



Nuffield Foundation

Improving social
well-being through
education, research
and innovation

Nuffield Foundation

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

Our aim is to improve social well-being. We do this by:

- Funding research and innovation projects in education and social policy.
- Building research capacity in science and social science.

We play an active role in ensuring the work we fund has an impact on policy and practice, particularly in the medium and long term. This includes:

- Identifying gaps in evidence in key areas of social policy and commissioning and stimulating work to address them.
- Synthesising findings from research projects and publishing implications for policy and practice.

- Convening events that bring together key researchers, policy-makers, and practitioners to discuss work we have funded and to agree next steps.

We spend about £11 million on these activities each year, using the income generated by investing the Foundation's endowment. Our board of trustees is responsible for deciding what we should fund, working closely with senior staff.

We are financially and politically independent, but we often work in partnership with other organisations that share our aims and interests.

Lord Nuffield (1877–1963)

Lord Nuffield, born William Morris, was a motor car manufacturer and philanthropist. He founded Morris Motors Ltd in 1912, having begun his career repairing bicycles in Oxford aged 15.

Lord Nuffield was one of the first British industrialists to introduce mass production methods, and at one time, his company manufactured more than half the cars sold in the UK.

He was made a viscount in 1938 and took the name of Nuffield, the Oxfordshire village where he had settled.

In his later years, Lord Nuffield devoted his energies to the philanthropy that made him a household name. The Nuffield Foundation was founded in 1943 with a gift of £10m-worth of shares in his company.

Research and innovation in education and social policy

We fund research and innovation projects in education and social policy. Our funding programmes change over time depending on where we identify the greatest need for our contribution as an independent funder.

Research and innovation programmes

- **Children and Families:** funds projects on child welfare and development, and in child protection.
- **Early Years Education and Childcare:** funds projects on educational attainment and child development outcomes, tackling social disadvantage, parental and family contexts, wider societal impacts, and public policy mechanisms.
- **Economic Advantage and Disadvantage:** funds projects on work and income, wealth, savings and debt, tax and welfare, including the distribution of these and the relations between them.
- **Education:** funds projects on primary education, secondary education transitions, and science and mathematics education.
- **Finances of Ageing:** funds projects on work and retirement, public and private pensions, financial planning for later life, the finances of social care, and intergenerational transfers.
- **Law in Society:** funds projects in family justice, administrative justice, mental disability and other vulnerabilities, and the wider design of the legal system.
- **Open Door:** funds projects that improve social well-being and meet Trustees' wider interests, but that lie outside our main programmes.

Types of project

All the work we fund must have the potential to influence policy or practice. We will consider:

- Reviews and synthesis.
- Data collection and/or analysis.
- Pre-trial development work.
- Trials or evaluations, particularly those using control groups.
- Research translation.
- Practical projects including the development or start-up of new initiatives.

We don't fund the ongoing costs of existing work or services, or provide core funding. Most of our grant-holders are based in universities. But others work for research institutes, think tanks or voluntary sector organisations.

We usually make grants of up to £350,000, although those at the higher end are rare. We will also consider co-funding larger projects.

All applications are peer reviewed by independent referees. Funding decisions are made by our board of trustees.

Full criteria for each programme and details of how to apply can be found on our website: www.nuffieldfoundation.org/research-innovation

Capacity building

In addition to our research and innovation programmes, we run programmes designed to build research capacity in science and social sciences.

Nuffield Research Placements

Each year we fund over 1,000 placements for school and college students to undertake hands-on research projects in science, technology, engineering or maths (STEM). Students undertake 4–6 week placements in companies, research institutes, universities and voluntary organisations. The placements are administered at regional level by a network of Nuffield coordinators and take place during the summer holiday between Year 12 and Year 13 (S5 and S6 in Scotland). Student applications open at the end of October.

We aim to tackle socioeconomic barriers to STEM careers by targeting students from less advantaged backgrounds or who attend schools in less well-off areas. We cover travel costs for all students and pay a weekly bursary to students eligible for free school meals.

Oliver Bird Fund

We have a small restricted fund for investing in rheumatic disease research. This was bequeathed by Captain Oliver Bird in 1948. In recent years we have used this money to fund PhD studentships in five university-based centres of excellence through the Oliver Bird Rheumatism Programme. We are currently reviewing how this fund will be used in future, and it is not open to applications.

Q-Step

Together with the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), we fund Q-Step, a £19.5 million programme designed to promote a step-change in quantitative skills training for social science undergraduates in the UK.

The UK has a shortage of social science graduates with the quantitative skills needed to evaluate evidence, analyse data, and design and commission research. Q-Step is a strategic response to that shortage and is funding fifteen Q-Step Centres at universities across the UK to develop and deliver specialist undergraduate programmes, including new courses, work placements and pathways to postgraduate study.

Commonwealth Relations Trust

The Commonwealth Relations Trust is a small fund established to strengthen relationships between the UK and other Commonwealth countries. Most recently we have used this to fund fellowships for postdoctoral researchers from sub-Saharan Africa to research 'neglected' diseases such as bilharzia, elephantiasis, worms, diarrhoea and sleeping sickness. We are also funding a large study designed to increase the proportion of South African teenagers with HIV who keep taking their antiretroviral treatment. We are currently reviewing how this fund will be used in future, and it is not open to applications.

Interested in applying?

If you are interested in applying for funding from one of our research and innovation programmes, the first thing you should do is to visit our website. We publish full criteria for each programme as well as details of the application process and guidance for applicants.

www.nuffieldfoundation.org/research-innovation

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics examines and reports on ethical issues raised by new developments in biology and medicine. It was founded by the Nuffield Foundation in 1991, but it operates independently. It is co-funded by the Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust.

www.nuffieldbioethics.org

We believe
in the value of
independent and
rigorous research
evidence and its
power to bring
about change

Find out more

Find out more about our work at
www.nuffieldfoundation.org

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