



# Undergraduate Research Bursaries

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## Guidelines for Applicants 2017

These guidelines describe the **Royal Society of Chemistry ("RSC") Undergraduate Research Bursaries** and will be awarded in the summer (June – September) of 2017 only. Please read the website and these guidelines before making an enquiry or completing an application form.

**The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm Monday 27 February 2017.**

### Nature of Awards

The purpose of the awards is to give experience of research to undergraduates with research potential and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research.

The awards provide support for the student at a rate of £200 per week (£210 per week in London), for a period of between 6 and 8 weeks.

### Eligibility

In order to apply for the bursary, the following eligibility criteria must be met. Please note that meeting the eligibility set out in these Guidelines will not automatically result in you being entitled to or offered a bursary. Allocation of a bursary shall be at the RSC's absolute discretion.

- Only **one** application may be submitted per student.
- The student applying must be in the **middle years of their first degree** (i.e. year 2 of 3 or years 2 or 3 of 4) at the time of their application. Applications from first- or final-year undergraduates or from graduates will **not** be considered. **Mature students** are eligible to apply, but must not have a previous degree in any subject.
- The student must be registered at a **UK or Republic of Ireland institution** (whether full-time or part-time) for the majority of an undergraduate degree in the chemical sciences.
- The student **must not** be in receipt of financial support from other sources for the project which is the subject of application.
- The project **must not** count towards the student's academic credits, be used for expeditions or be conducted overseas for more than 50% of the project time.
- The supervisor must be conducting research in the chemical sciences at a university, research institution or business located within the **UK or Republic of Ireland**.
- Strictly **no more than four students** from an individual institution will be funded. Please bear in mind that this is a national scheme with a limited number of bursaries. Applications from students applying to undertake research at an institution other than where they are studying constitute an application from the home institution, rather than the host.



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## Adjudication

Adjudication will be by expert referees on the [Subject Expert Grant Assessment Panel](#). The scheme is competitive and applications will be judged on the merits of the student and the scientific merit of the project and the experience the student will have whilst working on it.

Preference will be given to:

- Students who are expected to achieve a 2.1 degree or above with excellent practical skills, but who have not yet had an opportunity to experience research.
- Research projects that have clearly defined objectives and learning outcomes that are achievable by the student in the time available.
- Projects which give scope for thought and initiative on the part of the student and do not use the student as a general assistant within the supervisor's department or otherwise at the institution.

For a full list of criteria on which the judges will be asked to assess all applications, please see our website. Decisions made by the Subject Expert Grant Assessment Panel are final.

## How to apply

The main applicant for the Undergraduate Research Bursary should be the **student**, who is responsible for proposing a supervisor, tutor and Head of Department. The link to the online application form can be found on our [website](#).

You will be asked to fill out an application form and add the details of your proposed supervisor and tutor so they can fill out supporting documents. You will also be asked to provide details of the Head of Department where you are applying to undertake the research placement so you can obtain a declaration from them before you can submit your application.

Please note that all tasks must be completed and the application submitted by **27 February 2017**. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure his/her Tutor, Project Supervisor and Head of Department complete their part of the application form in time.

If you have any questions about the Undergraduate Research Bursary, please contact [UGbursaries@rsc.org](mailto:UGbursaries@rsc.org).

Awards are offered to the host institution and not to the student or supervisor themselves. The award must only be used by the nominated researcher for work on the proposed project as detailed in the application and may not be used for any other purpose.

By signing the approval form, the host institution's Head of Department signifies their willingness for the award to be administered by their department, and agrees to the Conditions of Award and reporting requirements of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Awards are made formally to the institution on the understanding that the investigation complies with the safety and ethical regulations of the institution and that the institution will ensure that the requirements of all relevant regulatory authorities will be met before the work commences.



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**The closing date for applications is 5pm Monday 27 February 2017.** Decisions will be communicated to Supervisors in the week commencing 2 May 2017. All queries about the application process should be addressed to [UGbursaries@rsc.org](mailto:UGbursaries@rsc.org).

If you need to **withdraw your application**, you must let us know as soon as possible *via* the email above. Please bear in mind that we are a small central team and that processing each application takes time. If you receive alternative funding for your project, please let us know immediately so that, if necessary, we can re-allocate our funds accordingly. We receive many more good applications than we can fund, so please help us to use our resources in the most effective way.

Bursaries awarded to successful applicants will be made by BACS payment to the supervisor's institution during May and June 2017.