

Applicant Guidance

2024 Cohort

AVAILABLE STUDENTSHIPS	1
BEING A FOODBIOSYSTEMS DTP FUNDED STUDENT	1
ABOUT THE STUDENTSHIPS	2
STIPEND (SALARY)	2
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY	2
FUNDING ELIGIBILITY	2
<i>Home students</i>	2
Further information about eligibility for UK home fees status	2
<i>International students</i>	2
Fees for international students funded by FoodBioSystems DTP	3
<i>Further funding eligibility information</i>	3
<i>Language proficiency</i>	3
PREVIOUS APPLICANT SUCCESS RATES	3
EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION	3
APPLICANTS WITH DISABILITIES OR SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFERENCES	3
GUARANTEED INTERVIEW SCHEME	3
APPLICANT MENTORING SCHEME	4
<i>How to request a mentor</i>	4
PART-TIME REGISTRATION	4
HOW TO APPLY	5
APPLICATION CLOSING DATE	5
HOW WE SELECT STUDENTS	5
SHORTLISTING	5
INTERVIEWS AND SELECTION PANEL ASSESSMENT	5
<i>Interviews</i>	5
<i>Selection panel assessment</i>	5
ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	6
TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION	6
CONTACTS	6
PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2024 DTP COHORT	7

Available studentships

The FoodBioSystems Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) is advertising 57 PhD projects. We are looking for candidates from a broad range of scientific backgrounds including: animal health, artificial intelligence, biochemistry, bioinformatics, biological science, data science, food engineering, food science, geography, machine learning, nutrition, plant science, soil science and veterinary sciences.

We will be awarding about 30 salaried studentships through a competitive process. Studentships will be for four years and will start in autumn 2024. Project opportunities are available at Aberystwyth University, Brunel University, Cranfield University, Queen’s University Belfast, University of Reading and University of Surrey.

[Project titles](#) and supervisors are listed at the end of this document and project descriptions can be [viewed](#) on the FoodBioSystems DTP website.

Being a FoodBioSystems DTP funded student

As a fully funded FoodBioSystems postgraduate research student you will undertake training that leads towards a PhD and equips you with extra skills and knowledge to support your future career. Your research

project will be co-supervised across two institutes within our academic partnership, and you will take part in our training programme to gain a core understanding of food systems, data analysis and modelling. You will also follow a programme of subject specific learning, depending on your needs. In addition, you will carry out a professional internship (generally not related to the research project).

Please explore our website to find out more about the [DTP training programme](#) and [current projects](#) at the six partner universities, and meet some of our [researchers](#) to see what they have said about their research and training experiences so far.

About the studentships

Stipend (Salary)

FoodBioSystems DTP students receive an annual tax-free stipend (salary) which is paid in instalments throughout the year. For 2023/24 this is £18,622 or £20,622 (including £2,000 London allowance) for a studentship based at Brunel University. The pay increases slightly each year at the rate set by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The DTP pays tuition fees at the standard UK rate and makes a contribution to the research project costs.

Academic Eligibility

An upper 2nd class honours degree (or equivalent) is required in a subject appropriate to the PhD project applied for (see the [project descriptions](#) for more information). Candidates with a lower class of bachelor's degree, but a good performance at master's level (merit or above) will also be considered. If you have an international qualification, please check the degree course eligibility information provided by the host universities before you apply to the DTP: [Aberystwyth University](#), [Brunel University](#), [Cranfield University](#), [Queen's University Belfast](#), [University of Reading](#), and [University of Surrey](#).

Funding Eligibility

Home students

The majority of our funding (minimum 70%) is available to students with UK/home fees status. To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:

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

Further information about eligibility for UK home fees status

For further information about eligibility for UK home fees status please see:

- [For studentships in England \(Brunel, Cranfield, Reading, Surrey\)](#)
- [For studentships in Belfast](#)
- [For studentships at Aberystwyth](#)

International students

We welcome applications from international students (any applicant who does not meet home fees eligibility criteria) and we receive many excellent applications each year. However, UKRI funding conditions mean that the DTP can only offer a maximum of 30% of the total number of studentships to international students.

Fees for international students funded by FoodBioSystems DTP

We anticipate that DTP partner universities will cover the difference in the UK/Republic of Ireland fees and international fees for international UKRI funded students. For further information on this, please refer to the individual university websites.

Further funding eligibility information

Funding for PhD studentships from BBSRC is only available to successful candidates who meet the eligibility criteria set out in the UKRI harmonised [training conditions](#). Offers of studentships to successful candidates will be conditional on acceptance onto PhD programmes at the host universities.

Language proficiency

Candidates must demonstrate the level of English proficiency required by the university that will be hosting the PhD studentship (the university where the project's lead supervisor works). 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 check the relevant university website, or contact the relevant university admissions office, for further details: [Aberystwyth University](#), [Brunel University](#), [Cranfield University](#), [Queen's University Belfast](#), [University of Reading](#), [University of Surrey](#).

Previous applicant success rates

Success rates for home and international student applicants to the DTP (2021-23) are outlined below:

Cohort	Number of international student applicants	% international applicants awarded a studentship	Number of home student applicants	% home student applicants awarded a studentship
2020	n/a	n/a	125	24%
2021	467	1.3%	148	13.5%
2022	501	1.4%	86	23%
2023	774	0.9%	90	26%

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The FoodBioSystems DTP is committed to equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). We want to build a doctoral researcher (DR) and staff body that reflects the diversity of society, and to encourage applications from under-represented and disadvantaged groups.

Applicants with disabilities or specific learning differences

Applicants can choose to disclose a disability or specific learning difference on the application form. The DTP office will contact shortlisted applicants who have made this disclosure so we can offer reasonable adjustments to interviews. This information is kept confidential unless the applicant chooses to share it with the interview panels.

Guaranteed interview scheme

FoodBioSystems DTP is offering a guaranteed interview scheme for candidates from eligible under-represented ethnic groups. This is an opt-in process. Applicants can participate in this scheme if they meet the following criteria:

1. Hold UK home student fee status for 2024 entry (details on UK fees status are available from [UKCISA](#))
2. Identify as:
 - a. Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
 - b. Asian or Asian British
 - c. Belonging to mixed or multiple ethnic groups

3. Hold or expect to obtain a minimum of a 2.1 undergraduate degree in a relevant subject, or equivalent qualification

Candidates with a guaranteed interview must also provide full written answers to all questions about research and transferable skills in the application form. Assessment of written answers and interview performance are both considered when awarding studentships (see [assessment criteria](#)).

Applicant mentoring scheme

We offer applicants, who meet GIS criteria, an opportunity to apply to our applicant mentoring programme. Applicants who are accepted onto the mentoring programme will receive four mentoring meetings, with a current DTP student with mentor training, during the application process.

- **Meeting one:** (between 12 and 19 January 2024) A brief pre-application discussion with the mentor
- **Meeting two:** (between 12 and 19 January 2024) An application writing support session
- **Meeting three:** (between 30 January and 27 February 2024) An interview preparation session
- **Meeting four:** (after 31 March 2024) A post application outcome reflection session

To be eligible to receive mentoring, applicants must:

1. Identify as:
 - a. Black, African, Caribbean or Black British
 - b. Asian or Asian British
 - c. Belonging to mixed or multiple ethnic groups
2. Hold or expect to obtain a minimum of a 2.1 undergraduate degree in a relevant subject, or equivalent qualification
3. Hold UK home student fee status for 2024 entry (details on UK fees status are available from [UKCISA](#))

Priority will be given to applicants who meet the above criteria and also identify with one of the following:

- Have ever been in local authority care
- Have ever been in receipt of free school meals
- Are the first in their family to attend higher education
- Have completed/are completing their undergraduate studies at a non-Russell Group university

How to request a mentor

If you are eligible to apply to the guaranteed interview scheme and would like to meet with a mentor, please complete the personal details and equality diversity and inclusion sections of the [online application form](#). You must do this before 09.00 (GMT) on Wednesday 10 January 2024.

If you are eligible for the scheme, we will contact you shortly after 11 January with details of your proposed mentor. Please note: We will only share your name and email address with mentors. Other personal information will be kept confidential and used by the DTP office if we need to prioritise applications according to the eligibility scheme criteria.

Please do not request a mentor after the closing date for this scheme (09:00 on 10 January 2024). We will not be able to assign you a mentor after this date.

Part-time registration

In addition to full-time registration, our studentships are offered on a part-time basis. The minimum registration is 50% FT and the studentship end date will be extended to reflect the part-time registration. We recommend that if part-time studentships are combined with paid employment, the combined time commitment does not exceed 48 hours per week.

How to apply

ALL applications to FoodBioSystems DTP are made via the [online application form](#), irrespective of the location of the specific project (Reading, Surrey, Cranfield, Queen's, Aberystwyth or Brunel). You can apply to a maximum of TWO PhD projects.

Project details are available on the [FoodBioSystems DTP website](#). Each project description indicates the name and institution of the lead supervisor and has a project ID number. You are welcome and encouraged to email the lead supervisors of projects to ask them any questions you may have or to discuss the project.

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 completed an IELTS test before the application closing date).

You must also 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.

Application closing date

Applications must be submitted via the [online application form](#) by 10.00 am (GMT) on 22 Monday 22 January 2024.

How we select students

Applications received before the closing date and time are considered in two stages:

Shortlisting

Applications are checked for academic and funding eligibility. Eligible applications are anonymised and then considered by the PhD project supervisors. They mark the application answers against the [assessment criteria](#). At this stage supervisors do not know the name, contact details or degree-awarding university of applicants. The four highest scoring candidates for each project will be invited to interview.

Interviews and selection panel assessment

Interviews

If your application is shortlisted you will receive an invitation to an online interview (on Skype, Teams or Zoom). As part of the interview, you will be asked to give a short research presentation (maximum five minutes) followed by five minutes for questions about the presentation. During the remainder of the interview, additional questions will explore:

- Your motivation to do a PhD with the FoodBioSystems DTP
- How your skills and experience prepare you for the specific project
- Other questions about impact of the research, problem solving skills and career plans

Selection panel assessment

If you are selected for an interview, a panel of reviewers from the DTP Selection Committee will also assess the written answers from your application form. They will not know your name, contact details or degree-awarding university at this stage.

Assessment criteria

We ask applicants to provide information about their academic qualifications, research experience and transferable skills. It is essential that all applicants (including those applying for a guaranteed interview) provide full answers in their written application, as these are assessed at least once during the selection process.

The table below shows what essential criteria the DTP is looking for in our PhD student candidates and where in the selection process we assess those criteria.

Essential Selection Criteria	Stage Assessed		
	Shortlisting	Interview	Selection Panel review of application form answers
Academic qualifications and background	x	x	
Academic and technical understanding of the research topic presented during the interview		x	
Project specific research experience and technical skills	x	x	
General research experience and technical skills	x		x
Ability to relate own skills to the proposed PhD project		x	
Transferable skills	x	x	x
Understanding of the UK agri-food sector	x	x	x
Motivation for choosing the FoodBioSystems DTP		x	x
Awareness of how this PhD fits into own career plans	x	x	

The selection panel will make the final decision on project allocation, considering applicants' performance at interview and reviewer assessments of written answers.

Timeline for applications and selection

Action	Date
Projects advertised on FoodBioSystems website	Wednesday 6 December 2023
Online application system opens	Monday 11 December 2023
Closing date for requesting a mentor (eligible applicants only)	Monday 10 January 2024 (09:00 GMT)
Closing date for student applications	Monday 22 January 2024 (10:00 GMT)
Student interview window (shortlisted candidates will be contacted by project supervisors by the end of February)	21 February – 6 March 2024
Candidates not shortlisted notified by email	28 February 2024
Award/rejection letters sent to shortlisted applicants	25 March 2024

Contacts

If you have any questions that are not answered by this document, please contact [the DTP office](#). Enquiries about advertised projects

Please contact project supervisors with enquiries about individual projects. Email addresses are available in the adverts listed on the [DTP website](#).

Proposed projects for 2024 DTP cohort

Available projects are listed below; they are grouped by research areas (stated in the left hand column). Project outlines are available in the adverts on the [DTP website](#).

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Across the Food Chain projects	FBS2024-026-Patriarca-cr	Reducing Food Loss and Waste in the tomato products food chain	Andrea Patriarca, Cranfield University	Alexey Mikaberidze, University of Reading
Across the Food Chain projects	FBS2024-054-Kliem-rs	Bioaccessibility of lipids from dairy products: the cheese matrix	Kirsty Kliem, University of Reading	Terri Grassby, University of Surrey
Alternative Food Systems	FBS2024-003-Whitworth-aq	Crop protection: protecting farmed insects from pathogens using predatory bacteria.	David Whitworth, Aberystwyth University	Katerina Theodoridou, Queen's University Belfast
Alternative Food Systems	FBS2024-035-MillsC-sq	Alternative oil production from microbial cell factories for food applications	Clare Mills, University of Surrey	Katrina Campbell, Queen's University Belfast
Alternative Food Systems	FBS2024-088-Chatzifragkou-rq	Alternative oil production from microbial cell factories for food applications	Afroditi Chatzifragkou, University of Reading	Tassos Koidis, Queen's University Belfast
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-013-Stergiadis-rq	Mechanistic and applied strategies for the production of vitamin B12-enriched milk	Sokratis Stergiadis, University of Reading	Katerina Theodoridou, Queen's University Belfast

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-021-Robinson-qa	Exploring the mechanism of gut acidification by the liver fluke, <i>Fasciola hepatica</i>	Mark Robinson, Queen's University Belfast	Gabriel Rinaldi, Aberystwyth University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-022-Prada-sq	Future-proofing livestock health by quantifying the burden of disease and benefits of sustainable interventions	Joaquin Prada, University of Surrey	Eric Morgan, Queen's University Belfast
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-025-Pexas-cr	Substituting soy with insects in UK poultry production: a holistic evaluation of sustainability impacts and trade-offs	Georgios Pexas, Cranfield University	Yiorgos Gadanakis, University of Reading
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-030-Nash-ar	Cows, cannabinoids and terpenes; screening hemp-derived compounds for anti-inflammatory properties to tackle inflammatory disorders of the dairy cow	Debbie Nash, Aberystwyth University	Kirsty Kliem, University of Reading
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-032-Morphew-aq	Close encounters of the protein kind: Exploiting protein-protein interactions for liver fluke control.	Russ Morphew, Aberystwyth University	Aaron Maule, Queen's University Belfast

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-033-Morgan-qa	Bleeding us dry? Protecting livestock from haematophagous parasite coinfections in a warming world	Eric Morgan, Queen's University Belfast	Rhys Jones, Aberystwyth University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-041-McBride-as	The importance of sleep: using AI (video-based motion capture systems) to improve the health, resilience and productivity of dairy cows.	Sebastian McBride, Aberystwyth University	Matthew Parker, University of Surrey
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-046-Lewis-rs	Reducing post-weaning diarrhoea in piglets by limiting dietary iron, whilst improving absorption using pre- and/or probiotics	Marie Lewis, University of Reading	Arnoud van Vliet, University of Surrey
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-050-Kyriazakis-qc	A novel Bayesian methodology to estimate unobserved traits of cattle for AI-assisted precision feeding	Ilias Kyriazakis, Queen's University Belfast	Georgios Pexas, Cranfield University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-063-JonesR-ar	Exploring Bovine TB epidemiology on persistently infected farms via enhanced molecular analysis of the environment and parasitic nematode populations	Rhys Jones, Aberystwyth University	Ian Jones, University of Reading
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-084-Daramola-sq	Understanding fluke evolutionary biology: Finding new ways to sustainably monitor, predict and assess the biological impact of parasite adaptation and regulatory mechanisms	Olukayode Daramola, University of Surrey	Mark Robinson, Queen's University Belfast

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-085-Cramer-ra	Evaluation and validation of LAP-MALDI mass spectrometry profiling for the detection of bovine tuberculosis (bTB)	Rainer Cramer, University of Reading	Amanda Gibson, Aberystwyth University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-090-Chalmers-aq	Determining the function and diagnostic potential of EV proteins in liver fluke	Iain Chalmers, Aberystwyth University	Aaron Maule, Queen's University Belfast
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-093-Carroll-qr	Pioneering Progress: Insights into Effective Animal Welfare Interventions	Grace Carroll, Queen's University Belfast	Kate Johnson, University of Reading
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-097-Betson-sa	Investigating the gut parasite Eimeria in UK sheep: parasite species diversity and impacts on the gut microbiome	Martha Betson, University of Surrey	Justin Pachebat, Aberystwyth University
Animal health and livestock agricultural systems	FBS2024-101-Arnott-qr	The role of precision technologies in future grazing systems: Implications for animal welfare, performance and farm sustainability.	Gareth Arnott, Queen's University Belfast	Sokratis Stergiadis, University of Reading
Consumer focused projects	FBS2024-069-Hart-sc	Packaging, date labelling and nutritional quality – can less equal more?	Kathryn Hart, University of Surrey	Kenisha Garnett, Cranfield University
Decarbonising food systems	FBS2024-015-Sizmur-rc	Towards net-zero chocolate: carbon and nutrient budgets for compost use on cocoa farms	Tom Sizmur, University of Reading	Ruben Sakrabani, Cranfield University

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Decarbonising food systems	FBS2024-020-Sakrabani-cq	Evaluating suitability of graphitic carbon from methane cracking to improve soil nutrient retention for crop uptake	Ruben Sakrabani, Cranfield University	Deepak Kumaresan, Queen's University Belfast
Decarbonising food systems	FBS2024-095-Cain-cr	Enhancing Sustainability Assessment Frameworks for Regenerative Agriculture: Integrating Ecological, Social, and Economic Indicators for Comprehensive Analysis	Michelle Cain, Cranfield University	Laurence Smith, University of Reading
Food Safety (microbial)	FBS2024-040-McCarthy-bq	Repurposing artificial sweeteners as infection and contamination control agents	Ronan McCarthy, Brunel University	Brendan Gilmore, Queen's University Belfast
Food Safety (microbial)	FBS2024-048-Landahl-cr Not currently advertised	Decipher spatial colonisation and pathogenesis of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> f. sp. cepae on onions by assessing associated physical and biochemical changes to decrease food loss	Sandra Landahl, Cranfield University	Luke Bell, University of Reading
Food Safety (microbial)	FBS2024-089-Charalampopoulos-rc	Development of novel, biodegradable, active food packaging	Dimitris Charalampopoulos, University of Reading	Natalia Falagan, Cranfield University
Food security	FBS2024-009-Thompson-ca	Advanced gene editing to improve water use efficiency in crops	Andrew Thompson, Cranfield University	John Doonan, Aberystwyth University
Food security	FBS2024-023-Potts-rc	Increasing the value of silvoarable agroforestry using understory crops in the tree rows	Simon Potts, University of Reading	Paul Burgess, Cranfield University
Food security	FBS2024-042-Mariano-sq	In(ph)inity wars: understanding phages-bacteria evolutionary conflict to design new biocontrol strategies	Giuseppina Mariano, University of Surrey	Linda Oyama, Queen's University Belfast

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Food security	FBS2024-044-Lo lacono-sr	Modelling the impact of diseases on pollinator networks	Gianni Lo lacono, University of Surrey	Michael Garratt, University of Reading
Food security	FBS2024-045-Lloyd-ac	Walk on the Wild Side: improving trait introgression from crop wild relatives	Andrew Lloyd, Aberystwyth University	Fady Moareb, Cranfield University
Food security	FBS2024-083-Doonan-ar	AI_BeanBag: Unlocking the Potential of Faba Beans in Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition	John Doonan, Aberystwyth University	Donal O'Sullivan, University of Reading
Gut Microbiota	FBS2024-002 - Wijeyesekera-rs	Interactions between the gut microbiota, vitamin D and bone health: assessing dietary driven approaches to support healthy ageing	Anisha Wijeyesekera, University of Reading	Susan Lanham-New, University of Surrey
Gut Microbiota	FBS2024-004-Walton-rs	A probiotic approach targeting the microbiota to improve Irritable Bowel Syndrome symptoms and associated low mood	Gemma Walton, University of Reading	Kathrin Cohen Kadosh, University of Surrey
Gut Microbiota	FBS2024-064-Huws-qa	How and why do rumen bacteria talk to each other?	Sharon Huws, Queen's University Belfast	David Whitworth, Aberystwyth University
Gut Microbiota	FBS2024-065-Hunt-sr	Exploring the Impact of Anthocyanin-rich Diets on Gut Microbiome Composition and its Role in Menopause-Related Health Issues: Population-Based and Mechanistic Studies	Julie Hunt, University of Surrey	Glenn Gibson, University of Reading
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-007-Tischler-sr	Plant-based diets for older people in care homes: a realist and psychobiological evaluation.	Victoria Tischler, University of Surrey	Lisa Methven, University of Reading

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-012-Su-qr	Odd-Chain Fatty Acids and Gut Bacterial Metabolites in Cardiac Metabolic Remodelling: Implication in the Therapeutic Strategy of Cardiovascular Disease	Qiaozhu Su, Queen's University Belfast	Vimal Karani, University of Reading
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-029-Oruna-Concha-ra	UMTaste: Understanding the mechanisms by which umami taste influences salty and bitter taste to enable umami to drive salt reduction and improvement in meat alternative protein foods	Maria Jose Oruna-Concha	Jessica Adams, Aberystwyth University
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-036-MillsCE-rs	Food processing: For better or for worse? The impact of fruit drying on bioactivity, bioaccessibility and bioavailability of polyphenols	Charlotte Mills, University of Reading	Terri Grassby, University of Surrey
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-037-Methven-rq	IEat: Integrating eating behaviour and food choice behaviour into sustainable habits for healthy children	Lisa Methven, University of Reading	Jayne Woodside, Queen's University Belfast
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-059-Karani-rs	Integrating nutrigenetics, metabolomics, diet, lifestyle, and clinical, biochemical, and social parameters in predicting the risk of metabolic diseases and related traits using artificial intelligence based on machine learning algorithms.	Vimal Karani, University of Reading	Shelini Surendran, University of Surrey
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-081-Elliott-sr	Beyond bone health: a multidisciplinary approach to define the functional effects of vitamin D on genomic stability	Ruan Elliott, University of Surrey	Marcus Tindall, University of Reading
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-098-Bath-sq	Improving iodine intake in adults following a plant-based diet – a mixed methods study	Sarah Bath, University of Surrey	Jayne Woodside, Queen's University Belfast

Research area	Project number	Project title	Lead Supervisor / University	Co-Supervisor / University
Nutrition (human)	FBS2024-103-Ahmadi-sr	Improving the nutritional, health and sustainability profile of existing or novel plant/fungi-based foods - A STAR Hub-DTP partnership application	Kourosh Ahmadi, University of Surrey	Claire Williams, University of Reading
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-014-Stephens-ra	A receptor-ligand module with practical applications to improve food production	Gary Stephens, University of Reading	Maurice Bosch, Aberystwyth University
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-052-Kourmpetli-ca	Seed microbiome engineering: a route to sustainable agriculture	Sofia Kourmpetli, Cranfield University	Faisal Rezwan, Aberystwyth University
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-055-Kirk-cr	The mechanisms and genetics of phosphorus-efficiency in crop plants	Guy Kirk, Cranfield University	John Hammond, University of Reading
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-061-JonesH-ar	Harnessing cell permeable peptides to enhance crop development and biochemistry	Huw Jones, Aberystwyth University	Luke Bell, University of Reading
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-068-Hingley-Wilson-sq	Innovative encapsulation approaches for seed protection and longevity	Suzie Hingley-Wilson, University of Surrey	Linda Oyama, Queen's University Belfast
Plant / crop systems	FBS2024-092-Chadwick-ra	Editing out insecticide use: Use of gene editing <i>Eruca sativa</i> for more effective biofumigation	Martin Chadwick, University of Reading	Huw Jones, Aberystwyth University
Soil systems	FBS2024-047-Larionov-cr	Multi-omics analysis of nitrogen metabolism by the soil microbial community	Alexey Larionov, Cranfield University	Tom Sizmur, University of Reading

V1 05/12/2023