

Completion Report for BSAS Scholarships

Name and affiliation: Graham Lough

Award Name and value of the award: Robertson Award £520

Was any additional funding secured to support the activity? No
(If yes, please state the value and source of funding):

Start/end date of the award: 13/03/14

Summary of the award (Briefly describe the objectives and how was it undertaken):
(approximately 300 words)

This award was provided to pay for my conference fees to attend World Congress of Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP), which I attended in August 2014.

Benefits of the Award:

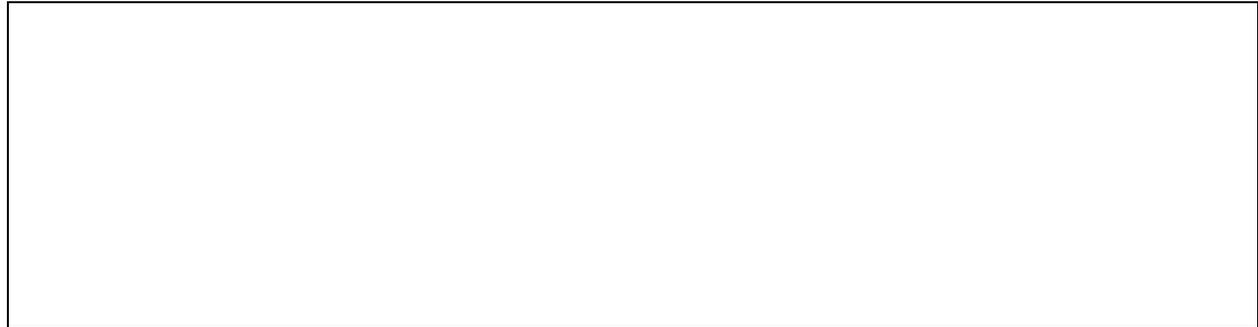
This is the main part of the report and the two sections below should be approximately 1000 words in total. You may focus on benefits to yourself, to the animal science community, or both – depending on the nature of the activity undertaken.

Benefit of the award to you (e.g. new knowledge or skills, new contacts and collaborations):

I was able to attend WCGALP, where I gave an oral presentation on my research. As a result of my attending this international conference, I met many new contacts. Importantly, I was able to communicate my research to an international audience, and received much positive feedback on my presentation. This greatly increased my confidence as a scientist, researcher and communicator. Furthermore, I made new collaborations in my project, as I was able to set up meetings with experts and others working on the same virus in international institutions. These would not have been possible if I had been unable to attend the conference and give my oral presentation to encourage “thinking outside the box” and opening discussion. The insight of the experts on statistical models provided by these collaborations will allow me to progress with my PhD with a much better understanding of the underlying statistical models.

Benefit of the award to the animal science community, academic and industrial:

By giving an oral presentation, I was able to open discussion on the role of resistance and tolerance in management of Porcine Reproductive Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV). Resistance and tolerance are usually considered by animal breeders as separate static traits. Through my presentation, I was (hopefully) able to convince the audience that, not only are resistance and tolerance dynamic traits, but must be considered together. I suggested a novel methodology through which new phenotypes can be identified, that provide insight into resistance-tolerance dynamics. I hope that this resonated with both industry and academic perspectives on resistance and tolerance.



Other supporting information:

I am extremely grateful for receiving the award. Despite having funds for my research project, these resources are limited, and additional funding allowed me to attend this conference. This was my first conference at the international level, and I was able to meet new people from all over the world, making many new friends and potential future colleagues. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you for the giving me the opportunity to attend this conference.