



Natural
Environment
Research Council

Welcome to the NERC ACCE DTP

October 2022

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 fourth of the renewed ACCE DTP, and our ninth 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.

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 general 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 York on 3rd-4th November 2022. 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:

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ACCE DTP Administration:

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