

Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit <https://foodbiosystemsdtg.grantplatform.com> to apply.

Student Applications

Welcome to the FoodBioSystems DTP applications portal. So we can direct you to the correct application form please select an application category.

PhD studentship applicants only:

If you are applying for a PhD studentship please do the following:

Select the category *student applications*

Name your application: FBS2025 Your last (family) name Your first name

Lead supervisors only:

If you are submitting a project proposal please do the following:

Select the category *project proposals*

Name your application: FBS2026 Your family name your first name

Application name

Welcome to the FoodBioSystems DTP studentship application page. You are submitting an application for a studentship which will start no later than spring 2026.

The closing date for applications is 26 January (10:00 am GMT)

Please ensure that you have read the all of the studentship applicant guidance before making your application. This is available as a [PDF document](#) or you can access and read it on the [DTP website](#).

The application form is in several sections and you must complete all of them unless otherwise indicated:

- How we use your data
- Personal details
- Education history
- Research experience
- Project application 1
- Project application 2 (optional)
- Project preference (optional)
- Aptitude and motivation
- Supporting material - upload your degree transcripts and evidence of English language skills (where required). **NB Do not upload a CV - it will be deleted.**
- Equality and diversity monitoring

You will need the following documents to support your application

- Official transcripts of your higher education qualifications, inclusive of grades.
- Evidence of your proficiency in English, if English is not your first language. (You can provide this later if you have not yet completed an IELTS test).

You will also be asked to provide the name and email address of someone who will provide a confidential academic reference letter. *The DTP office will request the letter from your referee if you are shortlisted for interview.*

Advice on use of AI

We understand that the use of generative AI tools when preparing studentship applications is becoming more prevalent. These tools can be helpful, especially for refining language or structuring your responses, and we appreciate their appropriate use. If you use AI, it is important that it is only used to help present **your** skills and experiences and not to create a false or misleading version of yourself.

After eligibility screening, our supervisory teams review each eligible application to their project and assess candidate suitability. Our selection panel reviewers also assess shortlisted candidates' written applications to assess their suitability as FoodBioSystems DTP researchers. Using AI to produce a generic application is easy to spot and may raise doubts around your suitability and commitment to applying for a PhD with this DTP.

Our interviews are also designed to probe into your skills and experience further, so inconsistencies between your application and your responses may become apparent.

Acceptable Uses Examples:

- Researching the organisation or sector
- Refining, structuring or rewording your answers to express yourself more clearly
- Checking spelling, grammar, clarity and readability
- Preparing for interviews and practising your personal responses to questions

Unacceptable Uses Examples:

- Exaggerating, fabricating or misrepresenting your qualifications or experience
- Copying and pasting generic responses to answers
- Providing answers that do not reflect your own experience
- Using AI to answer interview questions in real time

For more detailed information about the FoodBioSystems DTP 2026 studentship application process, please go to the [FoodBioSystems DTP website](#).

When your application is ready, click on the "submit application" button. Remember to use the save button to save your application as you go along.

Best of luck!

For any other questions about your application, please contact [the FoodBioSystems DTP Office](#).

Please read the following statement and indicate your agreement by answering the questions below.

Your personal information will be processed in line with our obligations under all applicable Data Protection Laws. The Data Controller for your personal information is the University of Reading and our contact details are : University of Reading, Information Management and Policy Services, Room 2.22, Whiteknights House, Shinfield Road, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6DT.

- We will use the information provided in the application form to process your application for a PhD studentship.
- If your application is successful we will also use your information to administer your studentship (this will include arranging payments of stipend, supporting you with training, monitoring your progress).
- If your application is successful, your information will be kept by the University of Reading until 5 years after the DTP ends (for purposes of monitoring).
- Your personal information will be withheld during the selection process. However, if you are selected for interview we will share your name, email address and phone number with the interview panel so they can organise your interview.
- Information on *Education history, Research experience, Aptitude and motivation, Project application 1, Project application 2* will be shared with the project supervisors. We will share the name of your degree awarding universities if you are invited to interview.
- Information on *Research experience, Aptitude and motivation*, will be shared with the selection committee reviewers.

- Names, date of birth, nationality, contact details and fees status of successful applicants will be shared with the Graduate Schools of the host universities.
- Information collected for purposes of monitoring equality, diversity and inclusion will not be shared with any person involved in selecting successful students or supervising studentships. Anonymised data will be used by the DTP for monitoring purposes.
- If your application is successful, and you enrol on a PhD programme, we will share the following information with UKRI (our funding body): name, date of birth, sex at birth, gender, religion, ethnic origin, country of nationality, indication of disability, and fee status. This data will only be processed where UKRI needs to do so in order to comply with its legal obligations (particularly employment, social, health, disability and protection laws) or to evaluate their funding from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective. For more information on how UKRI use personal information, please refer to: <https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/privacy-notice/>
- If your application is unsuccessful your information will be kept by the University of Reading for 24 months after that application round.

Under Data Protection laws you have rights to access, restrict, correct, erase, rectify and object to uses of your data. You also have a right to complain to the UK data protection authority. Our Data Protection officer can be contacted at imps@reading.ac.uk for more information.

I have read and understood how the FoodBioSystems DTP will use my data

Yes

No

Please confirm that you have read and understood how the DTP will use your information

Email address

Please provide an email address that we can use to contact you about your application.

Phone number

Please include a phone number (including national dialling code) that we can use to contact you regarding your application.

Date of Birth

Please tell us your date of birth (using dd/mm/yy)

Academic Referee's name

Please provide the name of a referee (from your current or previous institution) who has agreed to supply a confidential academic reference to support your application. This person should be able to comment on your skills and experience relevant to undertaking a PhD. If you are unable to provide details of a suitable academic referee, you may request a reference from an employer who can comment on your skills and experience relevant to undertaking a PhD studentship.

Academic Referee's email address

Please provide your academic referee's email address. We will contact them to request a reference if your application is shortlisted.

Please confirm your UK residency / university fees status. You may be required to show evidence of your residency status at a later stage of your application.

- I am an international student
- I am a UK National or Irish National and meet residency requirements
- I have pre-settled status in the UK and meet residency requirements (under EU Settlement Scheme).
- I have settled status in the UK (under EU Settlement Scheme).
- I have indefinite leave to remain in the UK or enter

****International Student**** If a candidate does not meet the criteria below, they are classed as an International student e.g. they need a visa to live and study in the UK OR they are a UK/Irish national who does not meet residency requirements. ****UK National**** The UK includes the United Kingdom and Islands (i.e. the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man). In terms of residency requirements for UK and Irish nationals, candidates will be eligible for home fee status as long as: * They were living in the EEA or Switzerland on 31 December 2020, and have lived in the EEA, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar for at least the last 3 years before starting a course in the UK OR * They have lived continuously in the EEA, Switzerland, the UK or Gibraltar between 31 December 2020 and the start of the course. ****EU Settlement Scheme**** EU, EEA or Swiss citizens can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. If successful, applicants will get either settled or pre-settled status. Those with pre-settled status will qualify as a home student if they have 3 years residency in the UK/EEA/Gibraltar/Switzerland immediately before the start of their course. ****Indefinite leave to remain (ILR) or Indefinite leave to enter (ILE)**** Candidates with ILR or ILE can continue to live in the UK without applying to the EU Settlement Scheme.

What is your current country of residence?

Please tell us where you are currently living

I wish to disclose a disability during the application and selection process (optional)

- Yes
- No

Please indicate whether you wish to disclose a disability or specific learning difference so we can make any necessary arrangements for you at interview stage.

Please indicate below if you would like to apply to the Guaranteed Interview Scheme. (optional)

- Yes
- No

To be eligible for this scheme you must be eligible for UK home student fees status for 2024 entry and identify as: * Black, African, Caribbean or Black British * Asian or Asian British * Belonging to mixed or multiple ethnic groups Priority will be given to applicants who meet the above criteria and also identify with one of the following: * have ever been in receipt of free school meals * been the first in family to attend higher education * completed/completing their undergraduate studies at a non-Russell Group university ****It is essential to give full answers to all questions about academic background, research and transferable skills in this application form. This is because assessment of written answers and interview performance are both taken into account when awarding studentships. Please see assessment criteria for further details**** [_https://research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems/apply-for-a-foodbiosystems-phd/for-phd-students-2/#P12_](https://research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems/apply-for-a-foodbiosystems-phd/for-phd-students-2/#P12_) ****Please note:**** we can not offer guaranteed interviews to candidates with international student status

I am eligible for the Guaranteed Interview Scheme and would like to meet with a mentor to support me during the application process (optional)

The deadline for requests is 09:00 (BST) on Friday 17 January 2025. (You must also complete the **Education History and Equality Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring** sections of this form **before** Friday 17 January 2025.

Please do not request a mentor after the above time and date; we will not be able to assign you a mentor.

- Yes
- No

If you are eligible to apply to the Guaranteed Interview Scheme, please indicate whether you would like to meet with a DTP student trained mentor to support you during the application and selection process. Timetable for mentoring meetings: • Meeting one:

(early in week of 20 January 2025) A brief pre-application discussion with the mentor • Meeting two: (later in week of 20 January 2025) An application writing support session • Meeting three: (mid-late February 2025) An interview preparation session • Meeting four: (after 14 April 2025) A post application outcome reflection session To apply for the mentoring scheme, you must select "yes" and complete (and save) the *Education History* AND *Equality Diversity and Inclusion Monitoring* sections of this form before 09:00 (GMT) on Friday 17 January 2025. Please do not submit your application at this stage - just enter the requested information and save the application. We will contact you shortly after 17 January with details of your proposed mentor. *Please Note: We will only share your name and email address with mentors. Other personal information will be kept confidential and used by the DTP office if we need to prioritise applications according to the eligibility scheme criteria. Full details of the mentoring scheme are on the DTP website <https://research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems/about-us/equality-diversity-inclusion/applicant-mentoring-scheme/>

How did you FIRST hear about the FoodBioSystems DTP studentships?

- FindaPhD.com
- word-of-mouth (lecturer)
- Email from lecturer at my university
- word-of-mouth (friend/other student)
- FoodBioSystems DTP website
- Aberystwyth University website
- Brunel University website
- Cranfield University website
- University of Lincoln website
- Queen's University Belfast website
- ...

Please indicate where you FIRST heard about the FoodBioSystems DTP (please select those that apply).

Please provide details about your education by completing the section below. You should include postgraduate (if applicable), undergraduate and school level qualifications.

This information will be shared with relevant project supervisors and the award selection panel for the purposes of assessing your application.

The minimum qualification we require is a 1st or upper 2nd class degree in a subject appropriate to the PhD projects applied for. Applicants with a lower class of Bachelors degree will also be considered if they have good performance at the Masters level ("merit" or above).

If you have an international qualification, please check the degree course eligibility information provided by the host universities **before** you submit your application: [Aberystwyth University](#), [Brunel University](#), [Cranfield University](#), [Queen's University Belfast](#), [University of Reading](#), [University of Surrey](#).

Postgraduate Qualifications

- Yes
- No

Do you have or are you studying for a postgraduate qualification?

Undergraduate Education Institution

Please enter the name of the university where you undertook undergraduate training.

FBS25-04-Mehat-sq: Developing Phage Therapy to Combat Drug-Resistant Poultry Pathogens

FBS25-05-Oni-sr: AI-Based Acoustic Monitoring in Turkey Poults for Productivity, Health and Welfare

FBS25-14-Wheatley-qa: Mapping the farmscape of antibiotic resistance: metagenomes, antibiotic resistance genes, and mobile genetic elements

FBS25-15-Tocmo-rq: Designing next-generation plant-dairy hybrid ingredients to support gut health and immunity

FBS25-17-McCarthy-bc: Engineering Bacteria for Enhanced Degradation of Food-Associated Plastic Waste

FBS25-20-Elliott-sr: Beyond bone health: How does vitamin D protect our DNA?

FBS25-21-Troisi-bs: Antimicrobial Resistant Genes (ARG) & Pollutants – from Seabed to Seafood Platter

FBS25-24-Edwards-aq: Awakening the dormant soil microbiome

...

The project number and title are on the advert or on the FoodBioSystems website (<https://research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems/apply-for-a-foodbiosystems-phd/for-phd-students-2/#P4>)

How do your academic qualifications prepare you for this project?

100 words

NOTES:

- 1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting
- 2) Do not describe your research skills in this answer - this is covered in the next question

****Please summarise how your academic qualifications and background prepare you for this specific project.**** e.g. What aspects of your degree or other academic experience are relevant to this project?

Project specific skills & experience (example 1)

75

NOTES:

words

- 1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting
- 2) Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form)

****Please describe example/s of research skills and experience (gained in one organisation or role) that are relevant to this specific project.**** NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * how the experience or skills prepare you for this project ****Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:**** **_I** worked as an analytical chemist at 'y' company doing (describe task) and developed skills in (describe technique). These will be useful to this project because or **_During** my BSc/ MSc dissertation I undertook laboratory research and developed skills in (describe techniques). These will be useful to this project because or **During** a summer vacation project I conducted a research project on (describe project topic) and developed skills in (describe skills). These will be useful to this project because ****Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills (example 1)

paid employment

- student placement
- BSc project/dissertation
- BSc vacation research project
- MSc project
- voluntary work
- other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills relevant to this project? (example 1)

▼

- Employer
- Degree awarding university
- Placement or project host
- Voluntary work host
- Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 1)

▼

- less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 4-5 years
- more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of research experience?

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience

Project specific skills & experience (example 3)

(optional) 75 words

NOTES:

- 1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting
- 2) Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form)

****Please describe example/s of research skills and experience (gained in one organisation or role) that are relevant to this specific project.** NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * how the experience or skills prepare you for this project **Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:** _I worked as an analytical chemist at 'y' company doing (describe task) and developed skills in (describe technique). These will be useful to this project because or _During my BSc/ MSc dissertation I undertook laboratory research and developed skills in (describe techniques). These will be useful to this project because or During a summer vacation project I conducted a research project on (describe project topic) and developed skills in (describe skills). These will be useful to this project because **Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills (example 3) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

▼

- paid employment
- student placement
- BSc project/dissertation
- BSc vacation research project
- MSc project
- voluntary work
- other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills relevant to this project? (example 3)

(optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

▼

- Employer
- Degree awarding university
- Placement or project host
- Voluntary work host
- Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 3)

(optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

less than 6 months

6-12 months

1-2 years

2-3 years

4-5 years

more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of research experience related to this project? (optional)

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience related to this project

If you are applying to TWO projects please complete this section. The information will be sent to project supervisors for shortlisting (supervisors do not know which other projects candidates apply to)

Notes:

- You must provide one example and may provide up to three other examples that demonstrate your research skills and experience that are relevant to this specific project.
- The experience and skills may have been gained from paid employment, training placement, undergraduate summer project, MSc research project, BSc research project, voluntary work.
- If there are questions unanswered in this section, the project's supervisory team cannot consider your application.

Please select the project you are applying for.

(optional)

This question is not optional if you are applying to a second project.

FBS25-02-Prada-sq: Future-proofing livestock health by quantifying the burden of disease and benefits of sustainable interventions

FBS25-03-KeveiZ-ca: Genomic Selection to accelerate raspberry breeding

FBS25-04-Mehat-sq: Developing Phage Therapy to Combat Drug-Resistant Poultry Pathogens

FBS25-05-Oni-sr: AI-Based Acoustic Monitoring in Turkey Poults for Productivity, Health and Welfare

- BSc project/dissertation
- BSc vacation research project
- MSc project
- voluntary work
- other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills relevant to this project? (example 1) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are applying to a second project.

▼

- Employer
- Degree awarding university
- Placement or project host
- Voluntary work host
- Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 1) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are applying to a second project.

▼

- less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 4-5 years
- more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of research experience? (optional)

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience

Project specific skills & experience (example 3)

(optional) 75

NOTES: words

- 1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting
- 2) Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form)

****Please describe example/s of research skills and experience (gained in one organisation or role) that are relevant to this specific project.** NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * how the experience or skills prepare you for this project **Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:** _I worked as an analytical chemist at 'y' company doing (describe task) and developed skills in (describe technique). These will be useful to this project because or _During my BSc/ MSc dissertation I undertook laboratory research and developed skills in (describe techniques). These will be useful to this project because or During a summer vacation project I conducted a research project on (describe project topic) and developed skills in (describe skills). These will be useful to this project because **Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills (example 3) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

- paid employment
- student placement
- BSc project/dissertation
- BSc vacation research project
- MSc project
- voluntary work
- other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills relevant to this project? (example 3)

(optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

- Employer
- Degree awarding university
- Placement or project host
- Voluntary work host
- Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 3)

(optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

less than 6 months
6-12 months
1-2 years
2-3 years
4-5 years
more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of research experience related to this project? (optional)

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience related to this project

Please tell us about your general research experience and skills.

This information will be assessed by relevant project supervisors and the award selection panel.

Notes:

- You must provide at least one example and can provide up to three other examples of research experience to demonstrate your research and technical skills.
- The experience and skills may have been gained from paid employment, training placement, undergraduate summer project, MSc research project, BSc research project, voluntary work.

Do not describe project specific skills/techniques or transferable skills in this section. We will ask more about these in other sections of the application form.

General research experience and technical skills (example 1)

75
words

NOTES:

- 1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting **AND** by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed
- 2) Do not describe project specific skills/techniques or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).

Word limit = 75

****Please describe example/s of general research experience and technical skills (gained in one organisation or role).**** General research skills and experience may include technical skills (such as experimental design, practical hands-on laboratory or fieldwork skills), data management, data analysis or academic skills (such as ability to extract key information from literature, technical report writing) NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * how the experience or skills prepare you for pursuing a PhD with the FoodBioSystems DTP ****Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:**** _I worked as a (name role) at 'y' company doing (describe task) and developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ or _As a student, I developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ or _During a summer vacation project I conducted a research project on (describe project topic) and developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ ****Do not describe project specific skills/techniques or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills (example 1)

paid employment
student placement
BSc project/dissertation
BSc vacation research project
MSc project
voluntary work
other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills? (example 1)

Employer
Degree awarding university
Placement or project host
Voluntary work host
Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 1)

▼

less than 6 months

6-12 months

1-2 years

2-3 years

4-5 years

more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of general research experience and technical skills?

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience

General research experience and technical skills (example 3)

(optional) 75

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

words

NOTES:

1) This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting **AND** by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed

2) Do not describe project specific skills/techniques or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).

Word limit = 75

****Please describe example/s of general research experience and technical skills (gained in one organisation or role).**** General research skills and experience may include technical skills (such as experimental design, practical hands-on laboratory or fieldwork skills), data management, data analysis or academic skills (such as ability to extract key information from literature, technical report writing) NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * how the experience or skills prepare you for pursuing a PhD with the FoodBioSystems DTP ****Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:**** **_** I worked as a (name role) at 'y' company doing (describe task) and developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ or _As a student, I developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ or _During a summer vacation project I conducted a research project on (describe project topic) and developed skills in (describe skill). These will be useful as a PhD researcher because_ ****Do not describe project specific skills/techniques or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills (example 3) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

▼

paid employment

student placement

- BSc project/dissertation
- BSc vacation research project
- MSc project
- voluntary work
- other

Please indicate what type of experience enabled you to gain these skills

Where did you gain these skills? (example 3) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

- Employer
- Degree awarding university
- Placement or project host
- Voluntary work host
- Other

Please indicate where you gained these skills. NOTE: we want to know the type of organisation - not the name of the organisation

How long was this experience? (example 3) (optional)

This question is not optional if you are providing a 3rd example of experience/skills

- less than 6 months
- 6-12 months
- 1-2 years
- 2-3 years
- 4-5 years
- more than 5 years

Please indicate the approximate length of time that you spent gaining this experience

Would you like to enter another example of research experience related to this project? (optional)

yes

no

Please indicate if you would like to enter another example of research experience related to this project

APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR TWO PROJECTS

If you have applied for two projects, please indicate your project preference on this page. This information will not be shared with supervisory teams

2025 Project preference 1 (optional)

FBS25-02-Prada-sq: Future-proofing livestock health by quantifying the burden of disease and benefits of sustainable interventions

FBS25-03-KeveiZ-ca: Genomic Selection to accelerate raspberry breeding

FBS25-04-Mehat-sq: Developing Phage Therapy to Combat Drug-Resistant Poultry Pathogens

FBS25-05-Oni-sr: AI-Based Acoustic Monitoring in Turkey Poults for Productivity, Health and Welfare

FBS25-14-Wheatley-qa: Mapping the farmscape of antibiotic resistance: metagenomes, antibiotic resistance genes, and mobile genetic elements

FBS25-15-Tocmo-rq: Designing next-generation plant-dairy hybrid ingredients to support gut health and immunity

FBS25-17-McCarthy-bc: Engineering Bacteria for Enhanced Degradation of Food-Associated Plastic Waste

FBS25-20-Elliott-sr: Beyond bone health: How does vitamin D protect our DNA?

FBS25-21-Troisi-bs: Antimicrobial Resistant Genes (ARG) & Pollutants – from Seabed to Seafood Platter

FBS25-24-Edwards-aq: Awakening the dormant soil microbiome

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If you are applying for two projects, please indicate your first choice project here.

2025 Project preference 2 (optional)

FBS25-02-Prada-sq: Future-proofing livestock health by quantifying the burden of disease and benefits of sustainable interventions

FBS25-03-KeveiZ-ca: Genomic Selection to accelerate raspberry breeding

FBS25-04-Mehat-sq: Developing Phage Therapy to Combat Drug-Resistant Poultry Pathogens

FBS25-05-Oni-sr: AI-Based Acoustic Monitoring in Turkey Poults for Productivity, Health and Welfare

FBS25-14-Wheatley-qa: Mapping the farmscape of antibiotic resistance: metagenomes, antibiotic resistance genes, and mobile genetic elements

FBS25-15-Tocmo-rq: Designing next-generation plant-dairy hybrid ingredients to support gut health and immunity

FBS25-17-McCarthy-bc: Engineering Bacteria for Enhanced Degradation of Food-Associated Plastic Waste

FBS25-20-Elliott-sr: Beyond bone health: How does vitamin D protect our DNA?

FBS25-24-Edwards-aq: Awakening the dormant soil microbiome

FBS25-21-Troisi-bs: Antimicrobial Resistant Genes (ARG) & Pollutants – from Seabed to Seafood Platter

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If you are applying for two projects, please indicate your second choice project here.

Other projects of interest (you can select up to three projects) (optional)

- FBS25-02-Prada-sq: Future-proofing livestock health by quantifying the burden of disease and benefits of sustainable interventions
- FBS25-03-KeveiZ-ca: Genomic Selection to accelerate raspberry breeding
- FBS25-04-Mehat-sq: Developing Phage Therapy to Combat Drug-Resistant Poultry Pathogens
- FBS25-05-Oni-sr: AI-Based Acoustic Monitoring in Turkey Poults for Productivity, Health and Welfare
- FBS25-14-Wheatley-qa: Mapping the farmscape of antibiotic resistance: metagenomes, antibiotic resistance genes, and mobile genetic elements
- FBS25-15-Tocmo-rq: Designing next-generation plant-dairy hybrid ingredients to support gut health and immunity
- FBS25-17-McCarthy-bc: Engineering Bacteria for Enhanced Degradation of Food-Associated Plastic Waste
- FBS25-20-Elliott-sr: Beyond bone health: How does vitamin D protect our DNA?
- FBS25-24-Edwards-aq: Awakening the dormant soil microbiome
- FBS25-26-Garratt-rc: Optimising above and belowground ecosystem services for sustainable crop production
- ...

You may select up to THREE other projects that are of interest to you. We may use this information to contact you about vacant projects - if you are on the reserve list

Can the DTP contact you about any other projects advertised for 2025 studentships? (optional)

- Yes - you may contact me about other DTP funded projects that might be of interest to me
- No - I do not wish to be contacted about other projects

If you are not offered a studentship for your preferred project/s. Can the DTP contact you about any other advertised DTP projects that may be of interest to you?

Can supervisory teams contact you about other potential projects? (optional)

- Yes - supervisory teams can contact me about potential projects (not DTP funded) that might be of interest
- No - do not contact me

If you are not awarded a DTP studentship for your preferred project. Can the supervisory teams contact you about other (not DTP funded) projects that may be of interest to you?

Please answer the questions in this section to demonstrate that you have the qualities required in a successful FoodBioSystems PhD student.

Each answer has a 200-word limit.

Your experience may have been gained during:

- Paid employment
- Work experience
- Volunteering
- In connection with a hobby / leisure activity
- Education
- In other aspects of your life

Good answers will address all parts of the question and will use examples that:

- Will allow you to explain in some detail what **you** personally did
- Had clear outcomes (if the outcome was not entirely successful, you can reflect on learnings from the experience)

Organisation

200

NOTE: This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting **AND** by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed

Word limit = 200

Please describe one or two examples of how you have managed your time (or organised yourself) to complete a task. If the task was not successfully completed, please indicate how you would approach the task differently in future. ****Competency we are assessing:**** * Organising own time to balance different aspects of PhD training and research to deliver the project and submit the thesis within the studentship funding period.

Teamworking

200

NOTE: This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting **AND** by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed

Word limit = 200

Please describe a time when you have worked in a team, explain your role(s) in the team, and give one example of a positive aspect and one negative aspect of working with that team. ****Competencies we are assessing:**** * Working effectively with other people; sharing information, resources and support.

Interpersonal / communication

200

NOTE: This answer will be assessed by project teams during shortlisting **AND** by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed

Word limit = 200

Please give two examples that show how you have communicated effectively with other people (please use two different situations). ****Competencies we are assessing:**** * Communicating effectively with different people (e.g. scientists, students, colleagues, general public, clients/customers). * Respecting the needs, responses and opinions of others.

Problem solving / resilience

200 words

NOTE: This answer will be assessed by selection panel reviewers if you are interviewed

Word limit = 200

Please tell us about a time that you faced a challenging situation – how did you manage it and what was the outcome?

****Competencies we are assessing**** * Tackling problems or challenges effectively and finding ways to identify suitable short-term or long-term solutions. * Recovering from setbacks and learning from them.

What is your motivation for undertaking PhD research with the FoodBioSystems DTP?

100 words

Word limit = 100

Please explain why you are motivated to pursue a PhD, including why you chose FoodBioSystems DTP.

The DTP is committed to providing equity of opportunity to all. Please help us monitor our equity and diversity performance in selection of doctoral research candidates by answering the questions below.

Applicants to the FoodBioSystems DTP are considered solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of age (subject to the university regulations on minimum age), disability, gender reassignment, marital or civil partner status, pregnancy or maternity, race (to include colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin), religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation (“Protected Characteristics”).

Data supplied in this section WILL NOT be shared with any person involved in the assessment and selection of students.

The information provided by all applicants will be anonymised and used to monitor the DTP's EDI performance in applicant selection and for reporting to our funding body (UKRI).

If your application is successful, and you enrol on a PhD programme, we will share the following information with UKRI (our funding body): sex registered at birth, gender identity, religion, ethnicity, country of nationality, indication of disability. This data will only be processed by UKRI to evaluate their funding from an equality, diversity and inclusion perspective.

Gender

	▼
Male	
Female	
Non-binary	
Other	
Prefer not to disclose	

Please indicate your gender.

Age

	▼
24 or under	

25-29
30-34
35-39
40-44
45-49
50-59
60 or over

Prefer not to disclose

Please specify your age range.

Nationality

5 words

Please indicate your nationality.

Ethnicity

▼

Arab

Asian

Black

Chinese

Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups

White

Prefer not to disclose

Other

Please select the ethnicity that applies to you.

Disability

▼

No known disability

Known disability

Unsure

Prefer not to disclose

Please indicate whether you have a disability

Please attach your supporting documents:

- Official transcripts of your higher education qualifications, inclusive of grades
- If English is not your first language, please submit evidence of your proficiency in English. If you do not currently have these documents available to upload, you can provide them at a later date. We may contact you for further information if your application is shortlisted.
- If you have completed a degree or higher degree in a course that was taught in English this may be sufficient evidence of your language proficiency

Please note:

- If your application is successful, and English is not your first language, you will need to meet language proficiency requirements at the university that will be hosting the PhD Studentship (the university where the project lead supervisor works). For more information, please check the relevant university website:

[Aberystwyth University](#)

[Brunel University](#)

[Cranfield University](#)

[University of Lincoln](#)

[Queen's University Belfast](#)

[University of Reading](#)

[University of Surrey](#)

• Material may be supplied as follows:

Upload JPEG or PDF files. Maximum file size is 5MB per piece. A maximum of five pieces can be uploaded with your application.

- Do not upload your CV, it will be deleted and not be seen by anyone involved in the selection process.
- Applications not supported by evidence of higher education qualifications WILL NOT be eligible for consideration. If you are unable to provide this before the closing date, please contact the FoodBioSystems DTP office foodbiosystems@reading.ac.uk