

# E4 DTP Student Advisory Board Report

Thursday 5 December 2024 – 12:00-14:00 - Grant 304b

<b>In attendance</b>	Frederik Madsen (Chair), Katia Trevino-Cuellar (notes), Julie Grosse-Sommer, Dana Druka, Christine Gaebel, Aideliz Montiel- Alvarez, Ludwig Baldazsti, Josie McPherson, Aninda Bhattacharya, Clara Nyqvist, Rhoslyn Howroyd, Amelia Corvin-Czarnodolski, Richard Essery, Emma Cunningham, Massimo Bollasina, Nicola Drago Ferrante
<b>Apologies</b>	Rachael Eggleston, Lokesh Jain, Craig Walling
<b>Papers for reference (attached)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SAB report 2023</li><li>• DTP Management response to SAB report 2023</li></ul>

## 1. E4 Management Actions in response to the SAB 2023 report (response circulated 27<sup>th</sup> May 2024)

**Action 1.** Ongoing organisation of Imposter Syndrome. E4 Team have gotten in contact with the students to both find potential students interested in conducting the workshop and attending.

- Students have showed interest in leading the workshop.
- Little response has been received in regards of who wants to attend the workshop, to the date of the meeting only 6 people had expressed interest.
- E4 coordinator will send a follow-up email to get more responses.

**Action 2.** Matriculation Fees.

- Students no longer will have to pay for the fees for last semester of matriculation. If any students have gotten emails, they should email the E4 team and inquire about any irregularities.

**Action 3.** Workshops in newer cohorts

- Surveys have been made to realize how much previous knowledge students have in each cohort so they can tailor the workshops and seminars that are offered to students.

**Action 4.** PIP Reports will be available for students to have ideas of potential PIPs and learn from everyone else's experiences.

## 2. Communications from the E4 Management team to SAB/Students

1. **Imposter Syndrome** – We are looking into running an Imposter Syndrome training session in Semester 2.
2. **Recruitment news:** The University has successfully secured funding from NERC for the E5 DTP, and the applicant portal is now live. The E5 DTP will provide a 4-year stipend and include a compulsory PIP component. To address the 30% cap on international student recruitment and manage the high volume of applications from this within this group, we have reinstated the pre-nomination stage for international applicants this year.
3. **Social Events** – Ensuring accessibility for all students by considering their input and on the timing of events.

## 3. E4 students' feedback to the E4 management team

### General Notes

- It might be a good idea to have a list of people that have done PIPs and where they have done them in case students want to reach out and ask for advice.
- There have been talks about a potential PIP fair in ECCI for future cohorts to network and get in contact with potential PIP opportunities.
- Email was sent to get input from students regarding timing and dates for social events. Students' response was good.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Comments:

- Students advised for seminars to be tailored to the interests and needs of students for that year depending on the proposed projects.
- Separate workshops for beginners, intermediate, and advanced.
- Frontiers could be more focused on tips and advice on different skill sets and areas.
- Talks about rejections and how to deal with them.
- Experiences from different backgrounds, different cultures.
- Students were not sure if ECCI workshops were compulsory, and that signing up is needed, reminders might be good regarding date.

- Co funding communication is not very clear, not clear how much they need to deliver to the funder or how much they can change their projects.
- Legal discussions regarding what do the CASE partners need and can ask from students.
- Students were advised to reach out management for help regarding how to deal with CASE partners.
- Feedback on Furbush: wanting more time on outdoor activities, students also felt that the initial activity could be arranged differently to allow all students to feel like they could contribute to the subject they were assigned to.
- Students would like to see more diversity within the cohorts, from black, brown, and Asian descent.
- E4 Team mentioned that the E5 they are partnering with the Equator project to widen their network.
- General skills for frontiers students would like to develop: dealing with supervisors and line managers, grants, fellowships, how to deal with rejection, teamwork, how to deal with challenges, how you move on from that.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

- Students would like to have more feedback between student and supervisor, set up a form to encourage a more personal teaching relationship between student and supervisor.
- More feedback that can go directly to the E4 team instead to the supervisor.
- Biology school will share their form and Annual Review forms.
- Students would like to know who the contact for students is to go to when they are having issues with supervision.
- An idea is a form on how you would like to interact between supervisor and student that everyone can fill out at the start of each year.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

- Everyone was happy with the residential and the skill-based training.
- Tailor social events depending on the cohorts who are attending.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Year**

No comments.