

SoCoBio DTP: PIPS host organisation guidance

The SoCoBio DTP programme includes Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS), which offer numerous benefits for both students and host organisations. PIPS typically take place in the second or third year of the programme, they are for 3-months (taken in one block or several shorter blocks), placements are unrelated to the student's research project and they aim to further develop students' core skills and broaden their understanding of the wider economy and society.

Benefits to PIPS Host Organisations

- Establish, maintain, and develop collaborations with an academic partner.
- Work with a highly skilled individual on projects that might not otherwise be undertaken, such as short research or business development projects.
- Provide your staff with experience in line management over a short, defined period.
- Support recruitment as this is an opportunity to see how PhD graduates would fit within your organisation

Benefits to SoCoBio DTP Students

- Gain direct experience working in a professional environment unrelated to their PhD project.
- Enabling students to work on topics of interest that help them to make an informed choice of career destination.
- Make a positive contribution to the host organisation by managing a non-research project, developing policy, undertaking discrete research projects in industry, inspiring the next generation of researchers, and communicating science to a broad audience.
- Understand the wider context of their research.
- Build confidence and become more well-rounded individuals.
- Build their knowledge of industry and policy and establish new professional networks
- See the 'big picture' of their research, making them better researchers as a consequence.

To confirm placement

- Agreement: Host organisations are required to complete a Placement Agreement between the student, host organisation, and DTP partner.
- DTP PIPS administration forms: Host organisations are asked to support students to complete the DTP's PIPS Plan (Form F05) with project information and contact information during their PIPS with the organisation.

Preparing for placement to start

- **Funding:** Placements are unpaid. Students will continue to receive their stipend during the placement. Additionally, the BBSRC training grant contributes £1000 per student towards additional travel or accommodation costs. However, this may not cover all expenses, so a contribution from the host organisation towards additional travel/accommodation costs would be appreciated if possible.
- **Costs to PIPS host organisation:** All costs directly incurred by the host as part of the internship project should be met by the host organisation.
- **On boarding:** ensure relevant staff at your organisation responsible for managing the SoCoBio DTP students are aware of the student's arrival and any onboarding processes required at the start of the placement. This will ensure time on the project and outputs from the project are maximized. 3-months is a short period.
- **Project:** ensure project resources are available at the start of the project and plan for project is in place to maximize project outputs for the short project period.
- **Environment:** To help students settle into your organisation, inform other staff within the office or department about their arrival and the projects they will be working on. For some placements, students may have relocated to a new area and will have limited connections there. Creating a welcoming office environment will greatly assist them in settling in.

At end of placement

- **Feedback questionnaire:** The SoCoBio DTP student will provide you with a link to the DTP's PIPS host feedback questionnaire. Please complete in a timely manner. The information gathered through this questionnaire helps the DTP improve processes for future PIPS host organisations and students.
- **Stay in touch:** Join the [SoCoBio DTP mailing list](#) to learn about DTP activities you could support, and join the [SoCoBio LinkedIn Network Group](#) to hear about SoCoBio DTP's research and activities for industry engagement.