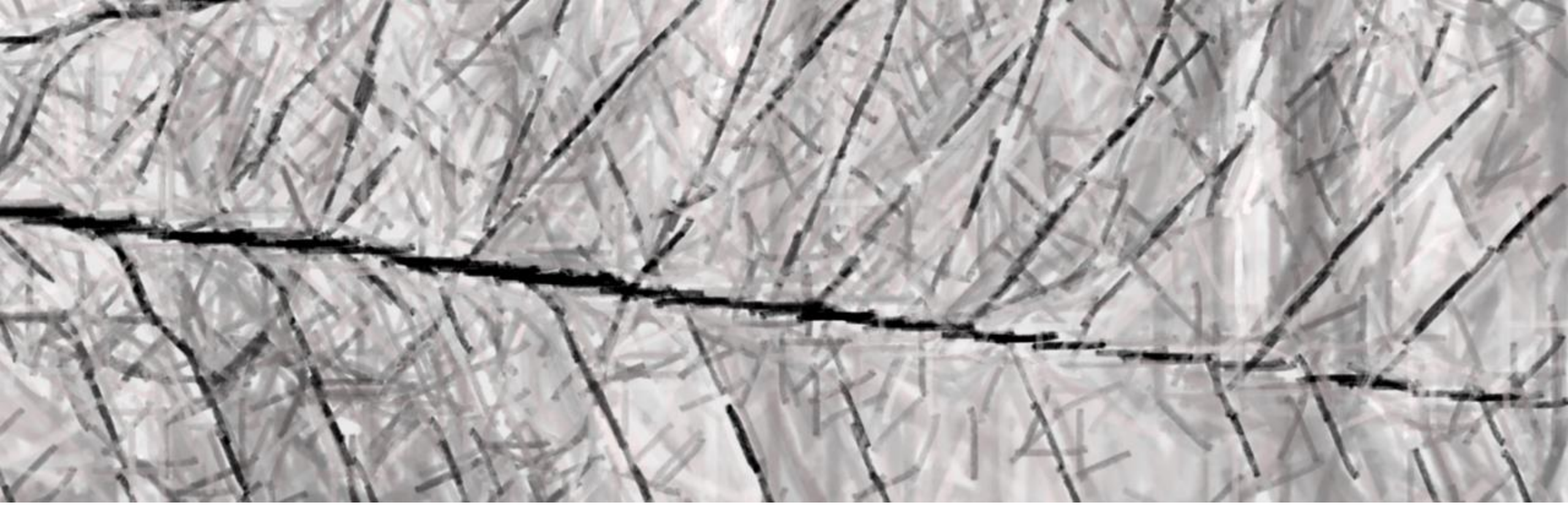


Presented by the MIBTP Directors

29/09/2026

MIBTP
Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership

MIBTP Doctoral Researchers' Welcome



Overview

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. MIBTP Partnership
3. Your Studentship
4. Programme Plan
5. Quantitative Skills Training
6. Other Year 1 Elements
7. Doctoral Landscape Training Network
8. Future Training Elements
9. Q&A



Induction Week Timetable

Tuesday 29th September

- Welcome from Directors
- Welcome from Student Reps
- Introduction to Speed PhD:
  - Group Work 1: Initial Ideas, Literature Review
  - Group Work 2: First year progress report

Wednesday 30th September

- Continuation of Speed PhD:
  - Group Work 3: Data Collection and Analysis

Thursday 1st October

- Continuation and conclusion of Speed PhD:
  - Group Work 4: Final research/writing up/paper writing
  - Group Work 5: Writing a paper for publication
  - Group Work 6: Produce CV for post-doc job
  - Debrief

Welcome



MIBTP Directors

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Vardis Ntoukakis

Erin Gorsich

Richard Puxty







Aston University

Alice Rothnie

Mariaelena Repici





University of Birmingham

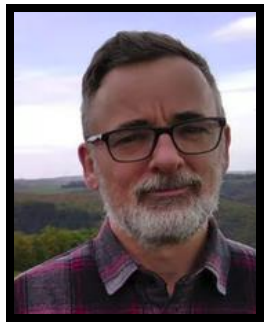
Florian Busch

Yin Chen









Coventry University

Jennifer Greaves

Mark Harrison



Harper Adams University

Martin Hare

University of Leicester

Jonathan McDearmid

Celia May





MIBTP Administrators

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Lead Partner Institution

Kelly Chennery

DTP Programme Manager



Vickie O'Brien

Liam Allen

Navdeep Birdi

Carla Hale

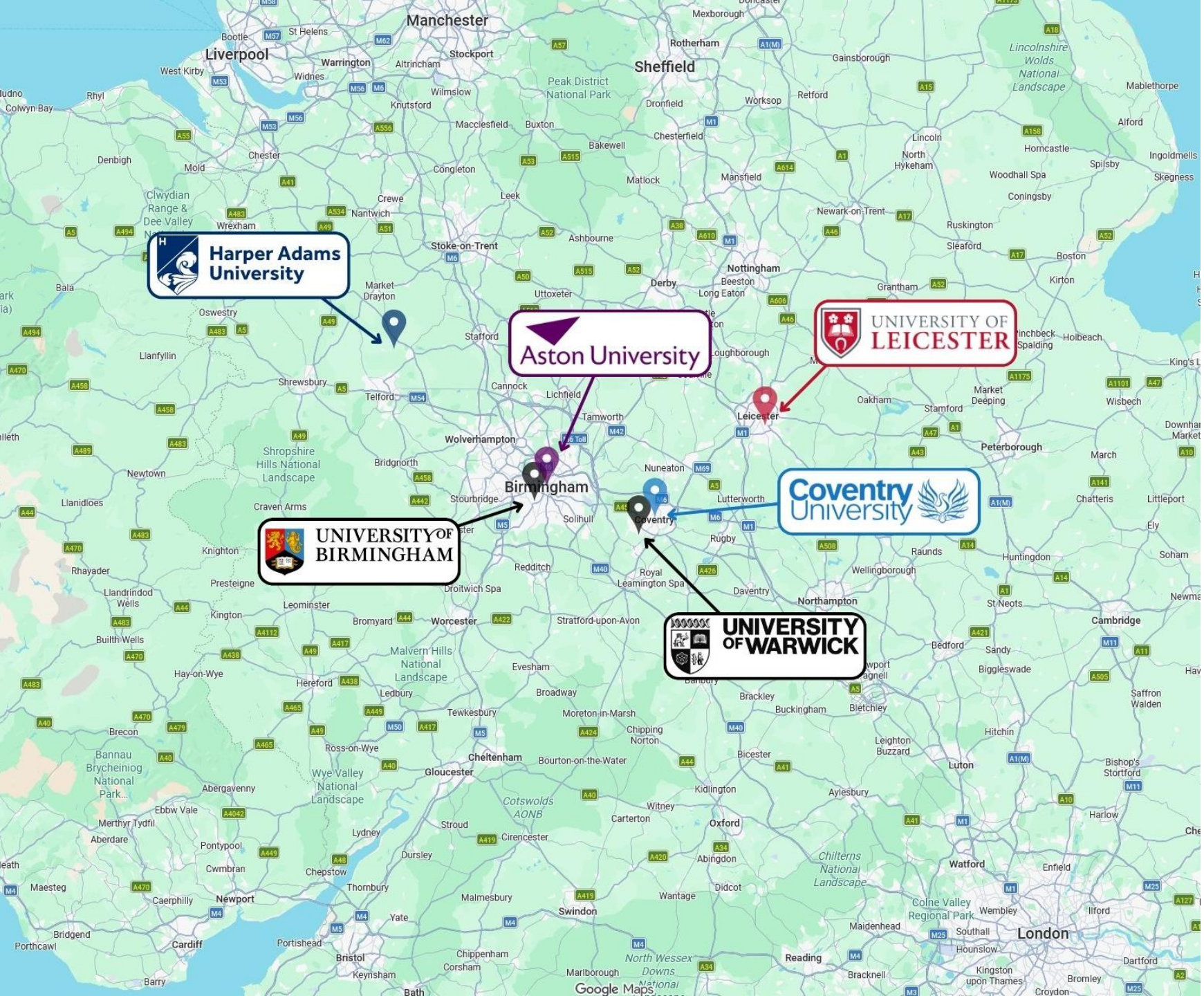
Gill Pilfold — Aston University

Abi Hall — University of Birmingham

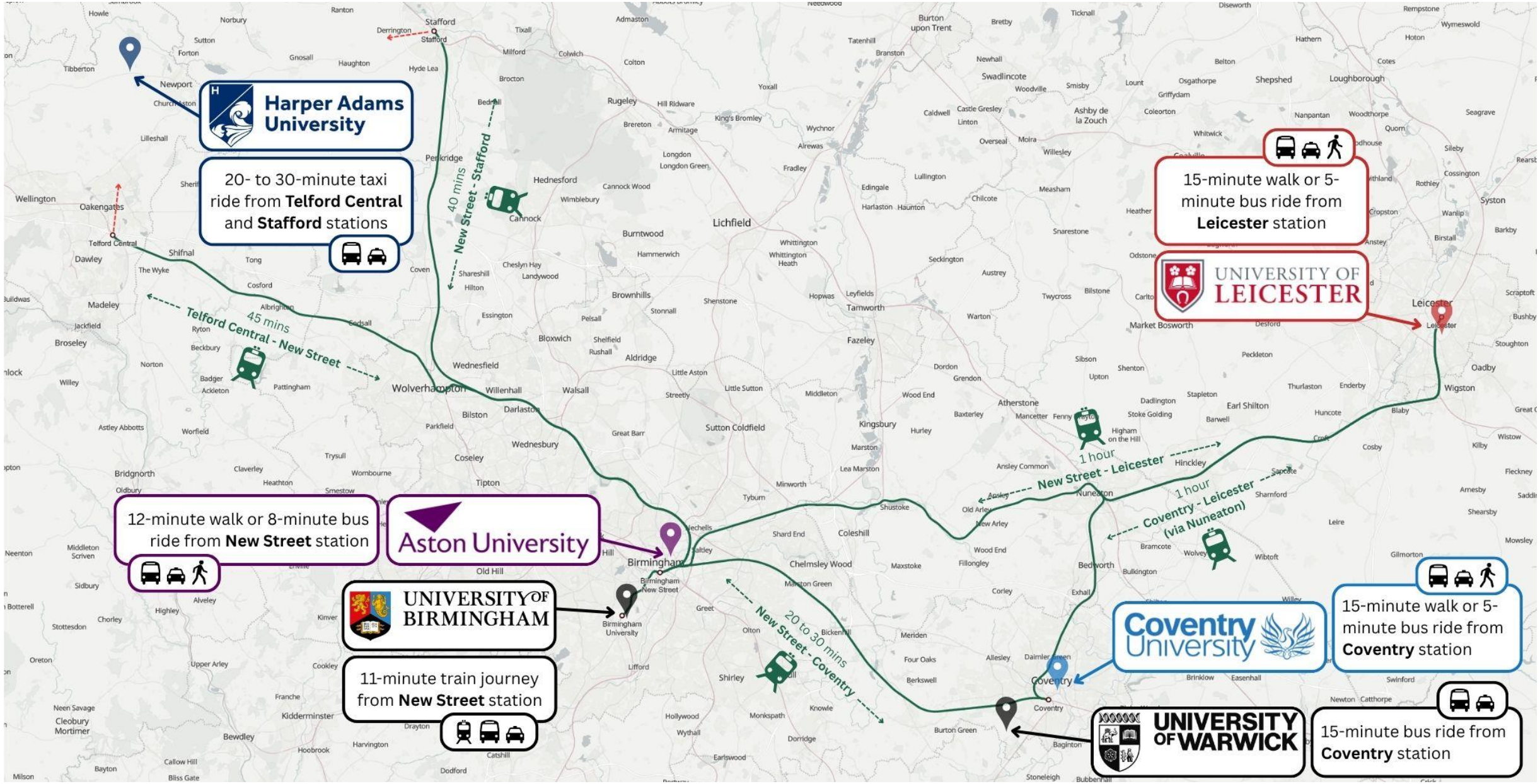
Anna Welton, Kate Choudhry — Coventry University

Matthew Greenwood — Harper Adams University

Lisa Finch — University of Leicester



Location of Partner Universities



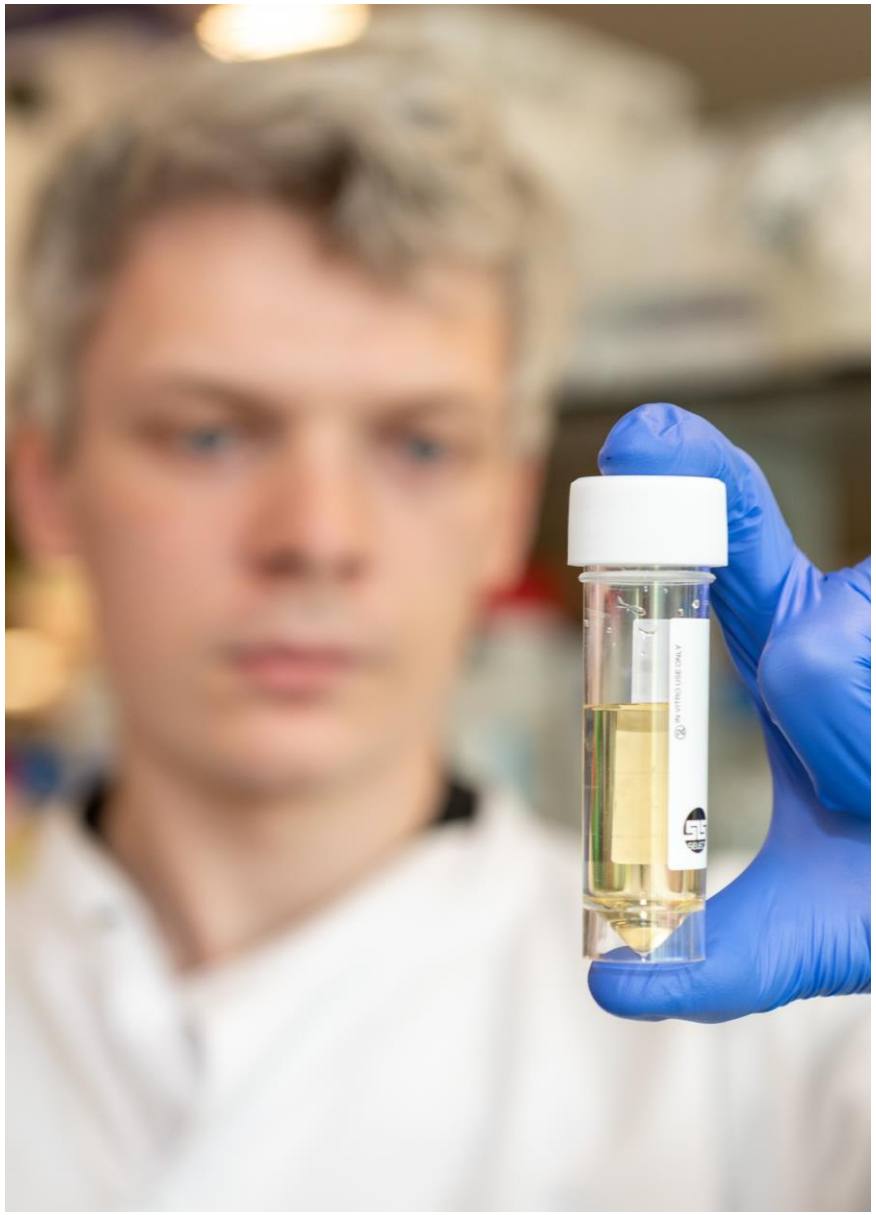
Travelling between Partner Universities

Your Studentship

Sustainable Agriculture and Food	Understanding the Rules of Life	Renewable Resources and Clean Growth	Integrated Understanding of Health
35%	35%	10%	20%

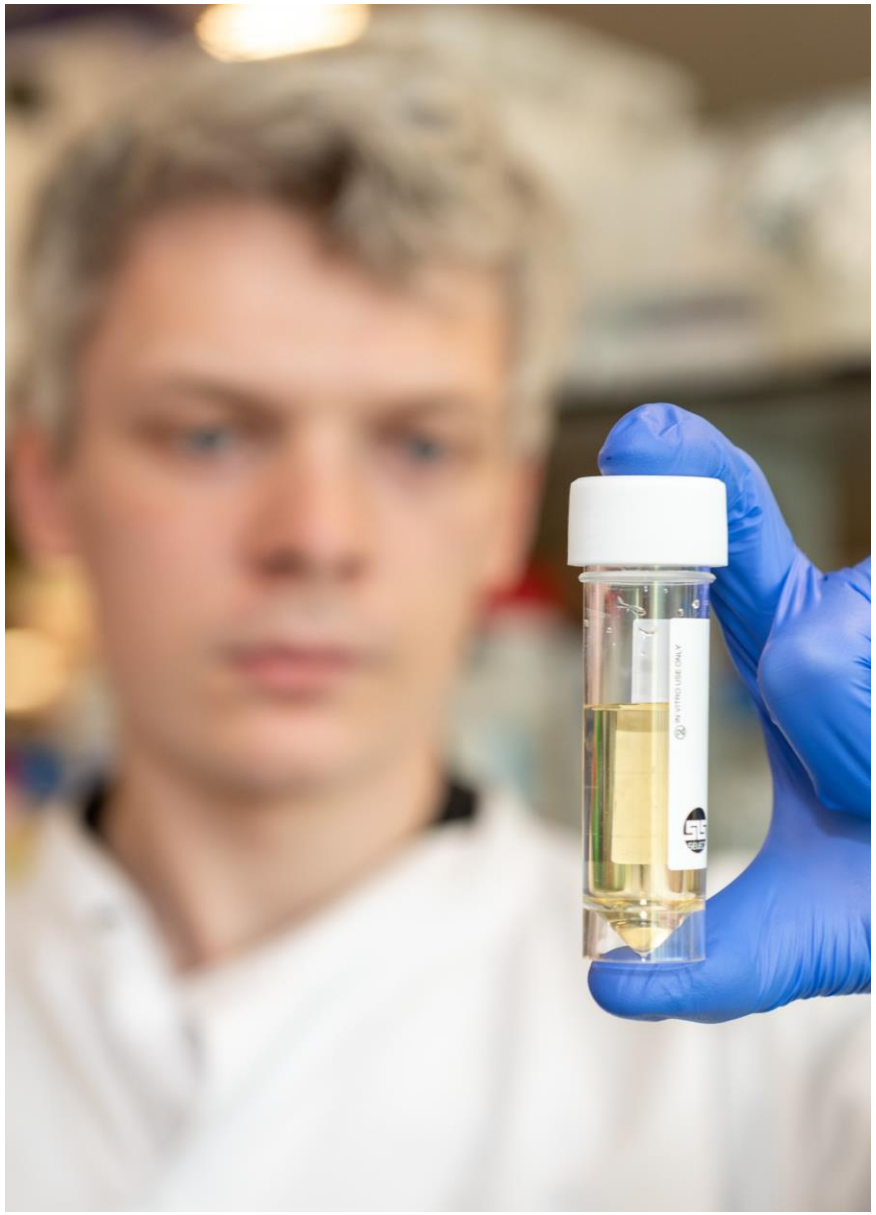
Future Bioscience Impact

Our Post-graduate Researchers (PGRs) benefit from diverse, cutting-edge training and research; they learn to communicate, inform and influence. They form networks and gain leadership and team skills. Our PGRs undertake placements to widen their knowledge and experience.



Your Studentship

- **Your studentship is aligned to a specific project and supervisory team.**
- The value of your studentship is:
  - Full tuition fees paid directly.
  - A tax-free annual stipend (**£21,805** in academic year 2026/27), paid monthly in advance.
  - A travel allowance over years 1 – 3 (value depends on institution – consult your handbook).
  - A consumables budget (**£13,900** for wet-lab projects, **£5,000** for dry-lab projects).
  - A travel / conference budget of **£1,000**.
  - Use of a MacBook Air for the duration of the programme (**University property, must be returned at end of PhD!**).
- Regular advisory panel meetings and reporting structure.
- **You must submit your thesis within 4 years of starting your PhD training** – 30th September 2030.
- PhD proposals should aim to exploit “new ways of working” and have two supervisors – preferably from different disciplines.



MIBTP Webpage





Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership

Training the next generation of quantitative bioscientists

New tools, new technologies.

Aston University

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

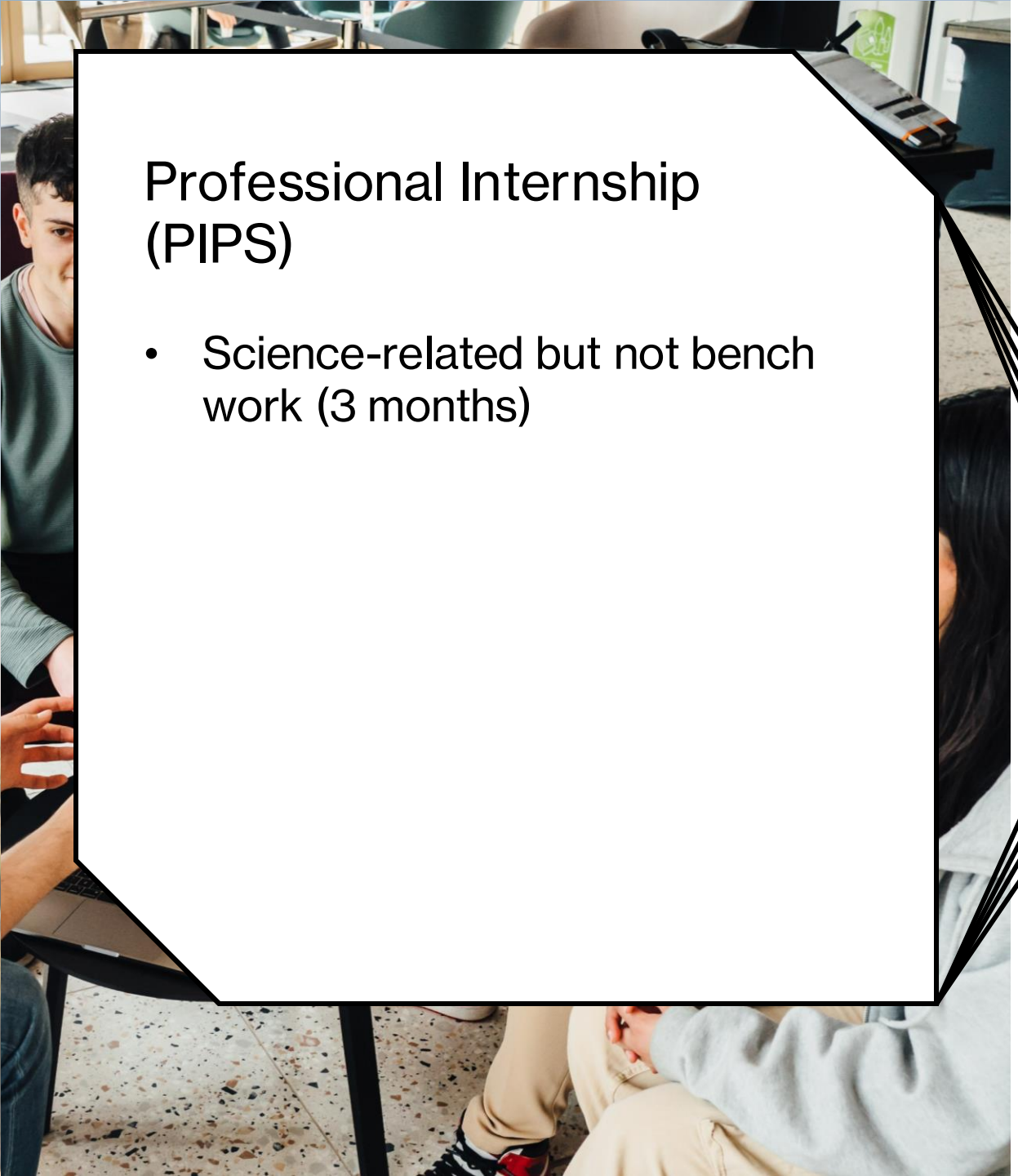
Coventry University

MIBTP
Midlands Integrative Biosciences Training Partnership

Harper Adams University

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



Professional Internship (PIPS)

- Science-related but not bench work (3 months)

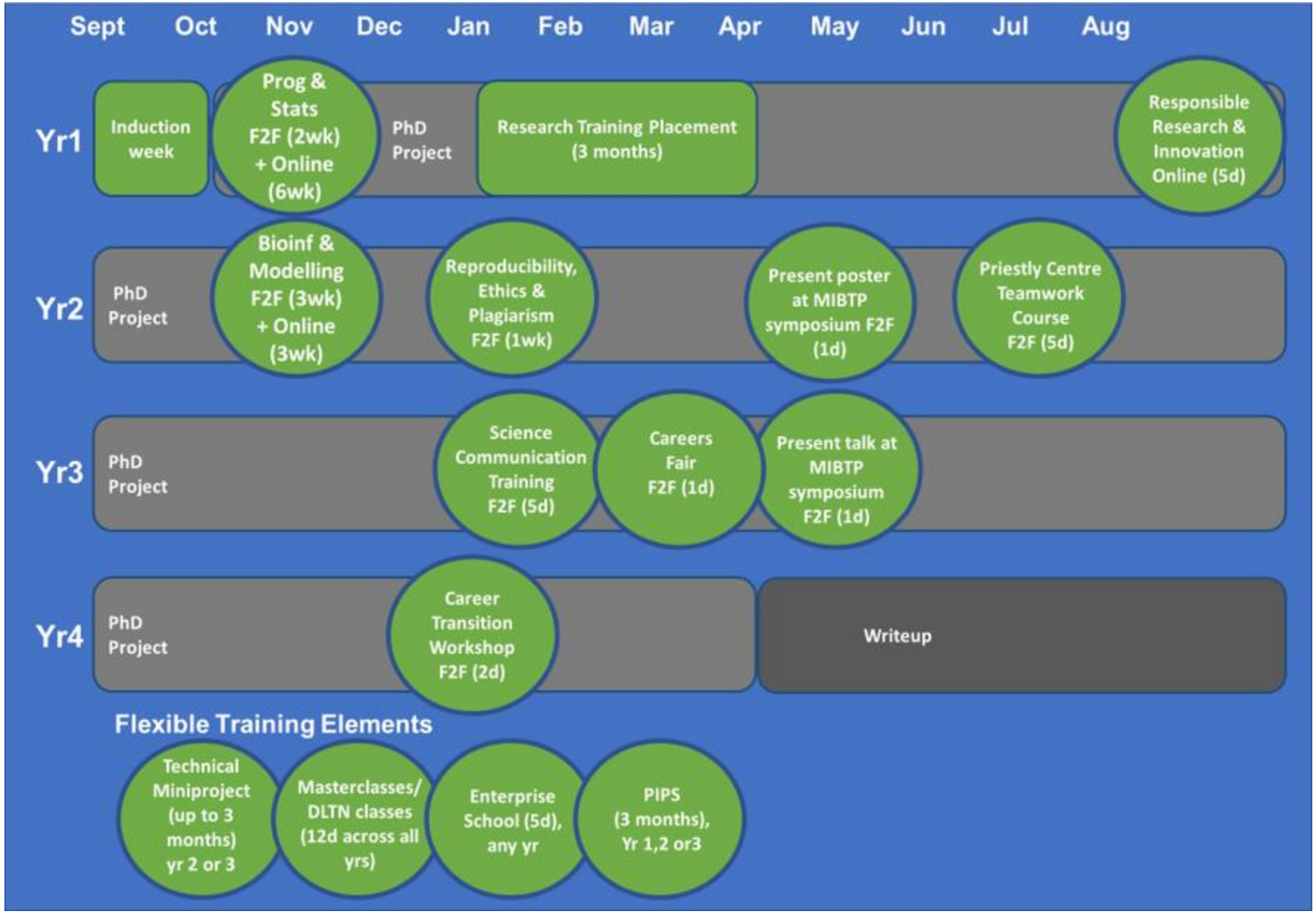
General programme plan

Students will undergo structured training throughout their PhD, including an intensive induction at the University of Warwick.

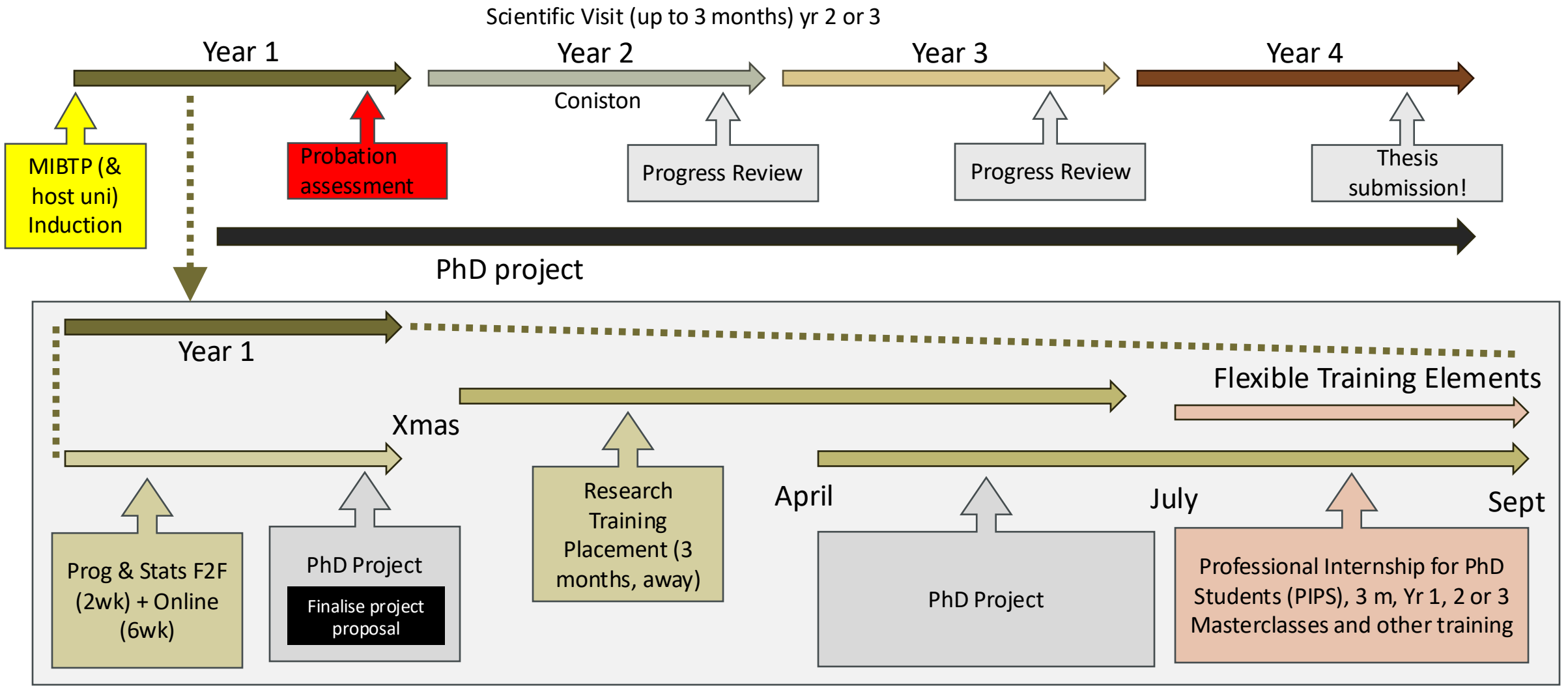
- Quantitative skills training
- Other MIBTP training
- Placement projects
- Professional Internship (PIPS)
- Development needs analysis
- Transferable skills training
- Team-work training (Coniston)
- PGR Symposia

Structured Training Plan

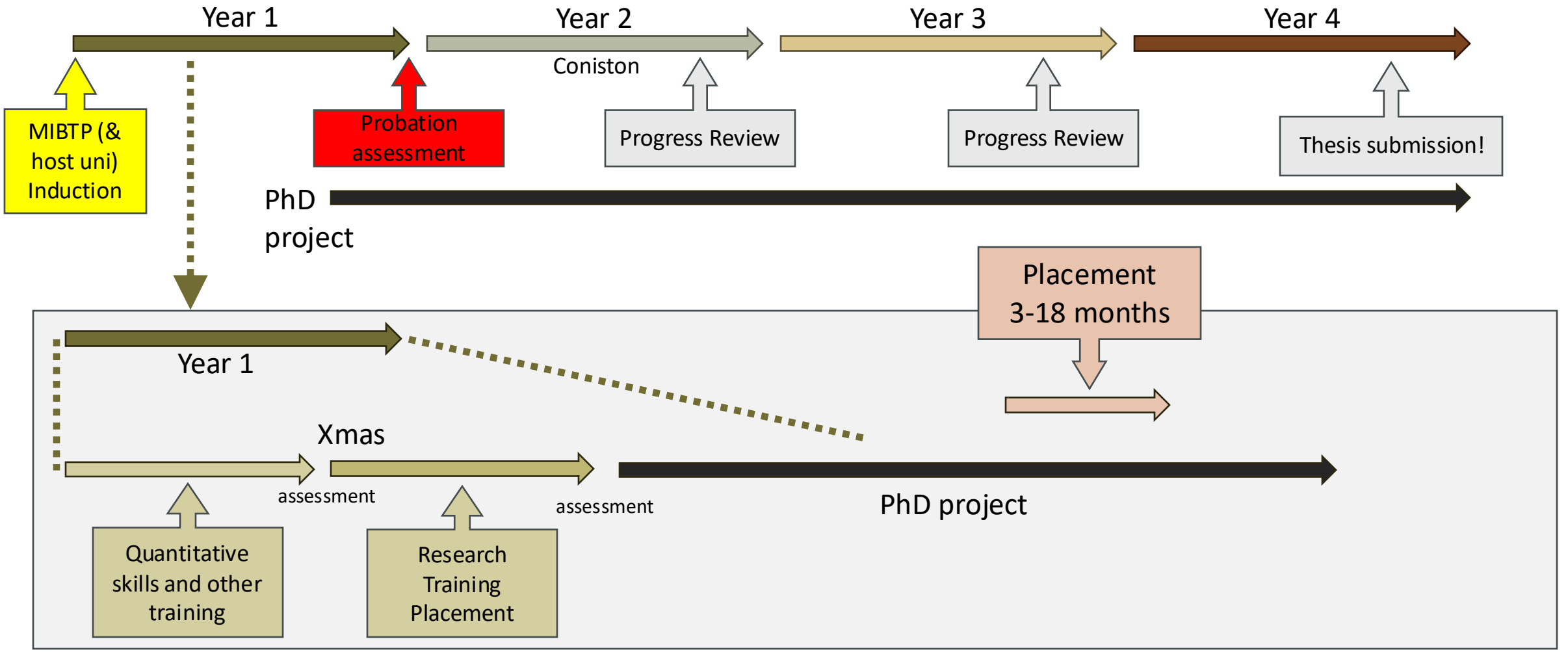
N.B. All training elements are compulsory



Timeline Year 1



Timeline Year 1 (CASE)



Quantitative Skills Training (Year 1)

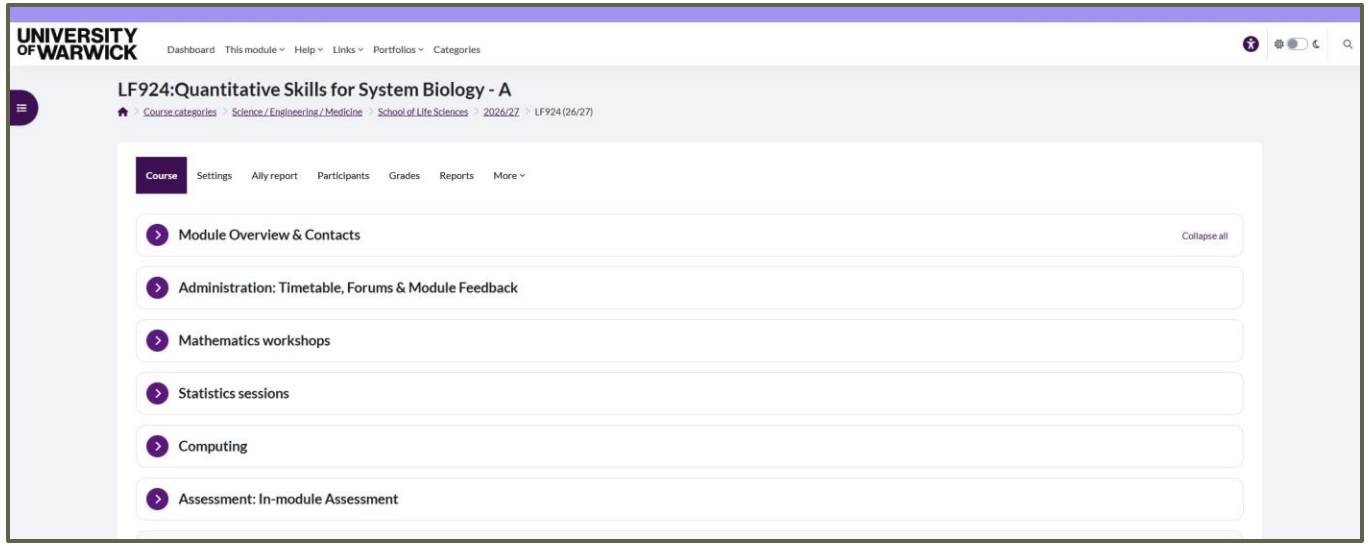




Programming & Statistics

1 week each of material, interwoven

Hybrid – 2 weeks in-person and 4 days online over 4 weeks



Research Training Placement

- Must be at a partner university
- Must be 3 months long and started by 1st June
- Developed and organised by PGR student to be your own research
  - Discuss with PhD supervisor and design it to train you for your PhD
  - **OR** choose something that really interests you and you want to learn
- MIBTP have lists of previous mini-project supervisors



Assessments

- Training modules will be assessed by a written, online exam in Year 1; or coursework and a group in Year 2.
- Assessed poster based on you PhD.
- No other training elements are assessed; Masterclasses are pass/fail

Overall pass mark for training each year = 50%

(But we expect higher scores)

Ultimately, those who fail will be asked to leave MIBTP (mitigating circumstances)



Professional Internship

- Not laboratory based (Science policy, funding, outreach, conservation, industry, commercialisation).
- Must be 3 months, but can be part-time or split.
- Flexible timing – but recommended in year 1.
- **Developed and organised by you!**

Chance to test a career option with no obligation, learn new professional skills... so be led by your interests. **CASE students** should aim to gain equivalent experience from Industrial Partner.

We have lists of previous PIPS partners and a list of professional offices within each University willing to host interns.

Masterclasses

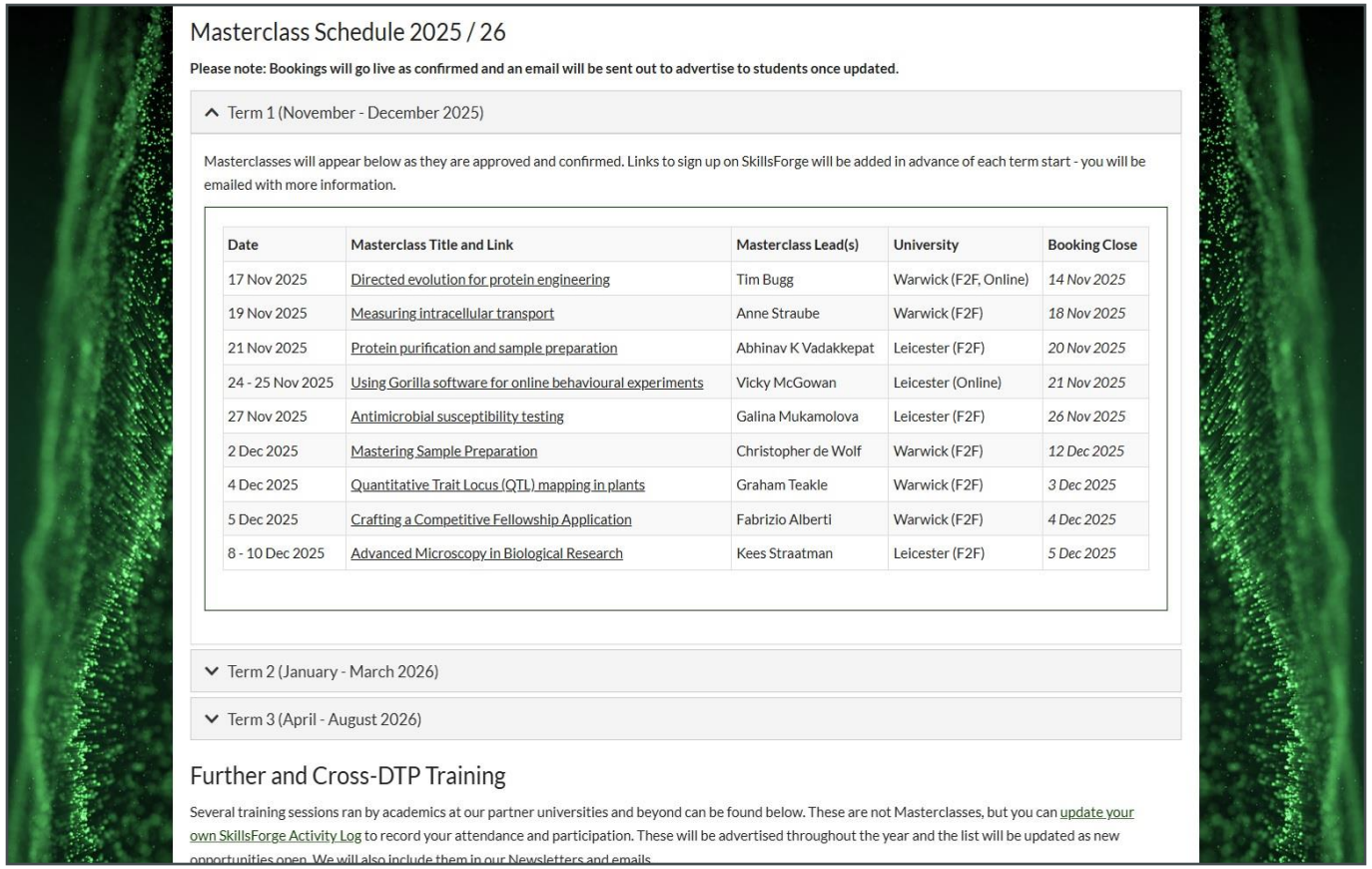
You need to book **12 days** of masterclasses across your PhD.

The list will be sent to you each term and masterclasses can be booked online via SkillsForge. They are first come, first served.

Masterclasses will start after your quantitative training.

Talk to your supervisor.

Masterclasses incorporate an exercise that all students complete in order to assess learning outcomes.



Masterclass Schedule 2025 / 26

Please note: Bookings will go live as confirmed and an email will be sent out to advertise to students once updated.

Term 1 (November - December 2025)

Masterclasses will appear below as they are approved and confirmed. Links to sign up on SkillsForge will be added in advance of each term start - you will be emailed with more information.

Date	Masterclass Title and Link	Masterclass Lead(s)	University	Booking Close
17 Nov 2025	Directed evolution for protein engineering	Tim Bugg	Warwick (F2F, Online)	*14 Nov 2025*
19 Nov 2025	Measuring intracellular transport	Anne Straube	Warwick (F2F)	*18 Nov 2025*
21 Nov 2025	Protein purification and sample preparation	Abhinav K Vadakkepat	Leicester (F2F)	*20 Nov 2025*
24 - 25 Nov 2025	Using Gorilla software for online behavioural experiments	Vicky McGowan	Leicester (Online)	*21 Nov 2025*
27 Nov 2025	Antimicrobial susceptibility testing	Galina Mukamolova	Leicester (F2F)	*26 Nov 2025*
2 Dec 2025	Mastering Sample Preparation	Christopher de Wolf	Warwick (F2F)	*12 Dec 2025*
4 Dec 2025	Quantitative Trait Locus (QTL) mapping in plants	Graham Teakle	Warwick (F2F)	*3 Dec 2025*
5 Dec 2025	Crafting a Competitive Fellowship Application	Fabrizio Alberti	Warwick (F2F)	*4 Dec 2025*
8 - 10 Dec 2025	Advanced Microscopy in Biological Research	Kees Straatman	Leicester (F2F)	*5 Dec 2025*

Term 2 (January - March 2026)

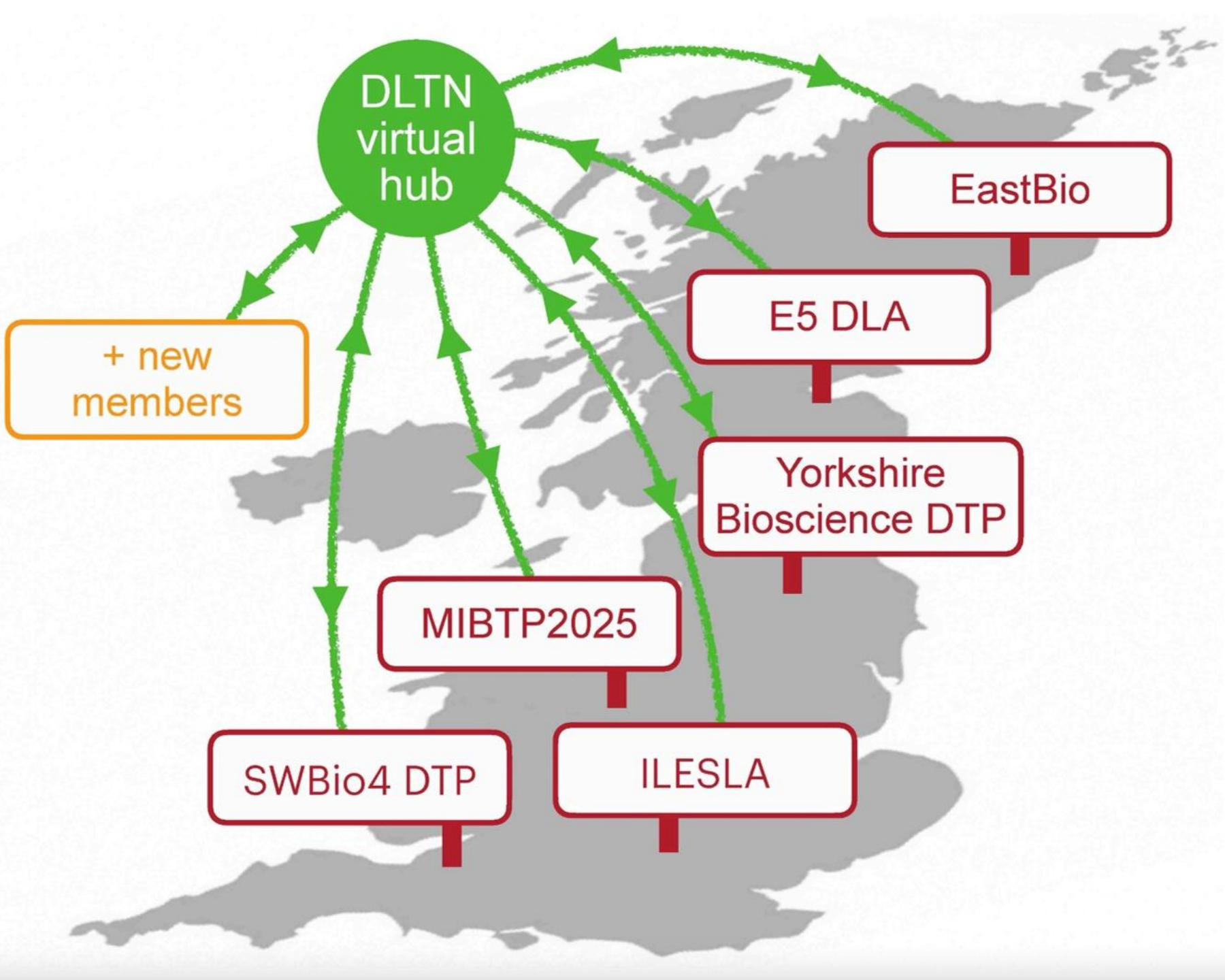
Term 3 (April - August 2026)

Further and Cross-DTP Training

Several training sessions ran by academics at our partner universities and beyond can be found below. These are not Masterclasses, but you can update your own SkillsForge Activity Log to record your attendance and participation. These will be advertised throughout the year and the list will be updated as new opportunities open. We will also include them in our Newsletters and emails.

Doctoral Landscape Training Network (DLTN)

Cross-link training opportunities across DTPs



Technical Mini-Project

(or technical skills mini-project or scientific visit)

- Can take place at any higher education institution or industry partner.
- **No more than** 3-month period.
  - Recommended in year 2 or 3.
- Developed and organized by you.
  - Discuss with PhD supervisor to design it to train you for your PhD.
- Designed for you to acquire:
  - New technical skills, techniques, resources or equipment not available in own group.
  - Aim to directly support PhD project progress.



Coniston











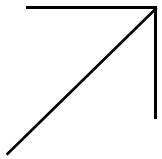
And finally…

If you run into problems…

- MIBTP Programme Manager
- MIBTP admin team
- Your local MIBTP administrator
- Your home university MIBTP Director
  - (Or any of the others)
- Your supervisor
- Your advisory panel
- Student support services

What now?

- Enjoy induction week.
- Get ready for two intense weeks of quantitative training.
- Think about the Research Training Placement and PIPS options.
- Identify masterclasses you would like to attend.
- Learn as much as you can about the research environment you are in.
  - Interact with your supervisors and their lab members.
  - Go to seminars.
  - Talk to other students.
- Remember that MIBTP is a great opportunity.
  - World class research, publication, community, transferable skills, friendships (some for life).
  - Make the most of it and enjoy!





Q&A