**The Nuffield Research Placement Scheme for Schools & Colleges**

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**Education and business experts are warning that Scotland will not have the skilled scientific and engineering workforce it needs to meet the demand of industry unless science, technology, engineering and maths are promoted as worthwhile careers and with appeal for both young women and men.**

**Think back to when you were 16/17, what did you know about Research and Development as a career? How did you get where you are today? It is likely there were key individuals and experiences that motivated and inspired you and it is those experiences that we want to give to young people through the Nuffield Placement Scheme.**

In order to address this problem, the Nuffield Placement Scheme aims to provide post-16 school or college students with an opportunity to carry out **research or development** projects in any of the STEM-related disciplines in universities, industry, conservation or research organisations – **projects** **need not be lab-based**. The projects can include subjects/topics such as design, engineering of all types, psychology, chemistry, ecology, geography, biology, computing, conservation, applied maths etc.

Interested students apply to take part in the scheme by completing an application form and the host organisation selects the student(s) most appropriate for their project. They then agree start/finish dates and hours of work with the successful students. Projects last 4-6 weeks during the summer vacation and the students receive funding from the Nuffield Foundation to cover all their travel expenses. Students who meet the criteria for a Full Bursary will receive £80 in addition to this. There is no monetary outlay by the host organisation.

Students are required to submit a scientific report at the end of their placement and a celebration event is held early September in the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh, where all the students throughout Scotland are invited to display their work in poster form, as in a scientific conference.

**The placements help increase confidence and improve key skills including practical,**

**communication, report-writing and presentation skills. It also provides students with excellent**

**experiences & skills to include on CV’s and personal statements.**

If organisations already have links with schools, the scheme is another opportunity to further enhance this relationship.

If you wish more information on the scheme and/or how your company/organisation can take part in the scheme please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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