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A large, central image of the Earth as seen from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the blue oceans against the blackness of space. The text is overlaid on this image.

# The Nottingham BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnership

Clare Barton  
DTP Operations Manager



Biotechnology and  
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Research Council



# Virtual Open Day Agenda

- Welcome to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP by DTP Director, Professor Zoe Wilson
- Introduction presentation to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP – Clare Barton
- Welfare Provision within the DTP and Professional Industrial Placement Scheme – Alice Haslam & Sandra Rose
- Research Theme breakout sessions:
  - Agriculture and Food Security [Click here to join the meeting](#)
  - Bioscience for Health [Click here to join the meeting](#)
  - Biotechnology [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- NTU interview workshops – 4 parallel sessions
- Visa & immigration talk - Sofia Markopoulou



# Welcome



Professor Zoe  
Wilson –  
DTP Director



Professor Sara  
Goodacre –  
Deputy Director



Rachel Van  
Krimpen –  
DTP Manager



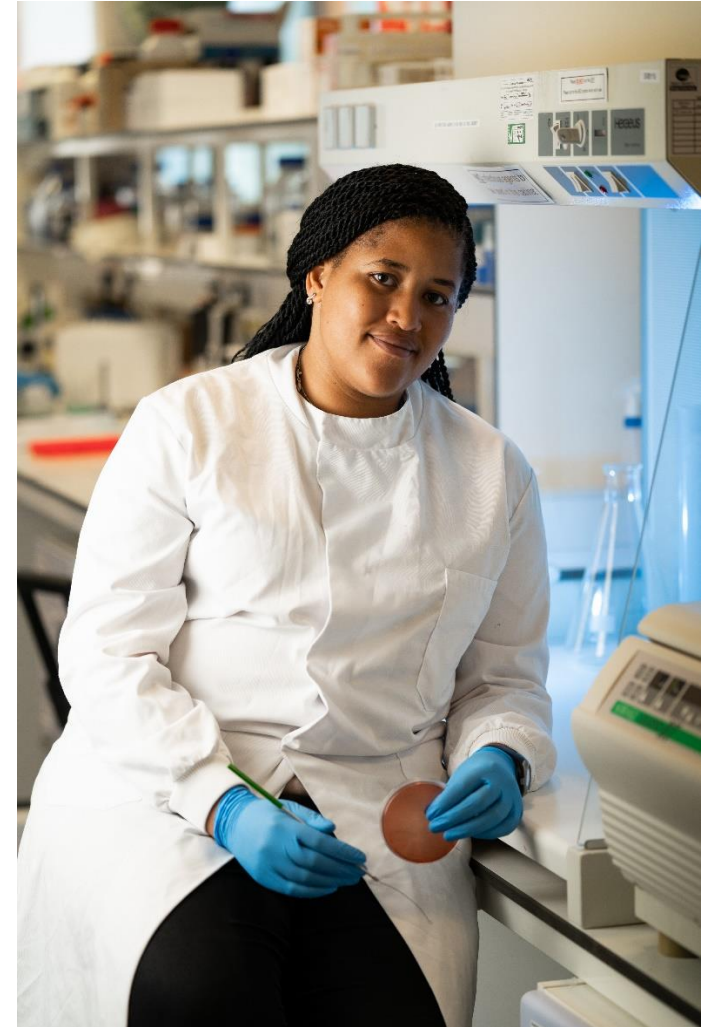
Clare Barton –  
DTP Operations  
Manager





# Introduction to Nottingham BBSRC DTP

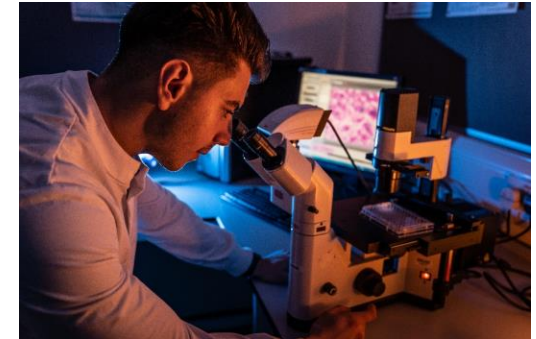
- About the Nottingham BBSRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP)
  - The partnership
  - Our research areas
  - Structure of the programme
- Applying to the programme
  - Entrance requirements
  - The application process
- Funding
- Q&A





# The Nottingham BBSRC DTP

- The Nottingham BBSRC DTP is funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and has been training postgraduate researchers since 2012
- The DTP is led by the University of Nottingham in partnership with Nottingham Trent University, National Biofilms Innovation Centre (NBIC)
- Other partners – Rothamsted Research, Research Complex at Harwell, Diamond Light Source, NIAB
  
- A diverse community of over 220 PhD students
- An alumni community of over 250 DTP graduates



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# The Nottingham BBSRC DTP



THE BBSRC DTP



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# Our Research Areas

Agriculture  
and Food  
Security

Bioscience  
for Health

Biotechnology



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# Our Research Areas

Ageing  
Animal health  
Animal welfare  
Bioenergy  
Cell biology  
Chemical biology  
Crop science  
Diet and health  
Immunology  
Industrial biotechnology  
Microbial food safety

Microbiology  
Neuroscience  
Pharmaceuticals  
Plant science  
Regenerative biology  
Soil science  
Stem cells  
Structural biology  
Synthetic biology  
Technology development  
The 3Rs – replacement,  
refinement and reduction of  
animals in research



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# Our Programmes

Standard Programme	CASE Programme
4-year programme	
Recruited to the programme	Recruited to a specific project
Mandatory induction	
2 x 9-week lab rotations	Start work on project immediately
Professional Internship for PhD Students (PIPS) - 3 month placement in year 3	Industry partner placement – you will spend 3-12 months of your studentship with your industry partner
Annual Training Week (year 1-3)	
Annual Conference	

NB: You can apply to **either or both** of the DTP programmes using the same application form. You can apply for **up to 3** CASE projects.



# 2024 CASE Projects - Agriculture and Food Security

Supervisor	Partner	School	Project Title
Emily Burton	Kemin Industries	NTU	Optimisation of protease feed additives for poultry to increase protein utilisation efficiency from locally produced sources
Sacha Mooney	Anglo American Woodsmith	Biosciences	Does fertilizer placement play a key role in crop establishment?
John Brameld	Ab-Agri-AM Vista	Biosciences	The plasticity of insects microbiome and the impact of feeding to chicken
Guillermina Mendiondo	Diageo	Biosciences	Future grains: evaluating impacts of elevated CO2 and temperature on yield and grain quality in cereals



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# 2024 CASE Projects - Biotechnology

Supervisor	Partner	School	Project Title
Neil Thomas	PeptiMatrix	Chemistry	Engineering Biology approaches to functionalised hydrogel production
Simone Morra	HydRegen Ltd	Faculty of Engineering	From nature to industry: applying H <sub>2</sub> -metabolising enzymes to sustainable biocatalysis
Markus Owen	Phenotypeca Ltd	Mathematical Sciences	Machine Learning for predicting yeast phenotype from genotype for biotech applications
Nathan Archer	AstraZeneca	Vet School	MRNA cap methylation – localisation and mechanisms in gene expression and RNA therapeutics



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# 2024 CASE Projects - Bioscience for Health

Supervisor	Partner	School	Project Title
Kevin Webb	Cairn Research Ltd	Engineering	The Fast and Non-Spurious: High-content screening without artefact in barrier tissues on a chip
Ruman Rahman	Sferola Ltd	Medicine	Next-generation nanoparticle functionalisation for selective delivery to brain tumours
Neil Oldham	Erebagen Ltd	Chemistry	Native mass spectrometry for the discovery of new anticancer agents
Kenton Arkill	PeptiMatrix	Medicine	Role of extracellular matrix in hypoxic metastasis



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# Training



- You will be joining the DTP as a cohort of students – building a wide ranging personal and professional network
- You will have access to high quality training opportunities throughout your studies which will support your skills development, including:
  - Research technique development
  - Good research practice
  - Mathematical and computational skills
  - Career training
  - Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation
  - Writing, Presentation skills, Thesis and Viva Prep



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# Training







# Training: Some Examples

## Induction Training

- Development needs analysis
- Presentation skills
- Academic posters
- Visits to partner organisations
- Lab skills
- Nanoscale and Microscale Research Centre
- Ethics, Responsible Research, Inclusive Innovation
- Anti-racism
- Programming and machine learning

## Training Week

- Challenge Days
- Mental Health First Aider
- PRINCE2 Project Management
- Disability awareness
- Working with industry
- Media training
- Experimental design
- Nature writing masterclasses
- Infographics
- Communication skills



Mandy Gill –  
Project Officer



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# EDI and Wellbeing





# Funding

- The 4-year programme is fully-funded
- The DTP studentship includes fees at the home level, a tax-free stipend, and funding to support your research and training
- For 2023/24 the stipend is £18,622
- We are able to recruit upto 30% of the cohort from our international applicants and fee waiver scholarships will cover the difference between home & international fees.



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Eligibility

### Nationality:

- Applications are open to candidates with home (UK) fees status and international fee status.
- If English isn't your first language, you will also need to meet the relevant English language requirements. An IELTS score of 6.5 (no less than 6.0 in any element) is required, though we also accept alternative qualifications (see website).



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Eligibility

### Grades:

- 2.1 or above in a relevant undergraduate degree from a UK university, or equivalent earned outside of the UK
- 2.2 in an undergraduate degree from the UK, or equivalent earned outside of the UK, plus a relevant Masters degree, or relevant work experience

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**Fully funded  
PhD studentships  
in the biological  
sciences**

[nottingham.ac.uk/  
bbdtp](http://nottingham.ac.uk/bbdtp)

A photograph of a young woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored turtleneck sweater, looking towards the camera.



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Eligibility

Individual eligibility queries should be sent to [bbdtp@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:bbdtp@nottingham.ac.uk). We are not able to address these questions today.

There will be a presentation later from the visa & immigration team, who will share more information.



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Application Process

- Go to [www.nottingham.ac.uk/bbdtp](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/bbdtp)
- Click on 'Apply'
- Read all guidance notes
- Complete online application form
- Upload your degree transcripts



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Application Deadline

The deadline for applications in this round of recruitment is Tuesday 16 January 2024 at noon (UK time).

You can apply for the standard programme and/or **up to three** CASE projects.

You may only apply to the programme once per academic year.



Cathy Levien – Project Support Officer



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## Tips for DTP Applicants

- Apply ahead of the deadline
- Ensure that your research interests align with BBSRC areas
- Seek support with your application – contact potential supervisors, speak to your University Careers Service
- Proofread your application and ensure that your answers address the questions



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# Applying to the Nottingham BBSRC DTP

## What happens next?

- Applications will be considered once the deadline has passed.
- All candidates will be contacted with an outcome for their application
- Invitations to interview will be sent at the end of February.
- References will be requested for shortlisted candidates only.
- Both CASE and standard DTP interviews will take place online via Teams during the first two weeks of March.
- Interview outcomes will be shared at the end of March.



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