

International Student Research Bursaries Guidance for Applicants

These guidelines describe the scheme for the Royal Society of Chemistry (“RSC”) International Student Research Bursaries scheme for 2023. Please read these guidelines before making an enquiry or completing an application form.

Applications should not be submitted before 2nd January 2023. The closing date for receipt of applications is 5pm (UK time) on Friday 17 February 2023.

Nature of Awards

The purpose of the awards is to give experience of research to students with research potential and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research, and to facilitate international collaboration and cooperation.

Successful applicants will be students registered on RSC accredited degrees run by institutions outside of the UK or Ireland (the “home institution”). They will carry out a short (6-10 week) research placement at an accredited university within the UK or Ireland (the “host institution”).

Three bursaries of £2,750 each will be awarded in 2023. Only one bursary will be awarded per student.

The bursary should be used towards the cost of travel, accommodation and subsistence, incurred in the course of conducting the research placement during 2023. The funds should not be used to cover bench fees or the cost of consumables; this cost will be covered by the host institution.

The RSC reserves the right to not award any bursaries, should the applications not meet the required standard.

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 penultimate year of their studies (i.e. year 2 of 3 or year 3 of 4 of a BSc programme or between years 1 and 2 in a MSc programme) 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.

The student must be registered on an RSC accredited degree, run by an institution outside of the UK or Ireland.

The host supervisor must be conducting research in the chemical sciences at an RSC accredited university located within the UK or Ireland.

Strictly no more than one student from an individual home institution will be funded.

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Adjudication

Adjudication will be by members of the Committee for Accreditation and Validation. The scheme is competitive and applications will be judged on the merits of the student and the scientific merit of the project.

Preference will be given to:

- Students with a strong academic record and 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 more detailed criteria on which the judges will be asked to assess all applications, please contact smithki@rsc.org. Decisions made by the Committee for Accreditation and Validation are final.

How to apply

The main applicant for the International Student Research Bursary should be the student, who is responsible for securing a placement at a host institution and proposing a host supervisor. The student should also nominate a supporter from their home institution. This will normally be the student's personal tutor or academic advisor.

The application will consist of three parts:

- Student information form (completed by the student)
- Supervisor information form (completed by the host supervisor)
- Supporter information form (completed by the student's supporter from the home institution)

Applications should not be submitted before 1 January 2023. The closing date for applications is 5pm (UK time) on Friday 17 February 2023. Please note that all forms must be completed and submitted to smithki@rsc.org by this time. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the host supervisor and supporter complete their information forms in time.

Decisions will be communicated to students by Friday 31 March 2023.

If you need to withdraw your application, you must let us know as soon as possible.

Bursaries awarded to successful applicants will be paid by international bank transfer to the student's bank account soon after the notification of award (within 4 weeks).

Following the placement

The student and the host supervisor must complete a short report via a feedback form within four weeks of the end of the placement. The student and the supervisor should familiarise themselves with the feedback form at the start of the project, to ensure they can provide all requested information.

The student will be required to submit an account of the travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses within four weeks of the end of the placement. Where possible, this should include receipts. A template will be provided for this purpose. Any unused funds will be repaid to the RSC.