

Dear prospective placement host,

The [BBSRC-funded South West Biosciences Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (SWBio DTP) is a bioscience PhD training programme. This is delivered across a partnership between the universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter along with Rothamsted Research and our associate partners; Marine Biological Association (MBA), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), SETsquared Bristol, Swansea University, UCB Pharma and University of the West of England (UWE).

This partnership trains students on a [4 year programme](#), designed to provide training in cutting edge world-class bioscience research skills, underpinned by training in numerical and systems based approaches. In addition to developing the students' scientific research skills, one of our key aims is to give the students a broader training beyond an academic environment, to help their employability once they complete their PhD. As such, all our students undertake an placement during their PhD studies, in a professional working environment outside of academic research. This gives students a keen insight into how different employment sectors function, and the attributes an ambitious employee needs to develop and thrive in such an environment.

Students who have already undertaken placements report back that they have found this a tremendously useful and positive experience. Equally host organisations have found these students to be of great assets to their organisations – many have hosted repeated placements, while others have gone on to use our students as consultants, or even employ them.

We would like to invite you to host a student for their placement. All students on the programme have first-class or very good upper second-class BSc degrees from highly respected institutions, with many also having completed a Masters. The SWBio DTP programme is very competitive to join, so our students really are of a high standard – they are academically able, intelligent and motivated.

Our students need to complete a 3-month placement, at a time that is mutually convenient for both parties. They remain a student throughout, so they receive a stipend from the SWBio DTP and do not incur a salary cost to your organisation. Although, if you were able to contribute any add-on costs, such as those associated with additional travel or accommodation, that would be very much appreciated.

For further information about this scheme, please [visit our website](#).

Thank you in advance for your help.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Lane', is written in a cursive style.

Dr Jon Lane (SWBio DTP Deputy Director)