

[Apply here](#)**Start date**

October 2021

Duration

6 months

Languages

Good spoken and written English levels are required (B2 onwards)

Location

[Belfast](#) is the capital city of Northern Ireland and over recent years has seen a period of significant regeneration and growth. The birthplace of the [Titanic](#), this vibrant city has a buzzing nightlife and social scene with many cultural events taking place throughout the year. Close to beautiful countryside and the famous [Giant's Causeway](#), Belfast has something to suit all tastes. ESPA has many interns working in placements in Belfast, so there is the opportunity for a great social scene too.

Are you eligible?

Are you a registered student?

Or

Are you eligible to participate in the Erasmus+ programme?

Benefits

See website for details of all ESPA benefits. For all internships over 6 months, additional benefits will be paid. Details available at interview.

Role

This is an exciting lab-based role for an enthusiastic and proactive Life Sciences student to work within this ground-breaking host company to assist in the development of novel blood tests for earlier diagnosis of cancer. You will be involved in the identification and validation of DNA methylation biomarkers on cutting edge platforms. The successful candidate is guaranteed a first class learning and working experience with this innovative host, and will add real value to your CV.

Tasks

- Support the research team in Research and Development (R&D) projects
- Assist the research team in the generation of analytical documentation, for example methods, specifications, protocols, and reports
- Perform methylation biomarker validation on relevant protocols, methods and analyses, as specified by supervisor
- Continual improvements to the procedures and test methods
- Assist the team with administrative tasks such as quality system documentation, with guidance from supervisor.

Desired Skills

- Studying for Masters or PhD qualification in molecular biology or closely related life science discipline
- Exposure to some level of R&D environment, either academic or industrial
- Experience of DNA extraction, PCR techniques and analyses are desirable
- Individuals should be enthusiastic and be able to contribute actively to the team setting
- Diligence and an analytical mindset are essential for methodical working, recording and analysis of data
- Excellent time management, organizational and communication skills.
- Highly developed interpersonal, written and verbal skills, including the ability to speak confidently in groups and to present work internally

The Host Company

The host has almost a decade of research performed by its founders. Their lead product detects DNA methylation changes in a minimal blood volume and can be analysed on highly sensitive, yet user-friendly, droplet digital PCR technology. Their cutting-edge approach to biomarker identification in ovarian cancer means this product has the potential to detect changes in the very earliest stages of disease. Their aim is to improve upon the current CA125 assay and the ovarian cancer diagnostic pathway.