

E4 DTP- Professional Internship Programme (PIP)- FAQs

When can I do the PIP?

The PIP is intended for students in their 3rd or 4th year but is also possible while in 2nd year if a suitable occasion arises. The PIP must be done within the PhD maximum end date and before the thesis is submitted. The PIP must start at the latest in the month following the end of your funding (i.e. last month covered by a stipend). There cannot be any gaps in your funding.

Can I split the 3 months?

The 3 months can be split into monthly blocks and over different years and different hosts.

Can I do a PIP in Edinburgh?

Yes, you don't have to necessarily leave Edinburgh or the UK to do a PIP. You can do it with any local company or institution. It can also be done remotely if there is a good reason for it.

Can I get additional financial help to cover travel costs within a PIP?

If your intended internship is abroad, you can apply for the DTP Overseas Research Visit & Conference Funds (ORVCF) together with your PIP to request additional financial support from the fund. Please see the ORVCF Application guidance document for more details on this fund and how to apply.

Will my maximum end date be amended accordingly to the length of the PIP?

No. Because the PIP is considered part of your PhD, you won't get interrupted and your end date won't be extended. You will just get extra stipend to cover the internship.

I am going to do a 3-month paid placement, can it count as a PIP?

If you undertake an internship or any other projects or placements where the host institution provides stipend or salary via temporary employment, this will not count as a PIP because the funding comes from outside the DTP. That means you will still have your PIP to use if you wish to, later on. For such paid internships, an interruption of PhD studies will be required and we will suspend your NERC stipend (since you will be paid from elsewhere). Whilst PIP hosts do not provide salary or stipend, they may be able to provide financial support to help you cover expenses incurred by the placement (travel, accommodation, visas costs etc.). You should certainly ask them if you are looking for funding to cover additional expenses.

Does it have to be totally different from my research?

The PIP is an opportunity to try things you haven't been doing yet and get experience you don't have. This can happen within your research area and it is not a problem if the PIP is related to your PhD subject in some way. You might even get the opportunity to collect useful data you wouldn't have expected and that is fine. However what we don't want is you continue working on your PhD and own research during a PIP or use that time to write your thesis.

Does a UKRI Policy internship count as a PIP?

Yes. If you are successful in securing a [UKRI Policy Internship](#), this will count as your PIP.

Will I be required to provide a report after the PIP?

Yes, we will ask you to send a 2-page report within a month after your PIP ends. It should include a description of your host and of the activities you have been doing as well as some reflection on what the PIP brought to you (experience, skills, network etc.). It should include relevant logos and one or two photos as well.

Any other questions, please get in touch with the E4 DTP team at e4dtp.support@ed.ac.uk