

Nuffield Research Placements

Inspiring the next generation of scientists

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"It's been a win-win situation. The students have a much higher level of attainment than you might give them credit for, and as long as you help them en route, it works really well."

Jan Beccaloni, Curator of Arachnida and Myriapoda, Natural History Museum

Case studies

MRC Clinical Sciences Centre, London

The MRC Clinical Sciences Centre in London hosts Nuffield students every year. Professor Jimmy Bell, who leads the Metabolic and Molecular Imaging Group told us:

"I think there are three benefits. If young people are interested in research we should support them. It's our duty as scientists to **nurture future scientists**. Secondly, you might be training the future Nobel Prize winner. Thirdly, they are extremely bright - they learn things very quickly, they pick up techniques very quickly, so they will **contribute directly to your research**."

"Younger people are less afraid to ask the obvious questions that can be the key questions to ask. The involvement of the students encourages people in the lab to think more about their own work, how they explain it to people, how they project it. And of course, scientists always have too much to do and not enough time, so an extra pair of hands with a brain attached to it is always very useful to have in the lab. It's a win-win situation for everyone."

Nuffield Research Placements were previously known as Nuffield Science Bursaries.

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Bath

Dr Matthew Lloyd at the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, University of Bath supervised a Nuffield student on a project which looked at ibuprofen metabolising enzymes as a future treatment for some cancers. A paper on this work has recently been published.

Dr Lloyd said: "For the student a Nuffield Research Placement offers the opportunity to **engage with real science**. For the supervisor the scheme offers a good mechanism for **advancing their research** and identifying potential students. It is also really important to encourage sixth form students interested in science to go on and study science-based degrees, as they will be the next generation of researchers."

About the Nuffield Foundation

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

Our aim is to improve social well-being by funding research and innovation in education and social policy. We also work to build capacity in science and social science research.

www.nuffieldfoundation.org

How can I get involved?

The first thing to do is contact your local Nuffield coordinator. They will help you to shape your project ideas into a distinct plan, with defined scientific or technical content. Your coordinator will then find an appropriate student for your project, and you will have the opportunity to interview the student before he or she starts.



Is there loads of paperwork? What about health and safety?

No! You will need to fill in one short form outlining the project and provide confirmation that students will be covered by your insurers while they are working at your organisation. Supervisors are not required to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check unless there are specific risks involved in the project, such as long periods of one-to-one working.

Contact us

Visit www.nuffieldfoundation.org for contact details of your local Nuffield coordinator. You can also watch a short video featuring project supervisors talking about their experiences.

Email: nrp@nuffieldfoundation.org or call 020 7631 0566

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Could you change someone's life this summer?

Providing a placement for a Nuffield student will give you the opportunity to share your expertise and inspire the next generation of researchers. Not only that, but our students will make a significant contribution to one of your research projects.

Giving a young person the opportunity of a lifetime is easier than you think.



What are Nuffield Research Placements?

Nuffield Research Placements give sixth form students hands-on experience of a professional research environment through a 4-6 week placement in their summer holidays.

The programme is run by the Nuffield Foundation and works through regional networks to link talented students with organisations undertaking research. We work with **over 200 different organisations** including universities, commercial companies, voluntary organisations and research institutes.

By working with professional researchers, students gain insight into a wide variety of scientific careers. They are able to make more informed choices about what to do after school or college. By providing a placement, your organisation can give someone a life-changing opportunity that will help transform them into a future scientist.

Who are Nuffield students?

A typical Nuffield student will be a 17 year-old student from a local school or college. They will have just completed their first year of an advanced or higher level course in science, technology, engineering or maths.

Our students are **intelligent, enthusiastic** and **committed**, and will have been through a thorough selection process. Although we select the best students, we provide a level playing field. We actively encourage participation from students who don't have a family history of going to university or who attend schools in less well-off areas. We make sure no-one is excluded on a financial basis by funding students' travel and providing bursaries to those most in need.

How will the scheme benefit me and my organisation?

Nuffield students will require supervision and guidance, but in return they will make a significant contribution to your organisation. Our students work to a high standard on different types of projects, depending on the organisation and its priorities. For example, it could be a pilot project, or one that has been temporarily shelved due to lack of time, or a specific part of a larger project. It could be lab- or field-based.

Work done by students often leads to published papers, and has been used as the basis for grant applications.

In addition, supervising a student helps researchers to develop their own teaching and mentoring skills. This is particularly useful for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and staff looking to gain management experience.

Many of our host organisations provide placements as part of their public engagement or corporate social responsibility work. Universities in particular are increasingly accountable for their access work, and supervising a Nuffield student shows that your institution is committed to increasing opportunities for young people in your local area.

Host organisations are not required to make any kind of financial commitment.

Think back to when you were 17. What did you know about scientific research as a career? How did you get where you are today? It's likely there were key individuals and experiences that motivated and inspired you, and it's those experiences that we want to give to young people through our Nuffield Research Placements.

