

Evaluation of the Integrative Systems Biology DTC – Feedback from recently graduated students.

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Of the 7 students that began the course in 2006, one has been awarded a Masters after leaving the course due to prolonged illness. Two others have been permitted deadline extensions and will submit shortly. The remaining four are now all in employment, three within the field of system biology and another in the development of software for warehouse logistics. The following points were summarised about their experiences in the DTC and the position this put them in for employment.

- The cohort organisation of the DTC gave great moral and social support for students. Being initially trained with other students in a single unit and progressing through PhDs at similar rate was noted to aid reduction in stress due the general spirit of camaraderie.
- The focus on transferable and inter-personal skills training was useful not only during the PhDs, but has also been commented on in a positive light during job interviews, helping to provide a competitive edge.
- The multi-disciplinary approach of the course has also been of interest to potential employers, and also aids students having an appreciation of the areas working in concert with their immediate field.
- Students noted the feedback given through course representatives and via feedback forms had had an impact on subsequent years of the DTC and was being positively acted on.
- The cohort also identified the exemplary actions of Dr Gerold Baier since assuming the position of Deputy Director of the DTC in 2007. His efforts were very much appreciated and were felt to have made a very positive impact on the running of the DTC and its organisation.