



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Welcome to the NERC ACCE DTP

October 2021

Dear student

Welcome to the ACCE '*Adapting to the Challenges of Changing Environment*' NERC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), run by the Universities of Liverpool, Sheffield and York, together with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and the Natural History Museum.

ACCE is very proud to be the only NERC DTP in the country with an explicit focus on the biological component of the natural environment. Concerns over changes to the environment – be they natural or manmade – are ever increasing, as are the consequences those changes have for global biodiversity. These issues are at the forefront of ACCE research. This year's intake is the third of the renewed ACCE DTP, and our eighth cohort overall. As such you, and the other students starting with you this year, are joining a vibrant group of students, academics and end-user partners, working together to tackle environmental biology issues of global significance. We are delighted you are part of this initiative.

Covid-19

As you will be aware, disruption to research continues in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including disruption to laboratory access and access to University facilities. Last year the ACCE conference was a virtual only event; in 2021 we plan to conduct an in-person event in Sheffield (see details below). However, plans are subject to change, for example if Government restrictions are reintroduced at any point. There are lots of people you can keep in touch with, either in-person or virtually, including your primary and co-supervisors, your lab group, other ACCE students and the ACCE Student Committee, and the ACCE DTP administration team and Management Board (see the contacts list below). All of these contacts will be able to help you settle in and deal with any issues, or provide advice and support if you need it.

A key aim of ACCE is to provide students with all the opportunities they need to pursue their future careers in research or elsewhere. To that end you will have full access to a multidisciplinary training environment that combines generic and specialist training programmes with opportunities to interact with researchers from other institutions, and end-user organisations who offer a range of hands-on training and placement opportunities. All information you need to make the most of the opportunities available is provided in the ACCE Student Handbook, via your institutional DTP contacts (listed at the end of this letter), and on our website.

To help you get started, you will attend the **ACCE Annual Conference**, being held in Sheffield on 3rd-4th November 2021. You will have received some details about this already from the ACCE Student Committee. This conference is organised by ACCE students for ACCE students, and comprises a mix of student-only cohort-building events, presentations by current and past students and external speakers and, most importantly, social events aimed at providing opportunities to connect with the large body of students, academics and non-academic partners across ACCE.

We are very keen that ACCE students play an active role in shaping the direction and running of the DTP. As such, we encourage students to serve on, or otherwise engage with, the **ACCE Student Committee**, which comprises representatives of the student body from all cohorts and institutions. This committee plays an integral role in organising and running various training and cohort-building events throughout the academic year, and informing the Management Board about how the DTP is working for you.

I hope this, together with the information in the Handbook and on the ACCE website, provides enough information for you to make the most of the opportunities available to you during your time as part of the ACCE DTP – but if you have any questions at any point, please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the key DTP contacts listed at the end of this letter.

Best wishes



Professor Andy Fenton
ACCE DTP Director

ACCE KEY CONTACTS

ACCE DTP Director:

Professor Andy Fenton (Liverpool): a.fenton@liverpool.ac.uk

Academic Leads:

Dr Stephen Cornell (Liverpool): scornell@liverpool.ac.uk

Dr Gavin Thomas (Sheffield): gavin.thomas@sheffield.ac.uk

Professor Lisa Emberson (York): l.emberson@york.ac.uk

Dr Sarah Burthe (CEH): sburthe@ceh.ac.uk

Dr Eileen Cox (Natural History Museum): e.cox@nhm.ac.uk

ACCE DTP Administration:

Carolyn O'Leary (Liverpool, ACCE DTP Manager)

Emma Robertson (Liverpool, ACCE DTP Deputy Manager)

John Donnelly (Liverpool, Research and Finance Co-ordinator)

General administrative support and enquiries: acce.dtp@liverpool.ac.uk

Twitter: @ACCE_DTP

Website: www.accedtp.ac.uk