

E4 DTP Student Advisory Board Report

Thursday 7 December 2023 – 12:00-14:00 - Grant 304b

In attendance	Richard Essery, Emma Cunningham, Massimo Bollasina, Stephanie Robin, Lee Fox, Josie McPherson, Dana Druka, Aideliz Montiel Alvarez, Georgia Lambert, Katia Trevino-Cuellar, Joe Everest, Lokesh Jain, Frederik Madsen, Aninda Bhattacharya, Clara Nyqvist, Rachael Eggleston, Nadia Jogee
Apologies	Chris Holdsworth, Christine Gaebel, Lizzie Telford, Helen Hughes, Julie Grosse-Sommer, Ludwig Baldazsti, Corinne Baulcomb
Papers for reference (attached)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SAB report 2022• DTP Management response to SAB report 2022

1. E4 Management Actions in response to the SAB 2022 report (response circulated May 2023)

Action 1. Pass on Student feedback and suggestions regarding the new Scientific Writing and Grant Writing workshops delivered in January 2023 for January 2024

- Students discussed the suggestions for the writing workshops. They all agreed on the overall good experience they had in the January workshop and agreed that they would take it again.

Action 2. Organise a get-together of cohort in their 2nd year in September/October 2023 to plan the Extended Frontiers series of Spring 2024.

- Second year students should have a quick meeting to finish setting up the speakers for the Extended Frontiers series. Ideally a schedule of the whole series should be done by the end of January.

Action 3. Chase-up IT team re the E4 online application platform

- The new online application platform has come with over 600 applicants. Students talked about the application process with the E4 team.

Action 4. Update guidance given to the Frontiers Series speakers

- Speakers were advised to change the format of the talks, they were encouraged to include more of their personal experience although it was agreed that not everyone would be willing to share everything about their personal experience throughout their careers.

Action 5. Explore organising a workshop on the Imposter Syndrome

- This workshop is still not fully organised. Emma suggested one that is student-led. There are resources available already in place. Staff and students can be invited to talk about their own experiences and share similar views on how they handle it. Hannah and Anna would be good people to contact for this.

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

Communication on fees after 4th year:

Different schools have different ways to deal with matriculation. So far physics and math will cover matriculation fees for the 4th year and probably Geosciences too. There are talks over in Biological Sciences to also fund these fees. Continuation fees will not be covered in any school, and these are paid monthly. The terms from the offer letter are going to be clearer in regard to the additional fees after fourth year. Consider including in the Firbush presentation and in the handbook from the beginning of the year.

DTP3 call timing:

Calls might be expected for January for submission in May, results might be in by October. The recruitment process might have to start before getting the results. Partners are in place. Meeting will take place with partners and E4 students will take place after January. New cohorts might be smaller. Recruitment might aim for more diverse students. Might require more interdisciplinary projects. More training on data management, ethics, data science, etc.

A feedback form might be useful to have in place for past cohorts and current ones can provide insight into the DTP experience.

3. E4 students' feedback to the E4 management team

1st Year

- Students felt that in some of the talks of the Frontiers series, the second half of the talks where speakers talk about their personal experience in academia and their career was not too detailed. This might be due to people willing to share their personal lives and different personalities. Prompt questions prior to talks to give the speakers.
- Project management workshop was really helpful and more workshops like these might be useful in the future.

2nd Year

- Include more applicable examples on the Numeracy and Data Management sessions so that it can be more insightful to everyone independently of their knowledge on the session. Consider having different levels for the workshops.

3rd Year

- A way to learn from other students' PIP experiences might be useful. Previous student reports might be nice to have access to.
- Students should be encouraged to use email lists and Teams channels to build a community.

4th Year

- Students are concerned about additional fees.
- An email regarding extensions might be useful.