

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
INFORMATION PAPER

Food Standards Agency's Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme (PGSS)

The Food Standards Agency funds up to 3 postgraduate scholarships each year to help train the next generation of scientists in areas relevant to our future needs. Scholarships may be at either Doctoral or research Masters level. The main criteria on which we assess proposals are the quality of training provided, scientific quality and relevance to the Agency's policies. Preference is also given to proposals expected to lead to practical outcomes that benefit consumers.

The attached table below provides details for the four PGSS-funded scholarships awarded for calls on the microbiological safety of food.

Secretariat
March 2007

PGSS-funded scholarships awarded for calls on the microbiological safety of food.

PROJECT CODE	PROJECT TITLE	START DATE	END DATE	INSTITUTION	PROJECT OBJECTIVES
PG1006	Explaining the urban and rural differences of <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157 human infections in Grampian	1 Oct 2004	30 Sept 2007	University of Aberdeen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To explain why <i>E. coli</i> O157 infections rates are 4 times higher in rural Grampian compared with Aberdeen city
PG1007	Potential of <i>Escherichia coli</i> serotypes O26 strains from humans and cattle to cause infections	1 Jan 2005	31 Dec 2007	Scottish Agricultural College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To characterise the <i>E. coli</i> O26 strains and to examine their colonisation potential To characterise the <i>E. coli</i> O26 strains for pathogenicity potential To carry out genomic indexing to identify the evolutionary acquisition of virulence genes and support the identification of phenotypic markers that may be identifiers of virulence
PG1009	Glycosylation of <i>Campylobacter</i> iron transport systems and the role of host stress hormones	1 Oct 2005	30 Sept 2008	University of Leicester	<p>The project will address the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are the iron uptake systems involved in survival of <i>C. jejuni</i> in the intestines, host tissues, on foods or in the environment? Are other members of the <i>C. jejuni</i> transport systems glycosylated? Is the glycosylation of iron transport systems required for efficient iron uptake? Does <i>C. jejuni</i> growth promotion in response to noradrenaline involve an iron transport system(s)? Does the presence of noradrenaline affect the pattern of glycosylation of iron transport and other proteins in <i>C. jejuni</i>?

PG1010	Bioinformatics for the molecular epidemiology and surveillance of <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> infections	1 Dec 2005	30 Nov 2008	Health Protection Agency	The project aims to provide answers to 3 questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How to organise and intergrate microbial, genomic, epidemiological and clinical data in order to best exploit it for food safety microbiology? In particular: for improved assay; to understand virulence/pathogenicity; and for outbreak identification and alert systems.2. Which computational tools are needed to analyse these data?3. How to translate data to knowledge and represent it in ways appropriate to the needs of laboratory and no-laboratory health care staff?
---------------	--	------------	-------------	--------------------------	--