

Professional Internships for PhD Students

A three month Professional Internships for PhD Students opportunity for BBSRC-Doctoral Training Partnership PhD students to gain experience of working in corporate policy and strategy, science and innovation policy, public engagement or project management at BBSRC Swindon Office.

Closing Date for Applications: 5 August 2013

About BBSRC Swindon Office Professional Internships for PhD Students Placements

1. BBSRC has a unique and central place in supporting the UK's world-leading position in bioscience. We are an investor in research and training, with the aim of furthering scientific knowledge, to promote economic growth, wealth and job creation and to improve quality of life in the UK and beyond.
2. Science and innovation policy play a major role in shaping the direction and funding of research. BBSRC Swindon Office Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) placements provide BBSRC-DTP PhD students with the opportunity to work for 3 months at BBSRC Swindon Office. Successful applicants will have the opportunity to work on a project in an aspect of BBSRC's activities, including corporate policy and strategy, science and innovation policy, public engagement or project management.

Eligibility

3. This scheme is open to all BBSRC-DTP PhD students.

Placement opportunities

4. PIPS placements are available across BBSRC Swindon Office. The following PIPS Placements are available for 2013 / 14:
 - Building the BBSRC impact evidence base
 - Capturing the experiences and achievements of BBSRC funded scientists across the career pipeline
 - Early Career Research Fellowships: understanding drivers and strategies underpinning success
 - Engaging with national livestock industry groups: views on priority livestock diseases and their economic relevance
 - Evaluating BBSRC's support for postdoctoral researchers
 - External Relations Internship
 - Food Security Internship
 - Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation Internship
 - Mapping the UK Industrial Biotechnology Landscape
 - Nature or nurture - is it a question of biology or the system?
 - Review of BBSRC microbiology funding portfolio
 - Understanding Data Sharing in the UK

- What Happened Then? Tracking the Fate of Projects in Technology and Resource Development
5. Successful applicants will be matched with the most appropriate project based on preference and interview performance. Successful students will have the opportunity to influence the direction of the project, taking into account their interests and BBSRC's strategic needs.
 6. For further details, including a brief summary of the project aims and objectives are available please contact PIPS@bbsrc.ac.uk

Funding arrangements

7. Reasonable travel and accommodation costs will be covered for interns who live outside commuting distance. All computing, email and other facilities necessary to complete the project will be supplied by the host organisation.

Working arrangements

8. Successful applicants are expected to spend time working in the organisations' Swindon Office, although some travel to external sites and other organisations may be necessary. BBSRC are keen to encourage applicants from across the DTP.
9. Successful applications will be line managed by the most appropriate person within Swindon Office, usually the project owner. Alongside the normal support offered by HR Business Partners, a mentor will be appointed to each student for the duration of the placement, this provides someone outside the line management chain the student can approach if there are any difficulties.

Start date and length of placement

10. The internship will last for 3 months. The nominal start date for the first tranche of students is 1 October 2013, with further intakes of students in January, April, July and October 2014. Changes to the start date must be agreed between the applicant, the applicant's PIPS coordinator or Training Grant Holder and BBSRC.

How to apply

11. Applicants should submit:
 - A completed application form, which has been approved by your PIPS coordinator or Training Grant Holder, including a brief summary of your PhD research (the area of research and its relevance to the wider scientific field) and why you are applying for a BBSRC PIPS Placement.
 - A summary policy briefing that you think could be the subject of an actual policy briefing. You may wish to consider the style of POSTnote or other policy briefings. The summary briefing should be **no longer than one side of A4 in Arial size 11 font.**
 - The policy briefing should be relevant to current issues, legislation and / or government policy (preferably of relevance to BBSRC).
 - The summary briefing is not intended to be as long or exhaustive as an actual policy briefing, but you should use the document to demonstrate your ability to write in a style suitable for a policy-making (rather than academic) audience and organise the content accordingly.

- A media article, workshop project plan or an extended policy briefing on a relevant current issue. The article, project plan or policy briefing should be **no longer than one sides of A4 in Arial size 11 font**.
 - The media article, workshop project plan or policy briefing should be relevant to current issues, legislation and / or policy (preferably of relevance to BBSRC).

12. Applicants must submit their application form and summary briefing **as word documents**, via email, to: PIPS@bbsrc.ac.uk by **5 August 2013**.

Assessment of applications

13. Assessment is via a two-stage process:

i. Written applications

The criteria for assessment of the written applications are:

- Writing style
- Science content
- Policy content
- Impartiality
- Timeliness and relevance
- Project management strategies (for workshop plans)

Equal weighting will be given to each of the assessment criteria.

Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to stage two:

ii. Interview day

This will take place in late August 2013 (date and location to be confirmed).

Successful students will be matched with the most appropriate project based on interview performance and candidate preference.

Further details will be provided to successful applicants nearer the time.

End of placement report

14. At the end of the placement, students will be required to complete a PIPS Report detailing their work over the three months and the outcomes achieved.

Contacts and further information

15. Any queries relating to the application process should be directed to: PIPS@bbsrc.ac.uk