

Visit Reports

1. Sadaf Dogar (M.Phil. Zoology)

University of Aberdeen, UK

I visited University of Aberdeen, UK for a period of 02 months from 15th January to 15th March, 2018 in order to learn techniques of gene expression at Scottish Fish Immunology Research Centre (SFIRC) under HEC-BC KEP Project. I met Dr. Dawn Shewring, senior research technician who took me to visit lab facilities and introduced me with other students working in lab. She also trained me about using various equipment and lab instruments regarding RNA extraction. I also had meetings with Prof. Christopher Secombes (Director of the research centre) and Prof. Sam Martin (Co-PI) and discussed about plan of work during my stay. Everyone showed immense co-operation and guided very well while working in the lab. I also had a chance to attend Fish Immunology Lab Meeting that held on every Tuesday. Different students came up with their presentations and share their work and ideas with others. During my stay, I got to know about various fields of expertise of students working in the lab. All the research groups regularly collaborate with each other to cover fundamental and applied issues related to fish health such as vaccine development, genomics, cytokine biology and functional feeds. Prof. Chris also took me to visit Ythan Estuary along with his postgraduate students. It was a special protection area for conservation, particularly the breeding ground of Tern species. River Ythan is a river that flows towards south-east of Scotland through the towns of Fyvie, Methlick and Ellon before falling into the North Sea. The estuary was located at the lower reach of the river. I also saw seal colonies there. The cliffs at the Bullers provide a nesting site in the spring for colonies of seabirds. The area is a popular sightseeing spot, with a car park but no tourist facilities.

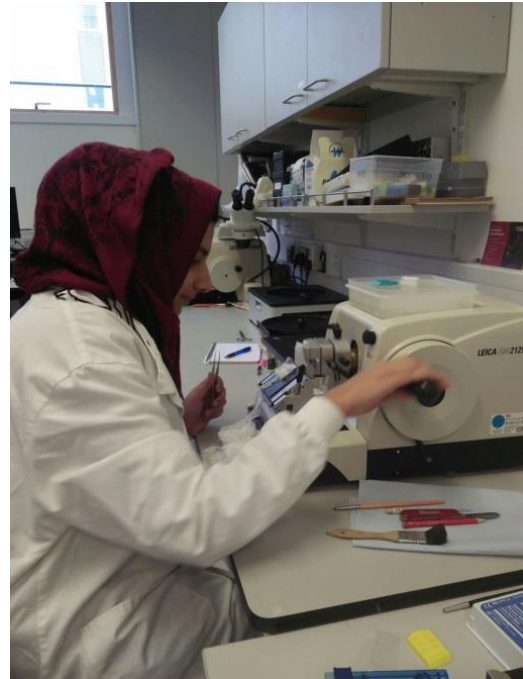
I also had a short meeting with Dr. Elzbieta B. Krol, senior post- doctoral research fellow. She was doing her specialization in nutrigenomics. She shared her work that is soy based feed and concentrate and its effect on gut health and fish energetics and physiology with the students. I had a final meeting held with Prof. Chris where I briefed him about my progress and learning during my stay.

Ataturk University, Turkey

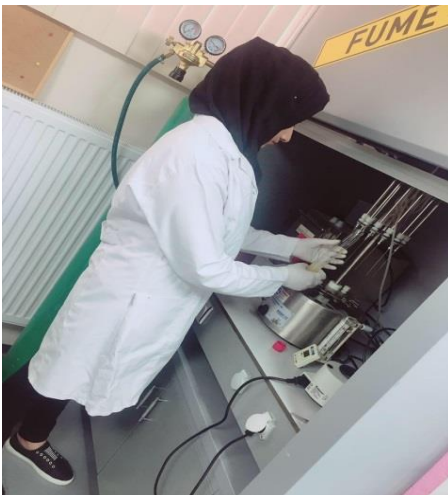
I visited Faculty of Fisheries Ataturk University, Turkey under Mevlana Exchange Program for a period of four months from 22nd September, 2018 to 20th January, 2019. I took preserved samples with me and performed fatty acid analysis of liver and muscles of GMT (Genetically Male Tilapia) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Murat Arslan (Dean Faculty of Fisheries). After completing the lab work, I discussed the results with Prof. Murat and completed my write up. In my free time, I used to attend different meetings of projects with Prof. Murat. He also used to make me attend meetings with his students where he used to discuss about their research work and ask viewpoints from everyone. I also gave a presentation in a seminar on title “Aquaponics – Innovative Farming” as a requirement of this exchange program. During my stay, I also had a chance to interact with the graduate students. Prof. Murat used to send me to one of his class to encourage the students so they can communicate in English. I got a chance to have a very nice interaction with other senior faculty members notably Dr. Ozden Fakioglu, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Atamanalp and Prof. Dr. Telat Yanik. All of them were very supportive and helpful throughout my stay. They used to take me out to make me familiar with Turkish culture. I have also worked on species identification with Dr. Ozden in her lab with her students. Prof. Murat himself made

things quite easier for me during my stay. I also had a chance to see a Turkish wedding with reference to Prof. Murat. Turkish people are very welcoming and love to host. My experience went very smooth and I learned a lot of things during this exchange program.

Such international exposures provide opportunities and open up ways for students to promote research activities in future.



Left: Outside Zoology Building, University of Aberdeen, UK
Right: Working in Histology Lab, IMS.



Left: Working in Lab, Fisheries Faculty, Ataturk University
Right: After taking a lecture of graduates in Department



Left: Species Identification with Dr. Ozden in her lab
Right: With Prof. Murat Arslan

2. Tehmina Yaqoob (M.Phil. Zoology)

Ataturk University, Turkey

I, Tehmina Yaqoob, felt glad to introduce myself here as Mevlana Exchange student between 29-09-2017 -28-02-2018 at Faculty of fisheries, Ataturk University ,Turkey. During my stay at “Ataturk University” I took a course entitled as “Use of Oils and Fats in Fish Nutrition” and passed the course successfully with A+ grade. I also gave a seminar on “Present and Future Aspects of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Pakistan” .I also completed experimental part of my M.Phil. research (“Dietary supplementation of poly- β -hydroxybutyrate on the growth, digestive enzymes activity, body composition of rainbow trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*)”) under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Murat Arslan (Dean Faculty of Fisheries). I also visited some local rainbow trout farms and got experience on the field. Apart from academics I have a chance to keenly observe the diverse culture of Turkish nation. I visited 4 major cities including Erzurum, Ankara, Konya And Istanbul.Turkey has a lot’s of touristic places specially in Istanbul(a city of cultural diversity) ,Ankara is the place with alot of historic museums of Roman and Ottoman empire, on the other hand Konya is the spiritual place because of Mevlana (Rumi).Turkish people and their social and cultural norms are marvellous. The most noticeable thing in Turkey is the way Turkish people treat with Pakistanis. No doubt I found Turkish nation is the most hospitable nation. This exchange programme have a great impact on flourishes my personality thoroughly, I feel more energetic, confident and motivated after this exchange progamme. I would like to thanks UVAS and Ataturk University for providing this great explorer through Mevlana Exchange Programme.



3. Sadia Nazir (M.Phil. Zoology)

University of Aberdeen, UK

I, Sadia Nazir, was a visiting researcher at School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, UK to work under HEC-BC KEP funded research project as part of joint collaborative research between School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, UK and the Department of Fisheries & Aquaculture, University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS), Lahore, Pakistan. I stayed at school of Biological Sciences for a period of Two months from 15-01-2018 to 15-03-2018 and worked there under supervision of Prof. Christopher J. Secombes. My research work was mainly focused on genetics and histology of liver and intestine of my experimental fish that I brought from Pakistan. Mr. Shewring Dawn Margaret, Lab technician, gave training for the usage of equipment (centrifuge, Tissue analyzer, autoclave, gel electrophoresis, vortex, nanodrop etc.) My work in Fish immunology lab made me learn on RNA extraction, RNA quality, cDNA synthesis, *Labeo rohita* primers, gel electrophoresis, PCR and histology work. The research environment at lab was too impressive because of regular meetings between all researchers (students and staff) on every Tuesday and each student present their research work and progress. Moreover, I visited 3 major states including UK, Scotland and Dundee. As a researcher this visit has a positive impact on me. After this visit, I feel more passionate, self-assured and encouraged person inside. I would like extend my thanks to UVAS and University of Aberdeen for providing this great explorer of joint collaborative research work.



4. Tehreem Iqbal (M.Phil. Zoology)

University of Ataturk, Turkey

I, Terheem Iqbal, got the prestigious opportunity of being selected by Mevlana Exchange Program. I went to Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey for one semester under this program to do my part of the research in Fish Nutrition Lab. They warmly welcomed me and their hospitality is incredible. All Faculty members were very generous, caring and helping; they made my stay over there very comfortable. It was a great experience to work with the expertise fish nutritionist. We visited their high technology laboratories “Daytam” and “Central Fisheries research institute (CFRI)” Trabzon on Black sea coast Along with Dr. Noor Khan, Chairman, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and Prof. Dr. Murat Arslan, Dean, Faculty of Fisheries, Ataturk University.

I have been invited by my different Turkish friends and respectable teachers over lunches and dinners and served by delicious traditional food. Indeed their historical culture is remarkable and inspirational. Madrasah and masjids got a marvelous and unique traditional Islamic architect. Castles and museums depict the astonishing Ottoman Empire. In conclusion I would like to say it was not only a study tour to enhance research experience but also a chance to see other side of world with a different vision. Such type of exchange program encourages the student to work with even more passion, boosts confidence, and enhances knowledge which may ultimately positively affect the student career.

