

PREP period Oct-Dec 2023 (GW4 BioMed2 MRC DTP)

The Prep period is student-led and provides students with time to engage with all their supervisors and the project and refine it based on discussions and visits with people outside their immediate supervisory team.

Work on the PhD project will start in January 2024.

Meetings

1. HEI inductions in early October within each school/department/faculty/Doctoral training division. Covers topics including health and safety, ethics, local progression monitoring etc. Students will meet local university peers in their University cohort. Organised by relevant local body.
2. GW4 Orientation mid-October – new cohort only day 1, all years on day 2. Introduction to the DTP, some training and initial mentor/mentee meetings. Students will meet all students in all years. Organised by GW4.
3. HEI GW4 meeting in mid-November for all years – social event mainly with some HEI-specific information. Students will meet local students in all years. Organised by HEI leads.

Training

- A minimum of 3 placements Oct – Nov, arranged by supervisor and student as soon as they start but supervisors will be fore-warned in the summer this will happen so they can start to think about it. Funding will be provided if travel/accommodation is required.
 - One with a co-supervisor/co-supervisor's lab in a different HEI to ensure that there has been early interaction;
 - One with someone from a local cross-cutting theme/group that is important to the project;
 - One with a local collaborator or lab with relevant techniques.
- Each placement should be no longer than 2 weeks but could be shorter, e.g. for desk-based projects might be only one-two days. Only required to do one away from home University (co-supervisor) though can do more if relevant to the project.
- For some projects, it might be more useful to have more, short placements if the student wants to meet people in different labs/HEIs. Students could attend research group meetings locally or with their co-supervisor for example in another HEI.
- This time can also be used for project-specific training such as the course for a Home Office licence or learning a particular analysis method.
- Define project by writing an outline. Check all resources are available with supervisors. To be submitted in late December before Christmas with feedback in January from the supervisory team and relevant DTP theme leads (might be cross-over between themes).

N.B: Core training will now start in January so that the students can focus on other activities during Prep.

Project Outline:

- 2 pages for Year 1 to include:
 - Background
 - Research question/hypothesis, Aims, objectives
 - Implementation (including resources)
 - Expected outcomes
 - Risks, and contingency plans to deal with them.
- 1 page outline of potential research studies in years 2 and 3, showing where these are contingent on year 1 outcomes.