

# Nuffield Research Placements

Inspiring the next generation

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*“The Nuffield Foundation ensures that the students we have working with us are bright, ambitious and very capable of working on our projects.”*

*Dr David Skuse,  
Technical Director, IMERYS*

## Case studies

### Nanoelectronics Centre, University of Surrey

Dr Radu Sporea hosts Nuffield students on projects around electronic engineering and nanotechnology.

Dr Sporea said: “Electronic engineering has the problem of being everywhere and yet taken for granted. We need to show students that electronic gadgets are not just made in a sealed factory on a different continent, but designed by gifted engineers who are pursuing their passion. This programme offers students the opportunity to experience first-hand the life of a researcher.”

“For us, it has also meant that I have been able to forge ahead with several small research problems with no time allocated to them, which are perfect for a month-long investigation. It’s also improved teaching expertise, project planning and time management for members of the team here, as well as improving links with local schools.”

### About the Nuffield Foundation

The Nuffield Foundation is a charitable trust established in 1943 by William Morris, Lord Nuffield, the founder of Morris Motors.

Our aim is to improve social well-being by funding research and innovation in education and social policy. We also work to build capacity in science and social science research.

Nuffield Research Placements were previously known as Nuffield Science Bursaries.

[www.nuffieldfoundation.org](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org)

### Boots Technical Centre, Alliance Boots

Holly Chambers has supervised Nuffield students carrying out product development assignments for several years.

Holly said: “A Nuffield Research Placement is a great opportunity for us to be able to engage students interested in scientific and technical subjects. The students gain a valuable insight into the world of commercial research and development and they come away from the experience with an enthusiasm for product development work.”

“Personally, hosting a student has been a great opportunity to extend my coaching skills through supervision – breaking down a project into discrete steps and thinking about how best to communicate my subject knowledge. Having to balance my own workload with the work schedule of the students has definitely improved my organisational skills.”

## How can I get involved?

The first thing to do is contact your local Nuffield coordinator. They will help you to shape your project ideas into a distinct plan, with defined scientific or technical content. Your coordinator will then find an appropriate student for your project, and you will have the opportunity to interview the student before he or she starts.



## What about Health & Safety - is there lots of paperwork?

No! You will need to fill in a short form outlining the project and provide confirmation that students will be covered by your insurers while they are working at your organisation. Supervisors are not required to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check unless there are specific risks involved in the project, such as long periods of one-to-one working.

### Contact us

Visit [www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nrp](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nrp) for contact details of your local Nuffield coordinator. You can also watch a short video featuring project supervisors talking about their experiences.

**Email:** [nrp@nuffieldfoundation.org](mailto:nrp@nuffieldfoundation.org)  
or call 020 7631 0566

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# Could you change someone's life this summer?

Providing a Nuffield Research Placement offers you the chance to inspire the next generation of researchers, at the same time as moving forward with your own projects. It's an opportunity to give a 17-year-old the chance to discover what a career in STEM (science, technology, engineering or maths) might be like – particularly if they have no family history of attending university or working in a STEM environment.



## What are Nuffield Research Placements?

Each year Nuffield Research Placements give over 1000 post-16 students hands-on experience of a professional research environment through a 4-6 week placement in their summer holidays.

The programme is run by the Nuffield Foundation and works through regional networks to link talented students with organisations undertaking research. We work with **hundreds of different organisations** including universities, commercial companies, voluntary organisations and research institutes.

By working with STEM professionals, students gain insight into a wide variety of STEM careers. They are able to make more informed choices about what to do after school or college. By providing a placement, your organisation can give someone a life-changing opportunity that will help transform them into a future researcher.

## Who are Nuffield students?

A typical Nuffield student will be a 17-year-old student from a local school or college. They will have just completed their first year of an advanced level course (or Scottish Highers) in science, technology, engineering or maths.

Our students are **intelligent, enthusiastic** and **committed**, and will have been through a rigorous selection process. We actively encourage participation from students without a family history of going to university, as well as those attending schools in disadvantaged areas. We make sure no-one is excluded on a financial basis by funding students' travel and providing bursaries to those most in need.

## How will the programme benefit my organisation and me?

Nuffield students will need supervision and guidance, but in return they will make a significant contribution to your organisation. Our students work to a high standard on different types of projects, depending on the organisation and its priorities. For example, it could be a pilot project, or one that has been temporarily shelved due to lack of time, or a specific part of a larger project. It could be lab-, field- or office-based.

Work carried out by students often leads to published papers and has been used as the basis for grant applications.

In addition, supervising a student helps staff to develop their own teaching and mentoring skills. This is particularly useful for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers and staff looking to gain management experience.

Many of our host organisations provide placements as part of their public engagement or corporate social responsibility work. Universities, in particular, are increasingly accountable for their access work and supervising a Nuffield student shows that your institution is committed to increasing opportunities for young people in your local area.

Host organisations are not required to make any payment to support a student.



Think back to when you were 17. What did you know about research as a career? How did you get where you are today? It's likely there were key individuals and experiences that motivated and inspired you, and it's those experiences that we want to give to young people through our Nuffield Research Placements.