

Amina McDiarmid – Awarded April 2017

Statement of impact from MRC Flexible Supplement Fund award

“without this course I would not have been able to develop the confidence to strike out as a competent data scientist”

My award from the MRC Supplement Fund was used to pay the fees for the Next Generation Sequencing Bioinformatics Summer School in Berlin. The course was run by ECSeq, a team of former academic bioinformaticians who themselves have written many bioinformatic tools and packages. Attendance expanded what I taught myself previously. Following the course, I was able to take an innovative direction with my PhD project which resulted in a plan for two publications and a new collaboration. The course was 5 days and had 35 people in attendance so I was also able to develop my international professional network as there were seminars which provided opportunities to present/discuss our own research projects. Provided by the course organisers, was a large and detailed manual which covers a vast range of topics and contains practical exercises. In addition to this, we were given a memory stick which contains a range of sample data for use alongside the manual in the practical exercises and allows me to adapt my computer to be more amenable to programming. Essentially, without this course I would not have been able to develop the confidence to strike out as a competent data scientist in the field of next generation sequencing. The course not only increases the quality and impact of my PhD research but has given me the ability to share my new knowledge with my colleagues and contribute to my research group/institute as someone who is known to have these core skills.