

## Recruitment Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Key:**

Q = Question, ANS = Answer

### **Q: What personal information should be included or excluded from the personal statement?**

ANS: Please exclude your personal details (e.g name) from your personal statement. If you wish to add in organisational names or academics you have worked with you may but remember you have a word limit. The selection panel are more interested in what you got out of experiences, and the relevance of the experience to your application e.g demonstrating qualities needed for doing a PhD.

### **Q: Can I apply to a specific project?**

ANS: Unless the project you are interested in is an industry match-funded project, you would be required to undertake 2 rotations in the first year of the programme before choosing your final PhD project. Applicants are not penalised for expressing interest in specific project(s) during the application process (this is often the situation), but applications are to the programme and a specific project cannot be absolutely guaranteed if other students also want to do it. A few projects tend to be very popular, but we have 70+ projects to choose from so there are a lot of options.

### **Q: If I am interested in projects at a DTP partner other than the University of Southampton do I submit my application to the DTP partner or the University of Southampton?**

ANS: All applications for standard and standard CASE studentships are via the University of Southampton application portal. If accepted to the programme you would be offered a first rotation in one of your project preferences. Once your first rotation project has been confirmed and if this project is based at a partner other than the University of Southampton then you will be asked to make a formal application to that partner. If your first rotation is based at NIAB East Malling you will be asked to make a formal application to the partner where the co-supervisor is based.

### **Q: Do I need to provide references with my application form?**

ANS: Yes, you can upload your references with your application, OR the system will automatically send a request to your referees once you have submitted your application. It would be advisable to contact your referees prior to applying to inform them of this and request they respond promptly to the request for a reference because your application cannot be considered without your references.

**Q: Is there a framework against which my application will be assessed?**

ANS: Applicant's academic qualifications and fit to the programme are assessed by the shortlisting panel. Entry requirements and guidance on writing a personal statement are on the [SoCoBio DTP website Apply page](#) (Step 2 and Step 4 respectively).

**Q: Can I apply for the SoCoBio programme if I am currently a final year UG student?**

ANS: Yes, we ask applicants to submit transcripts and certificates with their application to show that they meet or expect to meet the entry requirements.

**Q: Is it possible for a successful applicant in the current recruitment cycle to defer entry to the following year?**

ANS: No, this is not possible. We advertise a different set of projects each year and have a set number of positions depending on the amount of additional funding from industry collaborators.

**Q: The programme is stated as fully funded but are there any other expenses applicants would need to be aware of?**

ANS: Successful applicants would receive a stipend to cover living costs during their PhD. Current stipend level is given on the BBSRC website [here](#). The stipend for studentships starting 2024/25 will be announced in April 2024. Students also receive a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). This is for costs associated with the PhD project and DTP cohort wide training.

**Q: Are there any other expenses international applicants would need to be aware of?**

ANS: Fees are funded by BBSRC at the UK home rate, and SoCoBio DTP partners have waived the difference between home and international fee rate for international students offered a place on the programme; however, the number of international students awarded a studentship is capped at 30% of the cohort. International students would need to fund their travel costs to the UK, student VISA application and associated costs (for example immigration healthcare surcharge)