

Sample form, not for offline completion.

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

In-Year Student Applications

Applications to FoodBioSystems DTP during academic year

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.

Please confirm your eligibility as a home student. You may be required to show evidence of your residency status at a later stage of your application.

Please note that we will only process this application if you are eligible to pay UK university fees at home student rate and meet residency requirements

- I am a UK National and meet residency requirements
- I am an Irish Citizen and meet residency requirements
- I have settled status in the UK (applicants from EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein only).
- I have pre-settled status in the UK and meet residency requirements (applicants from EU, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein only).
- I have indefinite leave to remain in the UK or enter

International students are not eligible for DTP funding on this occasion. If you need a visa to study in the UK and/or are not eligible to pay UK university fees at home student rate, we will not process your application. For information about eligibility for UK home fees status please see: For studentships in England (Brunel, Cranfield, Reading, Surrey): <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/eligibility-for-home-fee-status-and-student-support-in-england/> For studentships in Belfast: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/eligibility-for-home-fee-status-and-student-support-in-northern-ireland/> For studentships at Aberystwyth: <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/eligibility-for-home-fee-status-and-student-support-in-wales/>

Academic Referee's email address

Please provide your referee's email address. We will email them to ask for a reference if your application is shortlisted, so please ensure that they have agreed to be your referee and are available to provide a reference in February.

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 tick the box below if you would like to apply to the Guaranteed Interview Scheme. (optional)

Please note, applicants who request a guaranteed interview must meet the eligibility criteria (listed to the right of this question) and:

- Have achieved (or will achieve by autumn 2024) an upper 2nd class honours degree (or equivalent) in a subject appropriate to the PhD project applied for. Candidates with a lower 2nd class bachelor's degree, but a good performance at master's level (merit or above) will also be considered.
- Provide full written answers to all questions about academic background, research and transferable skills in this application form. These answers will be assessed and taken into account when awarding the studentship. Please see the assessment criteria for further details <https://research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems/apply-for-a-foodbiosystems-phd/for-phd-students-2/#P4a>

Yes, I request a guaranteed interview.

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_)

Where did you hear about the FoodBioSystems DTP studentships? (optional)

- My university website
- FoodBioSystems DTP website
- University of Reading website
- FindaPhD.com
- word-of-mouth (lecturer)
- word-of-mouth (friend/other student)
- BBSTEM website
- Twitter
- Other

Please indicate where you 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.

UG Education Institution Country

In which country is the university where you studied your undergraduate qualification?

Undergraduate Qualification Type

Please enter the level/type of degree.

Undergraduate Qualification Subject

What course/degree subject did you study?

Undergraduate Course Start

When did the course start?

Undergraduate Course End

When does/did the course end?

Undergraduate Course/Degree Result

What result did you (or do you expect to) achieve?

Undergraduate Qualification Status

Achieved

Expected

Is this result achieved or expected?

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.

What general research experience and technical skills do you have that prepare you for pursuing a PhD with the FoodBioSystems DTP?

400 words

****Please briefly describe your relevant research skills and experience, these 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 and research presentation).** Your answer must include * an outline of the skills or experiences * the organisation where you obtained the experience and developed your skills * what type of experience it was (e.g. dissertation project, work experience, paid employment) * the length of time of the experience (e.g. number of months for a project, number of months or years in employment). Examples of how to demonstrate your skills: _I delivered a research project on x during a six month placement at z company. I developed skills in_ or _During my undergraduate dissertation I developed skills in 'x' and 'y' whilst doing_ IMPORTANT: do not include project specific skills and experience - this will be provided in project application section.**

What is your motivation for choosing the FoodBioSystems DTP?

100 words

Please explain why you are motivated to pursue a PhD with the FoodBioSystems DTP, including why you chose us rather than another PhD programme.

Please complete this section. The information will be sent to project supervisors for shortlisting.

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 **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.

Project (a)

▼

FBS2024 - 048-Landahl-cr

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

Not available

...

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

Academic background (a)

100 words

****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? NB: do not describe your research skills in this answer - this is covered in the next question.)

Project specific skills & experience (a)

100 words

****Please describe your research skills and experience that are relevant to this specific project.**** NB Your answer must include: * an outline of the skills or experiences * the organisation where you obtained the experience and developed your skills * what type of experience it was (e.g. dissertation project, work experience, paid employment) * the length of time of the experience (e.g. number of months for a project, number of months or years in employment). ****Examples of how to demonstrate your skills:**** _I worked for 'x' months as an analytical chemist at 'y' company doing and developed skills in 'z' technique_ or _During my undergraduate dissertation on ..., I completed 'n' months of laboratory research and developed skills in 'x', 'y' and 'z' techniques._ ****Do not describe general research or transferable skills in this answer (they are covered in other sections of the form).****

Ambitions (a)

150 words

****Please describe how your ambitions fit this specific project**.** (e.g. What interests you? What motivates you? How will doing this project help you achieve your career ambitions?)

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)

Organisational skills

200 words

Effective time management is very important to the successful completion of a PhD. Tell us about one or two strategies that you have used to manage your time when completing a task and how you will apply these to a PhD.

Teamworking skills

200 words

Please describe a time when you've 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.

Problem solving / resilience

200 words

Tell us about a time that you faced a challenging situation – how did you handle it and what was the outcome?

Communication skills

200 words

As a postgraduate researcher, you will need to communicate with a range of people in different ways. Give us two examples which show how you have communicated effectively (please use two different situations).

Please answer the question below.

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

The UK food system faces several challenges. Give your view on how one such challenge has impacted work, life or community in the UK, and how you think research might have a positive impact on such a challenge. 200 words

You may relate your own experience to the topic when answering this question.

The DTP is committed to providing equality of opportunity to all. Please help us monitor our equality and diversity performance in selection of project proposals 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 proposals.

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

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.

Sexual Orientation

▼

- Bisexual
- Gay man
- Gay woman/lesbian

Heterosexual

Other

Prefer not to disclose

Please indicate your sexual orientation

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