



Undergraduate Research Bursaries

Guidelines for Applicants 2020

These guidelines provide guidance for **The Royal Society of Chemistry (“RSC”) Undergraduate Research Bursaries (“the Bursaries”)**.

The Bursaries will be awarded during the period June – September 2020 only.

Please ensure that you read the [website](#) and these guidelines before making an enquiry or completing an application form.

The closing date for receipt of applications is 2 pm Monday 24 February 2020.

For all questions about the Undergraduate Research Bursary application process that are not answered below or through our website, please contact UGbursaries@rsc.org.

In accordance with the Conditions of Award, in the event that the Applicant wishes to withdraw their application or if they receive funding from another source, the Applicant must inform the RSC immediately by email (as above). The RSC reserves the right to reallocate the funds and resources accordingly.

Nature of Bursary

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

The Bursary provides support for the student at a rate of £305.20 per week (£8.72 per hour for a 35 hour working week) for a period of between 6 and 8 weeks.

Eligibility

In order to apply for the Bursary, the following criteria must be met:

- 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 their undergraduate degree in the chemical sciences.
- The student **must not** be in receipt of financial support from other sources for the project that 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.



Undergraduate Research Bursaries

- The student's supervisor must be conducting research in the chemical sciences at a university, research institution or business located within the **UK or Republic of Ireland**.

Only **one** application may be submitted per student. Strictly **no more than four students** from any one 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 institution.

Please note that meeting the eligibility set out in these Guidelines will not automatically result in you being entitled to or offered the Bursary. Adjudication, assessment and allocation of the Bursary shall be at the RSC's absolute discretion.

Adjudication

All applications will be adjudicated and assessed by expert referees on the Subject Expert Grant Assessment Panel. The Bursary scheme is highly competitive and applications will be assessed on the merits of the student (including the experience to be gained) and the scientific merit of the project.

Preference will be given to:

- Students who have excellent practical skills and are expected to achieve a 2.1 degree or above, but who have not yet had an opportunity to experience research.
- Students at smaller and less research intensive universities where they may normally have less access to a research experience.
- Research projects that have clearly defined objectives and learning outcomes that are achievable by the student in the time available. This should be supported by a clear and reasonable timetable for the student's work and information about the supervision and support of the student.
- Projects that 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 the Conditions of the Award and the Final Report Requirements, please see our [website](#). Decisions made by the Subject Expert Grant Assessment Panel are final and there is no right of appeal.

How to apply

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

The student will be asked to fill out an application form and add the details of their proposed Supervisor and Tutor so they can fill out supporting documents. The student will also be asked



Undergraduate Research Bursaries

to provide details of the Head of Department where they are applying to undertake the research placement so they can obtain a declaration from them before submitting their application.

Please note that all tasks for the application form must be completed and the application form itself submitted by **2 pm on 24 February 2020**. 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 successful, the Bursary will be paid to the Institution and not to the Applicant or Supervisor individually. The Bursary must only be used by the Applicant for work on the proposed project as detailed in the application and may not be used for any other purpose without the prior consent of the RSC.

By signing the approval form, the Institution's Head of Department signifies their willingness for the Bursary to be administered by their department, and agrees to the Conditions of Award and Final Reporting Requirements of the RSC.

Bursaries are granted on the understanding that the proposed project 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 project commences. The RSC does not take any responsibility for such matters.

Applicants are reminded to provide any supporting documentation relevant to their proposed project at the point of submission of their application form. Failure to provide sufficient detail or supporting documentation may delay consideration of your application and/or result in rejection.

The RSC will contact successful applicants in the week commencing 27 April 2020.

Bursaries awarded to successful applicants will be made by BACS payment to the Supervisor's Institution during May and June 2020.