



Many congratulations on being awarded a Gurdon Studentship! We hope that your time at your host lab is a successful one and that it inspires you to pursue a career in research! We ask all successful applicants to submit a short report about their placement and describing the outcome of the project. The best reports will be published on the BSDB newsletter and website, as well as on the Node, a community blog for developmental biologists with over 5,000 visitors every month. So this is a great opportunity to share the word on your work and your placement experience!

Report deadline:

You have until the **31st of October** to send us your report.

What should be the style and format of your report?

Your report will be read by other developmental biology researchers, at all stages of their career, visiting the BSDB website and the Node. They will be scientists, but not specialists on the topic of your project or the research your host lab does. So you should write for a scientific, but non-specialist audience. For example, you don't have to explain what DNA is, but you may need to provide some background to the process, gene or protein you worked on.

The readers of your report will be interested scientists (browsing the internet between experiments or while having a coffee during an incubation time), fellow students (interested to apply for this scheme) or your mates, or family members (curious to learn about what you have done). Therefore you should think of your report more as an easy read in form of an essay rather than a scientific paper. It does not need to include detailed methods or an extensive review of the field but inform about the kind of experiences you have made. It should be professional and scientific (remember it is not for your Facebook page but a public blog that can be linked out on your CV if you so wish), but it would gain enormously if your personality, personal experiences and enthusiasm shine through!

The report should be no longer than 1,000 words, and it may be helpful to divide it into sections. It would be great if you could include an image of yourself and a few further pictures, such as of your host lab and scientific images representing or illustrating part of your project.

What should I write about?

This report is your chance to tell the scientific community about your project, what you have learnt and how this opportunity has been beneficial for your career. So here are some of the things you may want to mention:

- Introduce yourself and your host lab
- Introduce the topic of your project, just enough to explain the research question that your project contributed to. You may include a few key references but no need for an extensive literature review!
- What did you do in your project? Why did you do it?
- What did you learn about science and research during your placement? This could be specific techniques (briefly explaining what processes are involved and what can be learned from them) or more general insights about what it is like to be a scientist.
- How has your project helped the research in your lab? What are the next obvious experiments that will be performed by your host group or that you would have loved to continue with if there were more time at hand?
- How has this placement been important for your own understanding, development and future career?



- You may want to encourage other students to apply for a studentship in the future!

Unpublished results and image copyright

During your placement you will have done experiments that fit in with other people's projects and may be published in the future. However, it is unlikely that it will be published before the end of your placement. If your report is published on the BSDB website or on the Node, anyone will be able to read it, including other (competing) researchers working on a similar topic! It is therefore very important that your host lab head, and any anyone else who supervised you during your project, checks your report before you submit it. They need to confirm that they are happy with any unpublished data or results that you mention.

You can use any images or photographs that you have taken yourself, provided your host lab is happy for you to do this. However, if want to use any images that are not of your authorship then you must check their copyright. So, for example, you can use an image from a paper or review that was published open access (you must acknowledge the source) but if the paper was not open access you may need to ask the journal for permission (go to the Journal's web site and find the copyright permission information). This also applies to papers published by your host lab. As such, if you are uncertain about the copyright status of any of the images you would like to use, please inform us about your uncertainty together with the image source when submitting your report so that this can be checked before your report is published.

Previous reports

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