions commit to providing 4-year studentships or 3-year where there was a specific justification for a shorter period. This was in order to encourage a step change in providing 4-year PhD programmes. The Quota Evaluation found that this had been effective in creating change, but also that there was now no need to be so prescriptive. BBSRC is therefore changing its advice, and institutions can create studentships of between 3 and 4 years where it judges this to be appropriate.

BBSRC still believes that the majority of students will require a full 4-year period to complete a challenging project alongside their broader training and skills development, including a Professional Internship (see below). If a student does complete within 4 years, the 'remaining' funding earmarked for that studentship is available in the Training Grant to support other students.

**2.5 Can I part-fund a student, i.e. part from the DTP and part from another source?**

Yes, the normal part-funding flexibility applies to Training Grants awarded under the DTP scheme – but there are limits to the part-funding arrangements. See the general Training Grant Terms and Conditions (and Training Grant FAQs) for further information.

**2.6 Can I part-fund a studentship from the Training Grant of another Research Council?**

Yes – again the normal 50:50 funding arrangement from the Training Grants of different Research Councils applies, and the cross-council Terms and Conditions provide further details of this.

The DTP scheme will award Training Grants at institutional or multi-institutional level and it is hoped that this will help institutions coordinate part-funding arrangements in interdisciplinary areas using their Training Grants from different Research Councils. Where a BBSRC studentship is part-funded with the Training Grant of another

Research Council, the DTP must satisfy itself that sufficient research within the project is within BBSRC's remit in order to justify the joint arrangement.

**2.7 Can I part-fund a studentship from two different BBSRC Training Grants, e.g. from a DTP award and a Targeted Priority Studentship Training Grant?**

Yes. Institutions in receipt of a DTP award may well secure additional studentship funding through one of BBSRC's other studentship schemes, and may find it useful to maximise the number of studentships it can advertise in a Targeted Priority area by joint funding studentships from their DTP awards. The institution will clearly need to ensure that it has suitable mechanisms in place to accurately record the funding drawn from each grant.

**2.8 If my institution is part of one Partnership, does that mean I can't collaborate with a colleague in a different Partnership?**

If you wish to develop a joint studentship proposal with a colleague in a RO in a different Partnership, that is fine and you should seek support from your DTP coordinator as part of the normal internal process agreed in the Partnership for being allocated BBSRC studentship funding. If your colleague does the same, then it is possible for the studentship to be jointly funded from the separate Training Grants held by the respective DTPs – i.e. normal Training Grant flexibility to jointly fund studentships applies.

Ultimately, however, it is a question for the appropriate management or training board of the DTP to decide on whether to support your proposed PhD student project.

### 3.1 Can any institution apply?

No, only ROs which are eligible to apply for Research Council funding are able to submit a proposal to the DTP scheme. Details on the eligibility of institutions can be found at: [www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/Eligibilityforrcs.aspx](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/Eligibilityforrcs.aspx).

However, non-eligible institutions/organisations may be included as 'Associate Partners' on a Doctoral Training Partnership application, providing the Partnership can demonstrate that there is significant added value/benefit to their inclusion. BBSRC research grant spend from non-eligible institutions / Associate Partners will not count towards the minimum threshold of £17.5M BBSRC grant funding over three years (see FAQ 3.2 below).

### 3.2 Why has an eligibility threshold of £17.5M competitive grant funding over the last three years (2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13) been set?

The threshold of £17.5M combined grant spend over the financial years 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 has been chosen in order to ensure that BBSRC invests in research training environments with significant levels of excellent research. The threshold will also require the majority of institutions to form partnerships in order to apply, but not so high that some partnerships – for instance geographically-close ROs – would be excluded.

BBSRC expects the majority of DTP bids to be multi-institutional in nature.

### 3.3 What is the value of a Partnership?

BBSRC wishes to establish a smaller number of DTPs with which it is able to work in partnership more closely, and this is best undertaken at institutional level or by interaction with multi-institutional partnerships.

By emphasising Partnerships, BBSRC intends to promote integrated strategies for research and training which meet BBSRC's strategic priorities, address vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable areas, and foster inter-disciplinarity.

### 3.4 Can an existing Partnership apply for a second DTP?

Yes. Where Partnerships already exist and operate well together to meet continued shared objectives, then they may re-apply for a second DTP.

### 3.5 What is the definition of a partnership: is the expectation that any proposals will be single-institution based?

It is expected that the majority of DTPs supported will be multi-institutional. Even where a RO meets on its own the funding threshold for submitting a proposal, BBSRC would encourage the consideration of appropriate partnership with other ROs. ROs considering whether to submit a proposal without the involvement of any other institutions are strongly recommended to contact BBSRC to discuss further.

The term 'partnership' is intended to capture not only the potential for partnership between ROs, but also partnership with BBSRC. DTPs, whether involving multiple institutions, or based at a single institution, will be expected to work much more closely with BBSRC in demonstrating how BBSRC's strategic priorities for research training are being addressed.

### 3.6 How many proposals can a RO lead on?

Only one.

### **3.7 How many proposals can a RO be involved in?**

Whilst a RO can only *lead* on a single DTP proposal, it may choose to be involved as a partner in the proposal led by another RO, provided that there is no double counting of departments or staff. In other words, a department (i.e. the staff involved) can only be cited on one proposal.

A RO will wish to give careful thought as to whether to be involved in multiple bids. Whilst there may be value in subject-specific Partnerships forming (i.e. involving cognate departments from a range of ROs), the Assessment Panel will need to be convinced that the Partnership is able to manage a coherent programme of training between the separate departments involved. Such partnerships may also end up undermining the efforts of a RO to create an integrated, rich and interdisciplinary training environment. Institutions are strongly advised to contact BBSRC to discuss the situation if they are considering being involved in more than one partnership.

### **3.8 What is an Associate Partner and who can apply?**

Non-eligible institutions/organisations may be included as 'Associate Partners' on a Doctoral Training Partnership application, providing the Partnership can demonstrate that there is significant added value/benefit to their inclusion within the Partnership. BBSRC research grant spend from non-eligible institutions / Associate Partners will not count towards the minimum threshold.

The eligibility requirements for Research Council funding and a list of eligible ROs that are not UK Higher Education Institutes are described on the RCUK website<sup>1</sup>.

### **3.9 Can I apply as an Associate Partner if I am an eligible RO?**

No. Only non-eligible ROs may be included on a proposal as an Associate Partner.

### **3.10 Can funds from the Training Grant support research costs of Associate Partners?**

No. In all instances of collaborative activity both applicants and collaborators/project partners must be aware that any costs incurred, direct or otherwise, by either collaborators or collaborators institutions (project partners) in connection with collaborations, cannot be met by BBSRC.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/research/Pages/Eligibilityforrcs.aspx>

#### **4.1 How will DTP proposals be assessed?**

The DTP proposals will be assessed by a DTP Assessment Panel in July 2014. This Panel will be composed of high-profile academic and industrial researchers and doctoral training specialists drawn from the bioscience community. The Panel will assess the information and plans submitted by institutions, but will also draw on data provided by BBSRC on the portfolio of grants and studentships held by institutions, and on HESA Finance Data (or equivalent). BBSRC will be drawing data from the Je-S Student Details Portal (SDP) on **1 May 2014**, and institutions are strongly recommended to ensure that their student data returns are complete and accurate by this date.

Poor quality SDP student data returns from a RO are likely to lead the Panel to doubt the capacity of the Partnership to properly manage and monitor its PhD training.

#### **4.2 What are the main elements which will be assessed?**

Full information on the assessment criteria for the scheme is provided in the call text. Assessment includes three key elements: excellence of research and alignment of PhD training to BBSRC's remit and priority research areas; excellence of the PhD training programme and training environment across the institutions involved in the Partnership; and quality of management of the training programme, supervision of the students, and governance of the Partnership.

There are also elements which must be met in order for a proposal to be funded. These are also specified in the call text, and include the commitment to provide a Professional Internships for PhD Students scheme.

#### **4.3 How will the Assessment Panel decide how many studentships to allocate to each DTP?**

BBSRC will be seeking to support research training across its remit, with an appropriate balance of funding across different priority areas (including both specific strategic priority areas and world-class underpinning bioscience). Some partnerships might include training across a number of research areas, whereas others may choose to focus on more specific areas.

The Assessment Panel will be provided with information based on a number of different metrics, including information on the spread of current BBSRC research funding and studentships in BBSRC's priority research areas. This information will help *guide* the Assessment Panel's discussions in reaching a set of recommendations to BBSRC that ensure the Assessment Criteria for each proposal are being met and a balanced portfolio of high-quality research training across its remit is being supported. Individual allocations will be informed by the metrics provided, rather than being algorithmically determined by a single formula.

#### **4.4 Are there any restrictions on the areas of science in which studentships can be supported?**

Yes. All studentships funded wholly from the DTP Training Grant must be clearly in BBSRC's remit, and partnerships are expected to have clear processes in place for confirming that student projects are in remit. This is particularly important at the research area boundaries with other Research Councils, where a joint-funding arrangement may be required if there is significant overlap in a project between the remits of different Councils. Partnerships are advised to pay careful attention to the boundaries between BBSRC and MRC, and the clarification of the Councils' remits published as part of their Delivery Plans 2011-15.

BBSRC will also expect DTPs to support studentships in the areas outlined in their Portfolio Agreement. Institutions which do not adequately control the areas in which BBSRC studentships are being created are at risk of being judged by BBSRC to be failing in the commitments made in the Portfolio Agreement. In an extreme case, a Partnership may be terminated.

#### **4.5 Does each DTP need to address vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable skills?**

It is not mandatory that a Partnership provides training in areas to address vulnerable capabilities and strategically important and vulnerable skills; Partnerships should plan to support training where they have particular research strengths.

Where appropriate, Partnerships may provide evidence of current or emerging vulnerable capabilities and/or strategically important and vulnerable skills within UK academic and/or industrial bioscience, and demonstrate how their Partnership will address these areas through PhD research projects and/or specific courses designed to up-skill or educate the students in these areas.

Doctoral Training Partners should describe how the different research areas will be supported in the Portfolio Agreement as part of their DTP application.

#### **4.6 Does each DTP need to address core bioscience skills and generic and professional skills?**

Yes. Cross-cutting core bioscience and generic and professional skills that are increasingly expected of today's bioscience researchers (e.g. mathematics, bioinformatics, statistics and experimental design, multidisciplinary working etc.) should be included as part of DTP training programmes. Partnerships can refer to the Researcher Development Framework<sup>2</sup> for guidance.

#### **4.7 How should the PhD submission rates be calculated?**

Institutions should report all studentships where the thesis was submitted four years after the official PhD programme start date. This is regardless of whether the student received a four-year funded PhD, or a different duration of funding (e.g. a three-year funded studentship). The figure should also include self-funded students.

Any student who submits their thesis after four years should not be counted. So, for example, if a student submits their thesis 4.5 years after starting, then they would not count towards a four-year submission rate even if they have had a six month formal suspension of their registration. Applicants may wish to explain these points in the box provided to help the Assessment Panel understand how the four-year submission rate was affected by such circumstances.

#### **4.8 Which departments should be included in the submission rate calculation?**

Applications should focus on the submission rates of the departments in which BBSRC students will be hosted, capturing all BBSRC and non-BBSRC PhD students who are based there. This is intended to help the Assessment Panel understand the wider culture in those departments for getting students completed on time. It is acceptable to present the data as BBSRC students and non-BBSRC students in a table to overcome any differences in submission date requirements from other funders.

Submission rates data for faculties/colleges outside of BBSRC remit may also be included, although is not essential. Here, you can include data where it has already been collected for other purposes and use it as a comparator for the departments that

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/428241/Researcher-Development-Framework.html>

will host BBSRC students (noting all the differences in requirements for different funders). This would give the Assessment Panel a sense of the wider organisational culture for getting students finished on time. If data for departments that will not be hosting BBSRC PhD students is not easily available then we do not expect you to generate it specifically for this application.

### **5.1 What exactly is a Portfolio Agreement?**

A Portfolio Agreement is a document that institutions are required to submit as part of their proposals through Je-S. The template for this document is on the website, and it essentially asks the Partnership to set out a number of commitments to research training in BBSRC's remit. The information given by institutions in the Portfolio Agreement will form part of the assessment by the Assessment Panel, but will also form the basis for ongoing engagement with BBSRC after awards are made. For example, Partnerships will be asked to report annually to BBSRC on their progress in meeting the commitments made in the Portfolio Agreement.

### **5.2 Why is BBSRC using them?**

BBSRC is using Portfolio Agreements in order to achieve a higher degree of alignment between its studentship funding and its strategic priorities. In particular, there is evidence that a mismatch can occur between the spread of BBSRC's research funding and the spread of its studentship funding, and this happens for multiple reasons. The emphasis placed on student choice in choosing a science area for research can mean that more 'unpopular' areas are overlooked; equally, where a department has significant funding from other funders, this can lead to BBSRC studentships being drawn disproportionately into areas at the edges of its remit. The Portfolio Agreement is intended to address this situation by asking institutions to clearly set out their plans for the breadth of PhD training they intend to provide.

In summary, BBSRC is using Portfolio Agreements to:

- Protect investment in key research organisations;
- Ensure appropriate spread of training *within* and *across* BBSRC's remit;
- Ensure strategic priority areas for research training are addressed.

### **5.3 What governance structure should there be for the Partnership?**

BBSRC would expect a DTP to establish a senior management board which will take overall responsibility for the effective governance of the Training Partnership and its funding from BBSRC. BBSRC would expect to see a clear commitment from the institutions involved to ensuring that robust management and monitoring arrangements are in place, for example, by ensuring that administrative support arrangements for the management board are provided as necessary. As part of the assessment process, the Assessment Panel will wish to be assured that robust and transparent governance arrangements are in place.

**6.1 Does the lack of a mandatory CASE requirement mean that BBSRC no longer values interaction with non-academic partners?**

Absolutely not. The mandatory CASE requirement was last used in the Quota DTG competition, and dropped from the first DTP call. Instead, BBSRC increased its relative investment in its other dedicated CASE schemes. It has been decided to continue this approach of not mandating a proportion of DTP studentships to be converted into CASE studentships for the second DTP call.

**6.2 Although no longer mandatory, can DTP studentships still be converted to CASE?**

Yes, this is very much encouraged. Under normal circumstances we would expect that any CASE conversions be instigated at the start of the four-year DTP studentship, however recognising the different models that exists for training students a more flexible approach is taken for DTP studentships. To be a CASE studentship there has to be a genuine mutually-beneficial partnership between the academic lab and non-academic partner over the duration of the PhD project. See BBSRC's Industrial CASE guidelines<sup>3</sup> and training grant terms and conditions<sup>4</sup> for further information.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/ibase-info-pack.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Legal/training-grants-terms-conditions.pdf>

### 7.1 What is the PIPS programme and why is it important?

Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) aim to provide BBSRC funded PhD students with the opportunity to carry out a non-academic work experience placement during their PhD. Such experience is important both to help early career researchers understand the context of their research and to expose them to the range of opportunities available to them after they graduate.

### 7.2 How will students benefit from taking an internship?

There are lots of reasons for taking an internship. These include:

- providing direct experience of working in a professional environment that does not directly relate to their PhD project
- making a positive contribution to the work of their host organisation(s) by, for example, managing a non-research project, developing policy, undertaking a discrete research project in industry, enthusing the next generation of researchers, and communicating science to a broader audience
- helping students to understand the wider context of their research
- giving students the opportunity to consider the direction that their career might take after completing their PhD, and broadening their horizons of the areas where their training can make a distinctive contribution
- building confidence and making students more well-rounded individuals
- giving students a chance to see the 'big picture' of their research and making them better researchers as a consequence.

### 7.3 What will my institution gain from the PIPS scheme?

The benefits of the PIPS scheme to the RO include:

- building collaborations with non-academic partners
- linking research with policy-making, business or the public
- demonstrating the wider context of research
- promoting the excellence of the institution to prospective students and employers by managing a range of fulfilling internships.

### 7.4 What will the host organisation gain from the PIPS?

The benefits of the PIPS scheme to the organisation hosting the student include:

- establishing, maintaining or developing collaborations with academic partners
- developing links with specific research areas, including bringing the expertise and experience of research trained individuals to policy analysis and development
- working with a highly skilled individual on projects that might not otherwise be undertaken, such as a short research or business development project
- providing staff with experience of line management over a short, defined period

- renewing the enthusiasm of staff (e.g. teachers, policymakers, project managers).

### 7.5 How will the internships be funded?

Internships should be funded as part of the PhD using the BBSRC Training Grant. BBSRC funds all studentships as full 4-year awards.

Student stipends should continue as normal throughout the internship and reasonable travel and subsistence costs should be covered either from the Training Grant, through other university resources, or through contributions from the host organisation. Normally all costs directly incurred by the host as part of the internship project should be met by the host organisation, but DTPs may wish to offer funding support from the Training Grant in specific cases (for example, to help with the cost of materials for a schools project). All Training Grant terms and conditions will continue to apply whilst the student is taking their internship.

### 7.6 What administration support costs will be provided?

BBSRC recognises that the administration required to organise internships will place an additional burden on the institutions providing them. Institutions should consider how this can best be managed; for example, building on existing placement schemes for undergraduates.

A contribution of £1000 per student will be added to the Training Grant specifically to cover the costs of the internship, such as any travel and accommodation costs resulting from student relocations.

### 7.7 How should PIPS be organised and managed?

There are a number of different ways in which PIPS schemes could be managed. ROs should consider what mechanism is likely to be most suitable to them; for example, ROs with established undergraduate placement programmes may wish to extend the use of existing management structures. One or more of the following options might be considered:

- *Student* -led management: with supervisor support, students may wish to source their own internship, for example using existing contacts, or existing mechanisms such as the BBSRC/NERC Policy Internships scheme<sup>5</sup>, or PIPS at BBSRC<sup>6</sup>.
- *Supervisor, institution or multi-institution*-led management: using existing mechanisms, such as those used for the undergraduate or postgraduate placements, or developing new ones. Multi-institutional programmes could be used for DTPs awarded to a consortium of ROs. Supervisors and institutions will wish to develop and maintain both new and existing collaborations with industry, policymakers, schools and other organisations and it is envisaged that the PIPS programme will help to develop these collaborative partnerships.
- *Use of an external placement agency*: this option may be particularly favourable for institutions that have limited experience of organising internships for their students. BBSRC is keen for at least one of the Doctoral Training Partner institutions to contract with a national student internships agency to manage the sourcing and matching of internships for PhD students.

No matter what model of management is used, student choice should be a key factor in matching students with internships.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/people-information/policy-internships.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/business/people-information/professional-internships.aspx>

### **7.8 Who can/should carry out an internship?**

BBSRC expects all PhD students funded by a DTP award to carry out an internship. BBSRC would welcome research institutions extending the scheme to other PhD students, but the costs cannot be covered from the DTP Training Grant.

CASE students funded by a DTP may also carry out an internship although this is not compulsory as CASE students gain an understanding of working in a non-academic environment. However, BBSRC recommends that DTP CASE students are encouraged to consider taking an internship to further broaden their experience, for example in a school or policy setting.

Students awarded a Policy Internship can count this as their PIPS experience.

### **7.9 Does this replace other generic or core skills training?**

No, PIPS should be taken in addition to existing generic and core skills training (see FAQ 4.6 for further information). However, PIPS could be used to develop certain core skills further; for example, all students are expected to develop public engagement skills and an internship within a school would help to further develop this.

### **7.10 Do internships have to be for 3 months?**

Yes, internships must be three months. However, the internship may be taken either in one three-month block or in a number of shorter blocks. This will depend on the preferences of the student and host organisation, as well as the type of internship. Internships could be hosted by more than one host organisation if this is considered appropriate. For example, a student may wish to work for a month in each of three different schools.

### **7.11 When should the internships take place?**

Some students may feel that their internship should be taken at a certain time of the year or at a particular stage of their PhD, in order to avoid disruption to their project. For example, fieldwork or seasonal variations should be taken into account. Therefore, flexibility will be important and the timing of the internship should be considered on an individual student basis.

### **7.12 Will PIPS affect my institution's submission rate?**

No. PIPS should be taken within the four-year period for a full-time PhD programme, and students should be expected to submit within this period as normal.

### **7.13 What if a student is studying for a PhD on a part-time basis?**

Internships should also be taken by part-time students and the duration should be calculated on a pro-rata basis.

### **7.14 What about students with disabilities?**

The needs of students with disabilities should be considered during the organisation of internships within institutions. All students funded from the DTP Training Grant are expected to carry out an internship at some point during their PhD.

### **7.15 Can internships be carried out abroad?**

PIPS can be taken abroad but any extra costs associated with this should be met by the research institution and/or host organisation. It is likely that most students will be able to carry out good quality internships locally/nationally.

### **7.16 How will BBSRC monitor PIPS?**

BBSRC will monitor PIPS through liaison with Doctoral Training Partner institutions as part of the ongoing monitoring of DTP awards, and will request reports from students.

### **8.1 When will the call be open in Je-S?**

The call will be live in Je-S from January 2014. Full guidelines for submission and template documents that need to be uploaded as part of the application are available on the BBSRC DTP webpage<sup>7</sup>.

### **8.2 Are EU students eligible for DTP funding?**

The Research Councils are discussing the student eligibility requirements for PhD funding, but at the current time the standard requirements still apply<sup>8</sup>. These broadly allow EU nationals with three years residence in the UK to receive full stipend awards, and other EU nationals to be supported with fees only awards.

### **8.3 What is the timeline for funding decisions?**

The DTP application deadline is 1 May 2014 at 4pm. Assessment will take place in July 2014, including interviews with up to four individuals from the Partnership. Formal announcement of the awards will be made in October 2014.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/studentships/doctoral-training-partnerships.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/studentship\\_eligibility.pdf](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/studentship_eligibility.pdf)

**9.1 What reports will be required and when?**

DTPs will be required to report annually on progress against their Portfolio Agreements, and also to host formal and informal visits from the BBSRC.