

Nuffield Research Placements – Guidance for Project Providers

Nuffield Research Placements (previously Nuffield Science Bursaries) provide over 1,000 students each year with the opportunity to work alongside professional scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians.

A partnership

Nuffield Research Placements depends for its success on your support in providing projects for the students. We know from the experience of previous years that the time and energy that you put into supervising a student will be rewarded when you see how your student grows in confidence as he or she achieves progress in the project. Students will make a contribution to your ongoing projects, giving you some enthusiastic extra support to help initiate, progress or complete work programmes.

The Programme receives additional support from The Wellcome Trust, Research Councils UK and the Society for General Microbiology.

What do I need to provide?

You need to be able to host a student in your institution for 4-6 weeks over the summer period. Dates vary depending on your availability, and projects will be arranged to suit your workload. During the time the student is with you, they should be assigned a genuine research project which contributes to your ongoing work, and gives them a real insight into scientific research.

Good Projects

A project should be self-contained so that the student can experience a beginning, a middle and an end within the 4 - 6 week period. The time available limits the scope and complexity of the projects that the students can complete.

Unfortunately we cannot fund students for shorter projects as we feel that students do not gain any significant benefits from such a short time.

The criteria for selecting projects are that they should:

- have clear scientific or technological content;
- contribute to the work of the host organisation;
- be well defined, having a clear outcome in mind from the beginning;
- allow some scope for initiative on the part of the student.

A key criteria is that the students should gain from working alongside professional scientists, engineers, technologists or mathematicians. Increasingly, students are undertaking projects involving extensive use of ICT; for example involving mathematical modelling. These are acceptable as long as the origins of the project are scientific or technological, and the project meets the criteria of 'enabling the student to work with and alongside practising scientists, engineers, technologists and mathematicians'.

Some students may wish to use their project to obtain a CREST Award. CREST (Creativity in Science and Technology) is a nationally recognised award scheme which accredits science projects and research carried out by students in partnership with scientists, technologists and engineers. It provides a structure and a project management tool that could assist you in supporting your student. You will be asked to provide some evidence to support the student's achievements and you should check with them and/or the Nuffield Coordinator to find out exactly what is expected of you.

Your Nuffield Coordinator will advise you on the suitability of projects but to give you an idea of what kinds of projects are rewarding for all concerned, see our website at www.nuffieldfoundation.org/scb

Joining the Programme

If you have been invited to join the scheme either by a Nuffield Coordinator or directly by a science teacher/lecturer, we ask you to complete the Project Provider Registration Form, as a statement of your

intention to participate in the Programme. This should be returned to the Nuffield Coordinator. We cannot always guarantee that all the project placements will be filled; this depends on student interest and availability.

Many supervisors like to be involved in the final selection of their student. If this is the case, please inform your Nuffield Coordinator and they will arrange for you to interview several students. This is a positive experience for both students and supervisors, and often contributes to the overall success of a project.

Health & Safety

Separate guidance notes on Health and Safety and Insurance are available from Nuffield Coordinators. When you complete the Registration Form you will be asked to indicate that you are fully aware of Insurance and Health and Safety issues including appropriate risk assessments. Usually, a CRB check is not necessary to supervise a bursary student.

Changes to the programme

For 2013, we have made some changes to Nuffield Research Placements, including changing the name from Nuffield Science Bursaries. These changes do not affect the experience we offer students, or anything that you need to do as a project host.

We are changing the amount of the bursary awarded to students to reflect their different needs. **All** students will be eligible to apply for funding to cover their travel, and in addition, if they meet the criteria for a **higher bursary** they will receive £80 for each week of the placement. Your local Nuffield Coordinator will determine the level of the bursary so this is not something you need to discuss with students.

Dates	Actions
November 2014 to May 2015	Contact from Nuffield Coordinator or student/school/college Receive literature, including information on Insurance and Health & Safety from Nuffield Coordinator Identify / register projects via the online portal (contact your Nuffield Co-ordinator for more information) When projects approved - complete risk assessments Complete Registration Form and return to Nuffield Coordinator Inform insurers if required Receive information about students from Nuffield Coordinator or select students if required Clarify if student intends to complete a CREST Award and what is involved - this must be discussed with you before a decision is taken as this is not a requirement of the programme
May/June 2015	Hold Induction meetings with student(s)
July/August 2015	PROJECTS TAKE PLACE
September 2015	Return to Nuffield Coordinator: Project report from student(s) Completed questionnaire
Autumn 2015	Attend Regional Celebration Event