



MIBTP

Midlands Integrative Biosciences
Training Partnership

Training Handbook for Students

2026-27

Purpose of the Guide

This handbook provides information on training for all MIBTP students and is in conjunction with the Student Handbook.

Please note that information is also provided on the MIBTP [welcome pages](#), where any updates to information through the year will be posted.

Due to wholesale changes to the programme being introduced from 2025, it is possible that some of the information below may not be entirely up to date. While every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this guide is accurate, we apologise for any errors you may encounter. Where any discrepancy exists, the regulations of your registered university will have primacy over any other source of information.

Please note that the training was altered in 2025. If there is anything not covered in either this handbook or on the webpages listed above, please contact the MIBTP team directly by email - MIBTP@warwick.ac.uk.

Contents

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO MIBTP	4
OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT DATES	5
INTERACTIVE TRAINING PROGRAMME	6
1. INDUCTION	7
2. INTERACTIVE TRAINING	7
2.1 LF924 Quantitative skills module – Year 1	7
2.2 LF925 Quantitative skills module – Year 2	7
2.3 Responsible research and innovation	15
2.4 Science Communication	15
3. MINI PROJECT – RESEARCH TRAINING PLACEMENT	15
4. POSTER PRESENTATION	15
5. MASTERCLASSES	17
6. SCIENTIFIC VISIT	17
7. PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIP FOR PHD STUDENTS - PIPS	18
8. INFORMING UNIVERSITY OF CHANGES TO STUDY	19
9. COURSE WORK INFORMATION	20
9.1 Marking guidelines.	20
9.2 Coursework deadlines, penalties, and extensions	20
9.3 Interactive Training Score	21
9.4 Information sharing across the collaboration.	21
9.5 Plagiarism	21
10. COMPULSORY ACTIVITIES	21
10.1 Coniston – Year 2	21
10.2 Emerging Researcher Innovation Challenge (ERIC) – Birmingham	22
11. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	23
11.1 Professional Development plan	23
12. COHORT MEETINGS AND EVENTS	24
13. FURTHER YEARS	25

14. MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES	25
15. IMPORTANT INFORMATION	26
15.1 Laboratory safety and Lab coats	26
15.2 Printing	27
15.3 CONTACT DETAILS	28
Directors and Administrators	28
Module Leads	28
APPENDIX 1	29

Introduction and welcome to MIBTP

We are delighted to welcome you to the MIBTP programme, which will start on **Monday 28th September 2026**.

MIBTP has been running since 2012. Initially a collaboration between the universities of Birmingham, Leicester and Warwick, we have since welcomed Aston and Harper Adams universities (since 2020) and in 2025, Coventry University joined the partnership.

The MIBTP has an ambitious vision to deliver innovative, world class research training across the Life Sciences. We aim to boost the growing bioeconomy in the Midlands and across the UK.

PhD studentship projects are focused within vital research areas such as Sustainable Agriculture and Food, Understanding the Rules of Life, Renewable Resources and Clean Growth and Integrated Understanding of Health and use interdisciplinary and quantitative approaches to biology.

MIBTP studentships are fully funded and includes payment of fees, a tax-free annual stipend of at least £21,805 (to rise in line with UKRI recommendation), a travel allowance in years 1, 2 and 3, a travel / conference budget, a generous consumables budget, and use of a MacBook for the duration of the programme.

MIBTP is jointly funded by [UKRI-BBSRC](#) and the universities of Aston, Birmingham, Coventry, Harper Adams, Leicester, and Warwick.

Overview of important dates

Date	Activity
28 th September 2026	Induction Week/Speed PhD - Warwick
2 nd Oct-Dec 2026	Interactive Training - Warwick
17 th November 2026	Statistics Exam - Warwick
23 rd November 2026	Programming Exam - Warwick
April 2027	Attendance at MIBTP Symposium – Leicester
By 1 st May 2027	MP Submission Form
w/c 21 st June 2027	RRI Training – Aston
31 st August 2027	Poster Submission
13 th September 2027	Interactive Training - Warwick
28 th September 2027	MP Poster Presentation - Warwick
3 rd December 2027	Epimodelling Assignment Submission
3 rd December 2027	RNA-Seq Assignment Submission
December 2027	Ethics and Plagiarism Training
April 2028	Attendance at MIBTP Symposium- Poster – Coventry
June/July 2028	Residential Team Building - Coniston
End September 2028	Poster Session – Warwick (Optional)
January 2029	Science Communication Training - Leicester
January/February 2029	PGR Careers Fair - Leicester
April 2029	Attendance at MIBTP Symposium- Talk - Harper Adams
By June/July 2029	ERIC* - Birmingham
End September 2029	Poster Session – Warwick (Optional)
January/February 2030	Career Planning & Interview Skills Workshop - Leicester
April 2030	Optional Attendance at MIBTP Symposium – Aston
By September 2030	Scientific Visit
4pm 30 th September 2030	PhD Submission**

Please note: these dates are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.

*ERIC can be attended at any point during your PhD.

** This is dependent upon your university registration date.

Interactive Training Programme

MIBTP recognises the need for skills training, cohort development and professional internships. All students begin their training with 3 weeks of face-to-face training followed by 6 weeks of online training in computer programming and statistics. You will then complete your interactive training in your 2nd year with 3 weeks of face-to-face training and 3 weeks of online training in data science and data analysis.

Within your 1st year you will undertake a 3-month mini project at an 'away' university. This mini project can start anytime between 1st January and 1st June but must finish by 31st August. We do recommend that during your 1st year you undertake your Professional Internship for PhD Students (PIPS) placement, however, this can be undertaken at any time during the PhD. It is strongly advised that you complete your PIPS placement before your final year.

All students are also expected to undertake several masterclass training sessions, which can take place at any time during the PhD, as well as compulsory cohort training events. Details of this are provided within this training handbook.

1. Induction

MIBTP students are expected to attend induction the week before Warwick Autumn term starts (note that term dates are not the same for each university). Induction week will include some team building exercises, skills training, and presentation of posters by students finishing year 1, to allow contact between cohorts and introduce students to a range of research opportunities. For 2026 this is **w/c 28th September**. Final details will be sent to you before you join us. This information will also be uploaded to the induction page on the MIBTP intranet [welcome pages](#).

Please also note that from 28th September 2026 onwards, all communication will be by your University of Warwick email address.

2. Interactive Training

Our training includes rigorous, compulsory modules throughout the PhD programme and have been timed to ensure flexibility.

2.1 LF924 Quantitative skills module – Year 1

This will take place in term 1, **w/c 2nd October 2026**. Please see the [Moodle](#) page for up-to-date information. This module provides training in quantitative skills that you will use in your PhD projects. There are two elements to the module:

1. **Computer programming:** to provide you with basic knowledge of the programming language R and give you the skills and tools to be less dependent on existing software.
2. **Statistics:** to introduce you to statistical methods you will meet frequently in the biosciences, and provide you with tools to apply them yourself in R.

Please note that the computer programming and statistics modules are assessed by in person written exams.

2.2 LF925 Quantitative skills module – Year 2

This takes place **w/c 13th September 2026**. Please see the [Moodle](#) page for up-to-date information. This module provides training in quantitative skills that you will use in your PhD projects. There are two elements to the module:

1. **Data Science:** to introduce you to the core principles of machine learning and artificial intelligence and allow you to explore how these can be exploited in bioscience.
2. **Data analysis:** to allow you to apply your new programming skills to specific problems in bioinformatics and epidemiology.

Please note that the Data Science is assessed by group presentation (usually online) and Applied Analysis modules are assessed by 2 written assessments.

2.3 Responsible research and innovation

Students will explore the RRI toolkit and examine Citizen Science, Open Access, Public Engagement, Publication Ethics, Equality and Diversity and Gender Equality in research and innovation. This will be run by Aston University **w/c 21st June 2027** and will take place online. The exact dates will be communicated to you in good time.

2.4 Science Communication

This module will help students gain the skills and confidence required for effective science communication. A series of workshops will run **January 2029**, organised by the University of Leicester. Exact dates will be communicated to you as soon as we are able to.

3. Research Training Placement - Mini project

You will be expected to arrange your own mini project. You will need to find out more about research areas of interest and approach the supervisors you would like to work with to discuss projects in more detail. Your PhD supervisor will also be able to advise you. When making initial contact with a new supervisor, please copy your [local director](#) and the director at that university for their information.

You will be asked to submit the details of your chosen project via an online submission [form](#) at **least 1 month prior** to the start of your mini project. The administrator will prompt you when such information is required.

- A mini project is for approx. 3 months.
- MIBTP requires that your mini project is undertaken at a venue that is not your main university of registration (an “away” university).
- You have the freedom to choose any lab environment or technique you wish. The more active you are in devising the content of your mini-project with your chosen mini-project supervisor the more it should meet your personal development goals.
- It will be valuable to discuss mini-project choices with your main PhD project supervisor and decide together which skills will be most valuable to gain during the mini-project.
- Mini projects can start anytime between 1st January and 1st June but must be completed by 31st August.
- Please submit your mini project proposal for director approval at least 1 month prior to the start of your mini project.
- Each student will have access to a consumables budget of £750 per mini project.
- Assessment for the mini project is in the form of supervisor feedback which will be circulated to you with your poster feedback.

4. Poster Presentation

As part of your training, you will need to produce a poster for assessment.

MIBTP students:

- Posters should relate to your PhD projects.

CASE students:

- Posters should relate to your PhD project or time spent with their industrial collaborator; whichever is most relevant.

All students:

- Posters should be A1 in size and of portrait orientation. More information on the design of your poster can be found in Appendix 1. Your poster must be uploaded to the [MIBTP website](#) as a pdf with the filename Lastname_Firstname_poster.pdf (i.e. Smith_John_poster.pdf).
- The printing of posters will be arranged by the MIBTP team.
- Posters will be presented as part of the induction week activities for new MIBTP students (usually the last week of September).
- You will be graded on the visual impression of the poster (25%), scientific content (50%) and engagement during presentation / knowledge of topic (25%).
- Poster information can be found in the training section of the [MIBTP Intranet](#)
- Deadline for submission is 31st August 2027.

Typical poster sections include:

- Title, author(s), and affiliation(s)
- Abstract (include *only* if required)
- Introduction
- Objectives/Hypotheses/Aims/Questions
- Materials and methods
- Results
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements
- References (often required, but can be scaled down very small in size)
- Contact Information

Please remember to reference MIBTP, your registered university and BBSRC on your poster.

For more detail on designing a poster: [Poster Design - k.m.everson \(kmeverson.org\)](https://kmeverson.org)

5. Masterclasses

A series of bespoke masterclasses will be on offer throughout your PhD; these can be undertaken at any time to suit you. Masterclasses are a set of hands-on workshops in selected, advanced research skills and technologies. You will choose classes to suit your personal development needs. You must choose classes that deliver at least 12 days engagement, but you may choose as many as you wish, subject to availability and your timetable.

- There are Masterclasses hosted at all six Universities with instruction from world experts.
- These masterclasses will be as 'hands-on' as possible - you will participate wherever this is possible. You will be advised in advance of items (e.g., lab coats) you need to take with you.
- Some are short, one-day events, others are up to 3 days.
- Masterclasses will incorporate a compulsory exercise with a tangible output that allows the person running the masterclass to assess whether you have achieved the learning objectives of the class. You are expected to achieve a pass in the core masterclasses you undertake that add up to the minimum of 12 days.
- Masterclasses will be updated on the [MIBTP intranet](#) each term and you will be advised when they become available to book.
- Where masterclasses are held at Harper Adams University, the MIBTP team can help to arrange transport and accommodation for non-HAU students. We can also help HAU students with travel to other partner universities. Please sign up to the classes in the usual way and get in touch with MIBTP (MIBTP@warwick.ac.uk) to let us know what you need. If making your own way to HAU by car, there is ample and free car parking available.

You must only sign up for a masterclass if you are sure that you will be able to attend it. If you are signed up for a masterclass, and must miss it for a legitimate reason, you must notify the admin team immediately so that your space can be allocated to another student.

Masterclass feedback

We would appreciate feedback on the masterclasses that you attend, however brief, in order to help us make improvements in subsequent years.

We would also appreciate ideas of new masterclasses that may be helpful to you.

[Feedback forms](#) and [suggestion forms](#) can be found on the [masterclass](#) page of the MIBTP website. These forms are anonymous.

6. Scientific Visit

As part of your training programme, you will have the chance to go on a scientific visit. This can be undertaken at any point during your PhD at any higher education institute or industrial partner of MIBTP.

The aim is to spend time embedded in a lab to learn cutting edge techniques or use specialised equipment to generate data for your PhD thesis.

Please notify the MIBTP team that this has been undertaken.

7. Professional Internship for PhD students - PIPS

It is a BBSRC requirement that each student complete a [Professional Internship for PhD Students \(PIPS\)](#) in a professional employment environment. The PIPS must not relate directly to your PhD project or be scientific research, but you may go to a relevant company if you take on a role that is not research-led. A biochemist may go to a pharma company and take a role in marketing or HR, for example. **Your PIPS placement can be undertaken within any working environment (scientific or not) but MUST be focused on managerial, administrative, or organizational aspects and must NOT be a scientific lab-based research activity.**

The PIPS should be 3 months long and while most students undertake their PIPS during the training year the timing is flexible. ***It is not recommended that students undertake the placement in year 4 due to the intensive nature of the final year.***

- There is a growing list of prospective host organisations, ranging from educators, business development offices, communicators, policy makers etc. However, if you have your own contacts, or your own ideas, it is a great way to explore a career option without obligation whilst being paid your stipend. We will try hard to support you to secure a PIPS relevant to your interests and development needs.
- The MIBTP newsletter will also have a list of potential PIPS opportunities.
- PIPS opportunities are likely to be available in many areas of professional endeavour such as communications, policy, teaching, governance etc., not just industrial companies.
- **BBSRC offer 8 PIPS Placements for PhD students per year at their Swindon office; see the [BBSRC website](#) for further information.**
- PIPS are intended to help early career researchers understand the broader context and impact of their research and to enable them to explore the range of career opportunities in which they can apply their PhD skills and training after they graduate. Students will gain new transferable skills during their PIPS and develop connections with potential employers.
- Students must inform the MIBTP team of their proposed PIPS choice at least six weeks before the start date (and at least 3 months if planning your PIP abroad) via an [online submission form](#) so that it can be assessed for relevance.
- All students will continue to receive their stipend throughout the duration of their PIPS and will remain registered as a student at the university on the DLA. As a result, they must not be paid for their internship. PIPS hosts can contribute financially towards the cost of travel and accommodation associated with the placement if that support is available.
- Additional funding **up to a maximum of £1,000**, is available to students who incur exceptional expenses because of undertaking their PIPS. Please complete the relevant section in the submission form. **Please note that receipts will need to be submitted to the MIBTP admin team, and any monies not used must be repaid.**

- On completion of your placement, you will be required to complete a MIBTP report based on your PIPS experience. This will be a written report of between 2,000 and 3,000 words considering the following points:
 - The main objective of the placement
 - Your 3 main duties
 - Any negatives from the placement
 - Describe anything that you particularly enjoyed, found surprising or challenging during your PIPS placement.
 - Indicate the extent to which your PIPS placement gave you the opportunity to develop your skills in each of the following areas of the Research Development Framework (RDF). Please note that placements differ across sectors and may not provide opportunities to develop skills in all areas of the RDF. For further information on the RDF please see: [Researcher-Development-Framework-RDF-Vitae](#)
 - Did your PIPS placement help you to gain business and customer awareness?
 - Describe one output or achievement from your PIPS placement that can be shared with future employers; explaining why this is important.
 - To what extent has your PIPS placement changed your career aspirations?
 - How has your participation in the PIPS placement benefited or impacted your host organisation?
 - If you expect there to be any wider, longer-term benefits from your PIPS placement (these may include impacts on government, economic, social, technology, legislation etc) please describe them.
 - Anything else that feels important about the PIPS experience that you would like to add?
 - The title page should contain:
 - Surname
 - First name(s)
 - University number
 - Date of report
 - Name of PIPS Host
 - PIPS start date.
 - PIPS end date

This should be submitted by the last day of the final month of your project, via the [online submission form](#).

- All this information can be found in the training section on the [MIBTP intranet](#)

8. Informing University of changes to study

Aston University MIBTP students – PIPS and mini-project

It is a university requirement that all Aston postgraduate research students must secure approval from the relevant Associate Dean Research before taking part in off campus study, for example, PIPS or away mini projects. Please email the PGR Support Team pgr_general@aston.ac.uk in advance of arranging your off-campus study. If you are on a Tier 4 visa, you are also required to contact a member of the Visa Compliance Team, through The Hub (thehub@aston.ac.uk; telephone 0121 204 4007) to secure the

relevant permission for change of research location which we are required to report to the Home Office.

Harper Adams MIBTP students – PIPS and mini-project

Study away from the university e.g., as part of a PIPS or mini project must be agreed in advance by your Director of Studies, recorded appropriately and notified to the Postgraduate Research Office in line with standard university procedures.

Leicester MIBTP students – PIPS and mini-project

It is a Leicester University requirement that all students must seek permission from the University before taking part in off campus study, i.e., PIPS or mini project. Further information, and the form that you must complete can be found on [MyPGR](#).

Warwick MIBTP international students – PIPS and mini-project

It is a Warwick University requirement that a change of location form must be completed for **international students**, before they take part in a period of off campus study. You can do this via your student record on eVision. You should also complete a return to study location form on your return to Warwick.

9. Course Work information

9.1 Marking guidelines.

See Appendix 1 for marking guidelines.

9.2 Coursework deadlines, penalties, and extensions

Module leaders or MIBTP administration will clearly state deadlines for handing in assessed work to students. Unless a specific time is stipulated, this will be assumed to be 4pm on the specified date. Please see Table 1 for an overview of the significant dates.

Late submission of work will be penalised by **5 percentage points** per working day. "Marks" mean marks on a percentage scale. A late piece of work that would have scored 65% had it been handed in on time would be awarded 60 if it were one day late, 55 if two days late etc. A day is counted as a 24-hour period counting from the original published deadline. Penalties accrue only on working days (not on weekends, public holidays, and University closure days).

Coursework extensions can only be obtained under special circumstances (*i.e.*, illness or other personal circumstances). If you do require an extension, please email the [MIBTP team](#) in the first instance. A list of mitigating circumstances can be found later in the document (Section 14).

9.3 Interactive Training Score

Each module / element of the training requires a minimum of 50% to pass. To progress to the next year, you must pass all elements, and you will have the right to remedy failure.

At the end of your training, you will be given your interactive training score, mini project feedback and poster score.

Your progress during your training will be monitored closely and you will receive regular feedback. If you are not achieving the right standard, you will be given advice on how to remedy this. **Please note that your funding is at risk if you do not pass all elements.**

9.4 Information sharing across the collaboration.

Please note that scores and feedback from all assignments during training will be made available to your supervisors at their request. Application documents and CVs may also be shared between the collaboration, as will monitoring and progress information where relevant. This information will not be shared outside of the programme.

9.5 Plagiarism

Please familiarise yourself with institutional policies on academic misconduct and plagiarism. You will need to consult the policy the institution who will be examining the submitted piece of work. During your training year this will predominantly be at Warwick.

[University of Warwick – Regulation 11 - Academic Integrity](#)

[University of Leicester - Regulation 11 – Academic Misconduct](#)

[Aston University – Regulations on Student Discipline and Academic Offences](#)

[University of Birmingham – Regulations Section 8 – Student Conduct](#)

[Harper Adams University – Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct](#)

[Coventry University - Academic Regulations | Key Information | Coventry University](#)

If you are in any doubt as to whether the work you have produced would compromise these rules, then please talk to an MIBTP director or the module leader before submitting your work.

An Ethics and Plagiarism Training Course will be a compulsory element of the course. The details of the course will be relayed to you.

10. Compulsory Activities

10.1 Coniston – Year 2

In June/July of year 2 a residential team building course will take place at [The Raymond Priestley Centre](#) set in the Lake District just on the outskirts of Coniston.

This is a weeklong course from Monday to Friday, and you will pick 1 of 2 weeks. All accommodation, travel and food will be provided for you.

Coniston is about outdoor learning, developing working in a team, working with people of different abilities, working with people who have different ways of working or a different mindset.

[Coniston \(warwick.ac.uk\)](http://coniston.warwick.ac.uk)

A question-and-answer session will be organised before the event, and a group presentation will be required on your return.

10.2 Emerging Researcher Innovation Challenge (ERIC) – Birmingham

Formally known as the Postgraduate Innovation Challenge and the Postgraduate Enterprise Summer School the format was changed in 2025 and renamed to the Emerging Researcher Innovation Challenge.

The **Emerging Researchers Innovation Challenge** (ERIC) is delivered by the B-Enterprising team at the University of Birmingham.

Through a combination of practical thought provoking, skill testing and creativity inducing activities, you will work collaboratively with multidisciplinary students from across 6 universities to take on a unique challenge which has been designed for you.

It will require you to think laterally to produce viable solutions using your research knowledge and experience, enhance your communication skills and help you to apply new innovative principles.

Please see table below of the schedule in 2026.

Day 1 will focus on innovation-centred workshops and guest speakers with time to work in teams on the challenge.

Day 2 will focus on pitch refinement and pitching to a panel of judges.

Challenge details

Summary: Working in multidisciplinary teams, you will develop an innovative solution to a real-world challenge and pitch your idea to a panel of judges.

Task: Create an innovative product or service informed by STEM research, knowledge, technologies or methodologies and aligned with at least one [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\)](#).

Teams: Consisting of 6-10 members from different institutions

Time: 4 minutes to pitch

Overall challenge aims

ERIC aims to provide research students with a greater understanding of the benefits of developing innovation and enterprise skills in research practise.

These are essential transferable skills that will support your future success, whether you choose to build a career within academia or in the many opportunities beyond it.

ERIC can be undertaken at any point during your PhD but must be completed in your third year.

11. Personal Development

The University of Warwick has developed [SkillsForge](#) as a platform for the provision of postgraduate development across the University. All students can use this platform to search for relevant training courses and workshops and record all your development activities over the period of your PhD, this includes masterclasses.

[Aston University](#), the [University of Birmingham](#), [Coventry University](#), [Harper Adams University](#) and the [University of Leicester](#) offer similar portals and you will be required to engage with these platforms at the direction of your registered university.

All the MIBTP cohort activities that you undertake will be recorded on SkillsForge and it is advised that you familiarise yourself with this platform and use it to your benefit.

11.1 Professional Development plan

In order to help you review and appreciate what you need to do to achieve your goals you will be asked to complete a professional development plan. You are advised to share and discuss your plan with your supervisor. It is good practice to update the plan annually; this makes you reflect on what you have learned, or skills gained in the last year as well as where there are gaps in your skill base. You can search for courses and workshops using the PGR development platforms to enhance your professional development as highlighted in your plan. In addition, the MIBTP cohort events are organised for this purpose.

Aston Students

Aston students should complete a Training Needs Analysis, and the Learning Agreement forms (found on the Aston portal) with their supervisor within the first month of their research degree and email the completed forms to the [Graduate School Team](#).

Birmingham Students

Birmingham students are expected to complete a [Development Needs Analysis](#) at the beginning of the training year, using the latest version of the form available on the Birmingham [website](#).

Coventry Students

Coventry University students will complete the Welcome Programme which is run by The Researcher Development team in the Doctoral and Researcher College. The programme covers your first few months at Coventry University and is a mix of webinars, self-paced learning and in-person activities. Students will receive a personalised planning document which they will be given access to at enrolment.

Harper Adams Students

Harper Adams University students are not required to forward a copy of a review but instead must arrange to meet with the Personal Planning Development Advisor to

discuss progress with the RDF Planner. You must confirm the date of the arranged meeting with your MIBTP Director, [Martin Hare](#).

Leicester Students

Leicester students should complete the Leicester “Training Needs Analysis” that is accessed via [MyPGR](#), the University’s Postgraduate Research Management System. This also provides a view of your training plan and a method to record completed training.

Warwick Students

Warwick students should use the online Warwick PGR Development Needs Analysis plan on [SkillsForge](#).

12. Cohort meetings and events

During Year 1, there will be several meetings and events for which the whole cohort must attend. Please put these dates in your diary now.

- MIBTP induction week – Monday 28 September to Thursday 1 October 2026 inclusive.
- Speed PhD – 29 September to 1 October 2026 (during induction week).
 - Speed PhD takes students through the different stages of a PhD: literature review, defining the research question, carrying out research, writing it up for publication and submission of a thesis. It is supported by material presented in the other sessions of the workshop. The supporting workshop sessions are targeted at providing students with information, strategies, and tools to help them deal with the demands of a research degree.
- MIBTP AGM – April 2027 (student representatives only) - Leicester
- MIBTP Student Symposium – April 2027 - Leicester
- The MIBTP welcome poster event 28th September 2027, during Welcome Week (you will present a poster at this event)

Please note: these dates are subject to change. You will be notified of any changes.

During subsequent years, there will be additional cohort events.

13. Further Years

There will be cohort events throughout your 4-year training, for which attendance is compulsory. Here is a list of the events that you should expect to attend during years 2 to 4.

Year 2:

- Ethics and Plagiarism training – Birmingham – December 2027
- MIBTP Student Symposium – Coventry – April 2028

- MIBTP AGM (student Reps only) – Coventry – April 2028
- Residential team building event – Coniston - Monday to Friday usually during June or July 2028
- Poster session – Warwick - late September 2028

Year 3:

- PGR Careers Fair – Leicester – early January 2029
- Science Communication – Leicester – January 2029
- MIBTP Student Symposium – Harper Adams – April 2029
- MIBTP AGM (student Reps only) – Harper Adams – April 2029
- ERIC – Birmingham – July 2029
- Poster session – Warwick - late September 2029

Year 4:

- Career Planning and Interview Skills training workshop – Leicester – January 2030 (2 days)
- MIBTP Student Symposium – Aston – April 2030
- MIBP AGM (student Reps only) – Aston – April 2030

Emails will be sent to you detailing the cohort events for the coming year. Please ensure that you diarise these immediately as attendance at cohort events is compulsory.

Permission to miss a cohort event can only be given by an MIBTP director where mitigating circumstances apply.

14. Mitigating Circumstances

During the course of your studies, you may experience exceptional unforeseen circumstances which are outside of your control that may lead to missing a compulsory event. It is important that you always inform us of any mitigating circumstances that require you to miss a compulsory event as soon as possible.

All information provided by you be treated confidentially and in line with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). If the information is of a sensitive nature, please contact the MIBTP Director or administrator you are most comfortable with to provide evidence.

Grounds for Mitigating Circumstances

Students can claim mitigating circumstances for a number of reasons, including:

- Significant acute illness (e.g., severe flu, broken arm, hospitalization)
- Significant mental health issues (e.g., anxiety, depression)
- Chronic conditions worsening unexpectedly
- Injury or accidents that prevent attendance
- Bereavement (death of a close family member or friend)
- Serious family illness requiring immediate care
- Domestic crisis (e.g., house fire, sudden homelessness)
- Victim of crime (e.g., assault, burglary)

- Jury duty
- Military service
- Pregnancy-related issues
- Caring responsibilities (e.g. child, disabled family member)

Acceptable forms of Evidence:

Any mitigating circumstance must be accompanied by independent third-party evidence or a statement from a relevant authority.

Where mitigating circumstances relate to a physical or mental condition you should provide documentation from a medical practitioner (e.g. midwife/doctor's note).

Where mitigating circumstances relate to a non-medical condition you must provide evidence that relates to your absence (e.g. official court summons, military orders, police or fire officer report, social worker's letter, carer's allowance letter, death certificate).

Evidence can also be obtained from Student Support and Wellbeing services.

15. Important Information

15.1 Laboratory safety and Lab coats

- Safety inductions will be provided each time that you start in a new working environment.
- Whilst at Warwick for mini-projects, lab coats are provided by SLS stores free of charge. Lab coats can be collected when required; you will be issued with a clean one on return of your used one. **If asked for a cost code, please quote MIB1.**

15.2 Printing

- When at Warwick, all MIBTP students can print / copy using the printers within the School of Life Sciences, logging in via the scanning pad attached to the printers with their Warwick university ID card.
- Please note that you can **only** use the staff printers, which are dotted around the corridors of the department.
- You will be **unable** to use the printers in the student work areas; these printers require printer credits.
- To install a printer on your machine, please follow the instructions on the [IT services website](#).

15.3 Contact details

Below are the contact details for people you will hear from / may need to contact. General enquiries can be directed to the MIBTP team.

Directors and Administrators

Contact details for programme directors and administrators can be found in your student handbook.

Module Leads



[Dr Christine Lockey](#)
Statistics



[Richard Stark](#)
Programming



[Prof Dan Hebenstreit](#)
Data Analysis, RNA Seq
& Command Line



[Dr Mike Tildesley](#)
Data Analysis, Modelling



[Dr Erin Gorsich](#)
Data Science

Appendix 1

For your information, the University guidelines on marking for postgraduate courses is given below.

Mark Range	Level Descriptors
80% and over	Work which, over and above possessing the qualities of the 70-79% descriptor, demonstrates excellence – the nature of which will vary according to the assignment but may include: comprehensive answers, complete and correct proofs or calculations, project work that extends the original brief, deep and critical analysis, originality, and advance in scholarship, a highly professional approach.
70%-79%	The work demonstrates mastery of the subject matter, methodologies, and, where appropriate, laboratory techniques. It also provides evidence of near complete conceptual understanding, high level technical competence, and depth of analysis or mathematical understanding. Where applicable, the statement and proof of theorems is handled with confidence, and their application to unseen material is sound. Accuracy and precision will be strong throughout and, if applicable, presentation will be excellent. Minor mistakes may nevertheless appear occasionally. Where appropriate, the work shows evidence of originality.
60%-69%	The work demonstrates a sound and thorough grasp of subject matter and methodologies. Conceptual or mathematical understanding and technical competence are solid, but applications, arguments, or data analysis may contain minor flaws. Examined work will be well organised and structured, while good presentation and a logical approach to the material will be evident in projects or dissertations. Overall, the work reveals a high level of effort and commitment, but lacks breadth, depth, and fluency in parts.
50%-59%	The work reveals an underlying grasp of the subject matter, but with areas of confusion or some gaps in conceptual/mathematical understanding or methodology. Answers are fairly well structured but may tend towards the factual or derivative. In project or dissertation work, general conclusions or outcomes are reasonable, but there is room for substantial improvement in the individual's ability to apply theorems, analyse problems or execute technical skills.
40-49%	Though it reveals some familiarity with the subject matter, and a basic grasp of factual and conceptual material, there are frequent and important gaps and/or misconceptions. Some effort has been made to

	reflect on and analyse questions or problems, or to apply theorems, but with little evidence of organisation or insight. Technical competence is poorly developed, and general conclusions are unreliable or unsubstantiated.
20%-39%	The work is insufficient to demonstrate a basic grasp either of factual or conceptual subject matter. Technical competence is at a very low level and, if appropriate, laboratory work has required constant supervision. Data used in project work may be both inaccurate and irrelevant. Overall, answers and arguments reveal little effort towards analysis or conceptualisation. Important issues may have been ignored or seriously misconstrued. There is little evidence of an individual contribution to the material.
Less than 20%	Inadequate work: poorly argued, written, and presented; conceptual confusion throughout; demonstrates little or no knowledge of the field. Failure to address the issues raised by the question. Project work contains little or no data. Sparse or no evidence for technical competence or individual contributions.