Dr Matthew Winter

Research Group website: https://experts.exeter.ac.uk/23911-matthew-winter/teaching

How day-to-day research training and support is provided: The main supervisor still maintains an active presence in the laboratory which allows for a relatively high degree of technical input and day to day practical supervision within his team. MJW's research group currently consists of a senior research fellow and 4 PhD students, which is expected to grow in the near future based on the anticipated outcome of submitted and planned funding applications. Within this team, MJW has instilled a highly collaborative and team focussed ethos meaning a high degree of help and assistance is always on hand from one or more members of the team. MJWs team occupies a suite of dedicated laboratories equipped for zebrafish based research which include dedicated confocal and light sheet microscopes, behavioural tracking equipment and embryolarval culture and exposure spaces. As such the student will be afforded excellent facilitates for undertaking their research and unimpeded access to all the equipment needed to achieve the aims of the project. As well as our own groups laboratories, at Exeter the student will have access to (shared) dedicated facilities for molecular biology and histology, and a world class scientific aquarium for adult fish culture, microinjection, imaging and chemical exposures. In addition, CRT, who is also based at Exeter and shares some laboratory spaces runs a large research group within which the same approach to working is instilled, and as such several additional senior PDRAs are always available for assistance, most of whom are using similar techniques to those being proposed for this PhD. Collectively this means the student will have a first class research environment and unrivalled technical support for undertaking the practical aspects of their work at Exeter.

Supervision style: Directive support: B / Training structure: 7

How often PhD students see you in a timetabled group meeting: At least once a month

Other research groups that PhD students will have the opportunity to frequently interact with: In addition to scheduled two-weekly supervisory team meetings with each student, MJWs team meet monthly to discuss our research, laboratory related topics and upcoming opportunities such as conferences etc. As a team we also meet monthly with CRTs large research team in which larger scale science discussions are held and students have a chance to present their work, particularly in advance of conference presentation or upgrade vivas. We are also part of the Exeter Living Systems Institute (LSI) zebrafish user group in which zebrafish specific presentations and technical discussion are undertaken and the students are also encouraged to attend Biosciences and LSI seminars which cover a very broad range of scientific subjects.

How often you meet with your PhD students 1-1 formally outside of group meetings (i.e. meetings of >30 minutes): At least once a fortnight

Meeting format: All in person

Expected working pattern (based on a full-time student): There is no set working pattern expected as the supervisory team understand that each student has different preferences in terms of starting early or working until later in the day. As we work with animals, however, there is an expectation that on some occasions working at weekends or out of hours is needed as the welfare of the animals being used is a priority. This is always made clear at interview and once again when the person is in post but due to the collaborative culture in our team, there is always someone willing to step in as needed.

How the second supervisor supports the PhD project: During the rotation project at her lab, the student will have weekly meetings as a minimum and EK will be generally available on an ad hoc basis as she operates a flexible open door policy. In addition, the student will benefit from close PDRA and technical

support in the laboratory facilitating their research training and technical development. Outside of the formal rotation project period, EK will be freely available via email and frequent supervisory team meetings will be scheduled to allow the student to report on progress, issues and needs to the wider support network which is available to them. Further placements at EKs lab are also probable and will be undertaken as required through the tenure of the PhD.

Notice needed for feedback on work (based on a 5000 word report): 1-2 weeks

Communication: At Exeter, MJW and CRT are available via email at any time, and both operate an open door policy unless in another in person or Teams meeting. In addition, most of MJW's and CRT's team members are in on a daily basis, and as such there is always someone available from which to seek advice. This flexible supportive approach is also shared by EK and the other members of the supervisory team.