

Professional Internships to Support UKRI-BBSRC Strategic Analysis and Communication of Impacts from Research Projects Focused on Tackling Global Challenges

An opportunity exists for two Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) placements within the International team of UKRI-BBSRC, with a focus on International Development. This role will support the team to:

- a) Compile evidence of impact arising from awards across a range of programmes focused on tackling global challenges
- b) Disseminate impacts through digital platforms
- c) Collate evidence-based insights to support development of future UKRI strategies

This role will provide the intern with the opportunity to gain an insight of programme and strategy development within BBSRC and across UKRI (and potentially other partner organisations including Government Departments) and science communication, including writing for the web.

Background to International Development and Global Challenges Research at UKRI-BBSRC

Through UKRI's international programmes, UK researchers are able to collaborate with the best scientists overseas and work across nations to tackle global challenges such as food security and climate change. and ensure that there is impact from our research, skills and innovation. The International Team at BBSRC work with a range of funding agencies and organisations, located both in the UK and overseas, to ensure that the UK is a partner of choice for research, and for BBSRC specifically, a partner of choice for biosciences research. The two roles will be based within the International Team, focusing on biosciences research, skills and innovation for public good in developing countries.

The UK Bioscience in a Global Context booklet highlights BBSRC's research internationally:

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/bbsrc-international-uk-bioscience-in-a-global-context/>

UKRI-BBSRC is one of the UK Government's delivery partners for the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and the Newton Fund. The GCRF and Newton Fund are Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by low- and middle-income countries through:

- Equitable partnerships
- Challenge-led disciplinary and interdisciplinary research
- Strengthening capacity for research and innovation within both the UK and low- and middle-income countries
- Providing an agile response to emergencies where there is an urgent research need

Information on GCRF and the Newton Fund can be found on this website:

[Newton Fund & Global Challenges Research Fund](#)

As part of GCRF there are six strategic Challenge Portfolios, led by Challenge Leaders, and embedded within UKRI's Research Councils through a cross-UKRI network of Challenge Managers:

- Global Health
- Food Systems (embedded within BBSRC)
- Security, Protracted Conflict, Refugees and Forced Displacement
- Education
- Resilience to Environmental Shocks and Change
- Cities and Sustainable Infrastructure

BBSRC has a large portfolio through GCRF and the Newton Fund which spans the key BBSRC Strategic Challenge Areas of 'Sustainable Agriculture and Food', 'Bioscience for an Integrated Understanding of Health' and 'Bioscience for Renewable Resources and Clean Growth'. More information on BBSRC's priorities can be found in the Forward Look:

[Forward Look for UK Bioscience](#)

Role and Benefits for the PIPS Interns

The internship will provide an opportunity to gain an insight of approaches for scientific communication, evaluation, analyses, and synthesis to inform future strategy for UKRI funded Research and Innovation internationally. Whilst there are two separate projects, both Interns will work collaboratively, providing the opportunity to build skills and competencies in the areas of project management, communication skills, stakeholder engagement, team working and strategic thinking. Working in a small and dynamic team each project's deliverables will be discussed and agreed at the start of the placement and Interns will have the opportunity to co-create the project based on their own knowledge and skills, providing this is in keeping with the wider needs of the team.

Project One

One Intern will be focused on the development of case studies across the BBSRC international development portfolio.

- Gather and curate evidence of the impact of BBSRC investments focused on tackling global challenges using data-driven analytical tools and/or personal engagement (e.g. interviews or surveys) with key stakeholders (e.g. academics, international organisations)
- Work collaboratively with the UKRI and BBSRC Communications and Public Engagement teams to write clear and concise descriptions of complex scientific concepts understandable by the general public, reflecting current strategic priorities, for digital case studies
- To work collaboratively with the second PIPS Intern to co-create and motivate the progress of each project with the supervision of the wider team, recognising the benefits of peer-to-peer support and learning, and remaining reflexive and responsive to the progress and needs of each other and the team to achieve the agreed project deliverables by the end of the placement.
- Contribute proactively to the wider work of the BBSRC International Team, as well as wider cross-UKRI networks and opportunities for development, as appropriate

Project Two

One Intern will be focused on developing insights from the GCRF food systems portfolio impacts and identifying opportunities for external communication and UKRI strategic development.

- Synthesising the widespread impacts from GCRF investments into a versatile dataset and summarised report or slide set, identifying the potential opportunities for dissemination or engagement with key stakeholders, as well as evidence-based insights which could contribute to future strategy development. This will involve:
 1. Compiling a dataset and creating visualisations of impacts arising from the GCRF food systems portfolio. This will involve using data-driven analytical tools and skills in collaboration with UKRI's data team
 2. Identifying the potential opportunities for further dissemination of portfolio outputs e.g. food systems events, days or summits in 2022

3. Identifying key stakeholders who could amplify dissemination of our research outputs and communications material to support the development and delivery of our stakeholder engagement and communications strategy
4. Identify the potential opportunities for portfolio outputs, insights or case studies to contribute to UKRI strategy development
 - To work collaboratively with the second PIPS Intern to co-create and motivate the progress of each project with the supervision of the wider team, recognising the benefits of peer-to-peer support and learning, and remaining reflexive and responsive to the progress and needs of each other and the team to achieve the agreed project deliverables by the end of the placement.
 - Contribute proactively to the wider work of the BBSRC International Team, as well as wider cross-UKRI networks and opportunities for development, as appropriate

Recruitment and Selection

This position will be possible to complete remotely (providing you are based within the UK) or at Polaris House in Swindon, where a hybrid of the two is possible.

UKRI-BBSRC is committed to encouraging equality and diversity among our staff and eliminating unlawful discrimination. The aim is for UKRI-BBSRC to be truly representative of all sections of society and to showcase the strengths of an inclusive and diverse workforce. We welcome applications from all sections of the community and promote equality of opportunity in accordance with the Equality Act 2010.

To apply for this PIPS placement please complete the attached application form and return it to pips@bbsrc.ac.uk by **5th November 2021**. Interviews will be held the week of **15th and/or 22nd November 2021** by Zoom. You should ideally be available to start your placement in **January 2022, but this can be negotiated**.

Questions about this placement can be directed to Heather Alford at Heather.Alford@bbsrc.ukri.org