

James Hammond

PERSONAL INFORMATION

James Earwaker Hammond
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Department of Genetics
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Birth date: 26 December 1998
Place of birth: Elgin, UK
Nationality: British

EDUCATION

- 10/2020–06/2025 **DPhil Zoology**
Merton College, University of Oxford
'The evolvability of segment number in vertebrates'
Supervised by Dr Berta Verd (Dept. Biology) and Prof Ruth Baker (Mathematical Inst.)
- 09/2016–06/2020 **BSc (Hons) Biology and Mathematics (1st class)**
University of St Andrews
Including modules in Developmental Biology, Bioenergetics, Dynamical Systems, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, Fractal Geometry, Group Theory, Real Analysis, and Complex Analysis.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 10/2026–Present **Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow, University of Cambridge**
with Dr Erik Clark, Department of Genetics.
Studying the mechanisms of scale-invariant pattern formation early dipteran embryogenesis.
- 10/2025–09/2026 **Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Cambridge**
with Dr Erik Clark, Department of Genetics.
Studying the mechanisms of scale-invariant pattern formation in early dipteran embryogenesis.
- 07/2025–09/2025 **Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Oxford**
with Dr Berta Verd, Department of Biology.
Experimentally quantifying the segmentation clock in Lake Malawi cichlids.
- 10/2020–06/2025 **DPhil Project, University of Oxford**
Supervisors: Dr Berta Verd (Department of Biology), Prof Ruth Baker (Mathematical Institute).
Combining computational models of embryonic development with comparative embryology in Lake Malawi cichlids to understand morphological evolution.
- 09/2019–05/2020 **Senior Honours Project, University of St Andrews**
Supervisor: Dr V Anne Smith, School of Biology.
Analysing how dataset properties alter efficacy of heuristic structural learning of Bayesian Networks for biological data.

- 09/2019–05/2020 **Senior Honours Project, University of St Andrews**
Supervisor: Dr Giorgos Minas, School of Mathematics and Statistics.
Evaluating the use of the phase-corrected Linear Noise Approximation for fast meso-scale stochastic simulations of biochemical oscillators.
- 03/2018–01/2020 **iGEM, University of St Andrews**
Supervisors: Dr Ulrich Schwarz-Linek, Dr V Anne Smith, Dr Chris Hooley, Dr Clarissa Czekster.
Leading a multidisciplinary team of students working on synthetic biology projects in protein engineering ([DomAln](#)) and antimicrobials ([metaboLIGHT](#)). Mentored a team synthesising a biological sunscreen ([ShineScreen](#)). Presented our projects in 2018 and 2019 at the international iGEM jamboree, in Boston MA.
- 03/2018–07/2018 **Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of St Andrews**
Supervisor: Dr Ildiko Somorjai, Biomedical Sciences Research Complex.
Studying regeneration in the amphioxus *Branchiostoma lanceolatum*.

COURSES AND TRAINING

- 06/2024–07/2024 **Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole**
Student on the MBL's prestigious six-week embryology course.

MEETINGS

- 06/2026 **'Mechanical Forces in EvoDevo', 10th European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology Meeting**
Glasgow, UK
Organising a symposium on the role of mechanical forces in morphogenesis and evolution.

PRESENTATIONS

- 07/2026 **14th European Conference on Mathematical & Theoretical Biology**
Graz, AT
Talk titled 'Modularity of patterning and morphogenesis in the pre-somitic mesoderm' **Invited talk**
- 06/2026 **10th European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology Meeting**
Glasgow, UK
Poster titled 'The developmental origins of evolvability in vertebral number'
- 06/2026 **5th Cambridge Morphogenesis Symposium**
Cambridge, UK
Flash talk and poster titled 'Modularity of patterning and morphogenesis in the pre-somitic mesoderm' **Postdoc Poster Prize**
- 03/2026 **British Society for Developmental Biology Spring Meeting**
Coventry, UK
Poster titled 'The developmental origins of evolvability in vertebral number'
- 09/2023 **European Developmental Biology Congress 2023**
Oxford, UK
Poster titled 'Robustness of the segmentation clock to morphogenesis and evolvability of segment number in vertebrates'. **BSDB PhD Student Poster Prize**

- 07/2023 **EMBL Symposium: Theory and concepts in biology**
Heidelberg, DE
Poster titled 'Modularity of morphogenesis in the pre-somitic mesoderm and dynamics of the segmentation clock'
- 07/2023 **EMBO Workshop: Physics of Living Systems**
Dresden, DE
Poster titled 'Modularity of morphogenesis in the pre-somitic mesoderm and dynamics of the segmentation clock'
- 09/2022 **Physics of Living Matter Symposium**
Cambridge, UK
Poster titled 'Oscillator coupling and evolution of morphogenesis in the pre-somitic mesoderm'
- 11/2019 **International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition**
Boston, MA
Talk and poster titled 'DomAln'
- 11/2018 **International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) Competition**
Boston, MA
Talk and poster titled 'metaboLIGHT'

HONOURS & AWARDS

- 2026 Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellowship (£130,000).
- 2026 Cambridge Morphogenesis Symposium, Best postdoc poster.
- 2026 The Genetics Society Conference Grant (£500).
- 2026 The Company of Biologists & British Society for Developmental Biology Conference Grant (£785).
- 2024 Merton College Master Grant (£200).
- 2024 Marine Biological Laboratory Scholarship (\$6,000).
- 2024 The Company of Biologists & British Society for Developmental Biology Travel Grant for Practical Courses (£1000).
- 2023 British Society for Developmental Biology, Best student poster (£100).
- 2020 Oxford NERC DTP Studentship (£109,024).
- 2020 EastBio DTP Studentship (£98,319), *gratefully declined*.
- 2020 LI Do DTP Studentship (£97,624) *gratefully declined*.
- 2020 Oxford University Press Achievement in Biosciences Prize, University of St Andrews (£100). Awarded for achievement in experimental work and exams.
- 2017, 2020 Dean's List, University of St Andrews. Awarded for achieving an average of $\geq 16.5/20$ across the year.
- 2016 Gilbert White Youth Award 2016 (Runner-up), National Biodiversity Network. For my recording of the Lepidoptera of Moray.

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

British Society for Developmental Biology, The Genetics Society, Society for Mathematical Biology

LANGUAGES

English (native), German (A2 / basic)

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Julia, Scientific Computing, Python, Git, LaTeX, R, HTML, MatLab

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Entomology, Ornithology, Chess, Music, Hillwalking

[CV compiled on June 27, 2026]

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