



## **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.

One of the 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/nrp](http://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/nrp)

### Joining the Programme

Your local Nuffield Coordinator will help set you up on our online application system and ask you to enter the details of the project(s) you intend to offer. 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 review and 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. If you decide to offer a project, you will be asked by your local Coordinators 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 Nuffield student.

### Financial information for students

**All** students will be eligible to apply for funding to cover their travel, and in addition, if they meet the criteria for a **full 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
January to May 2014	Contact from Nuffield Coordinator or student/school/college Receive literature, including information on Insurance and Health & Safety from Nuffield Coordinator Identify projects and discuss with Nuffield Coordinator When projects approved - complete risk assessments Enter project details into online application system Inform insurers if required Receive information about students from Nuffield Coordinator (and 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/July 2014	Hold <b>Induction meetings</b> with student(s)
July/August 2014	<b>PROJECTS TAKE PLACE</b>
September 2014	Return to Nuffield Coordinator: Project report from student(s) Completed feedback questionnaire
Autumn 2014	Attend <b>Regional Celebration Event</b>