

**Nuffield
Research
Placements**

Experience research in action

Spend your summer holiday developing your research and quantitative skills on a short project that will enhance your university application and career prospects



- Are you over 16 and in full-time education in a maintained school or further education college in the UK?
- Have you ever been eligible for free school meals or are you the first in your family to apply to study at university?
- Do you have at least five GCSEs or Scottish Nationals at Level 6/Level B or above, including maths, a science subject, and English or another humanities subject?
- Do you want to apply your scientific and data knowledge skills to a real-world research project?
- Are you studying one or more A-levels or Scottish Highers (or equivalent) in a science, technology, engineering, economics, geography, psychology or maths?

If this sounds like you then a Nuffield Research Placement could be the perfect way to spend your summer.



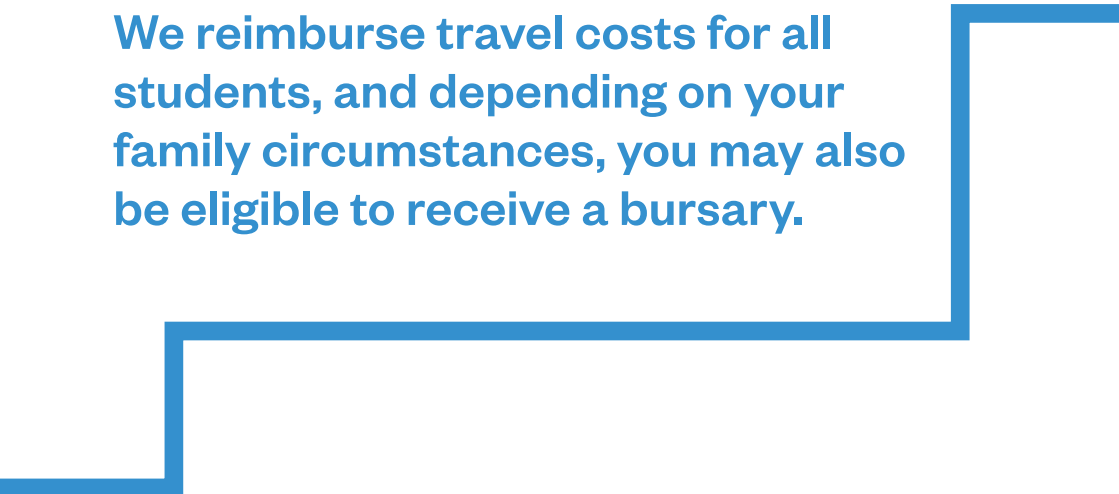
What you need to know

Nuffield Research Placements take place in your summer holidays after Year 12 or S5. You will work on a project that relates to an area of science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering or maths (or a combination of these). Most projects are based in an office, but some include working in a laboratory or fieldwork.

Placements are typically 4–6 weeks in length and are available in your local area. Your placement might be in a university, research institute, company, or voluntary organisation. You will work alongside professional researchers on a project that is an important part of their business.

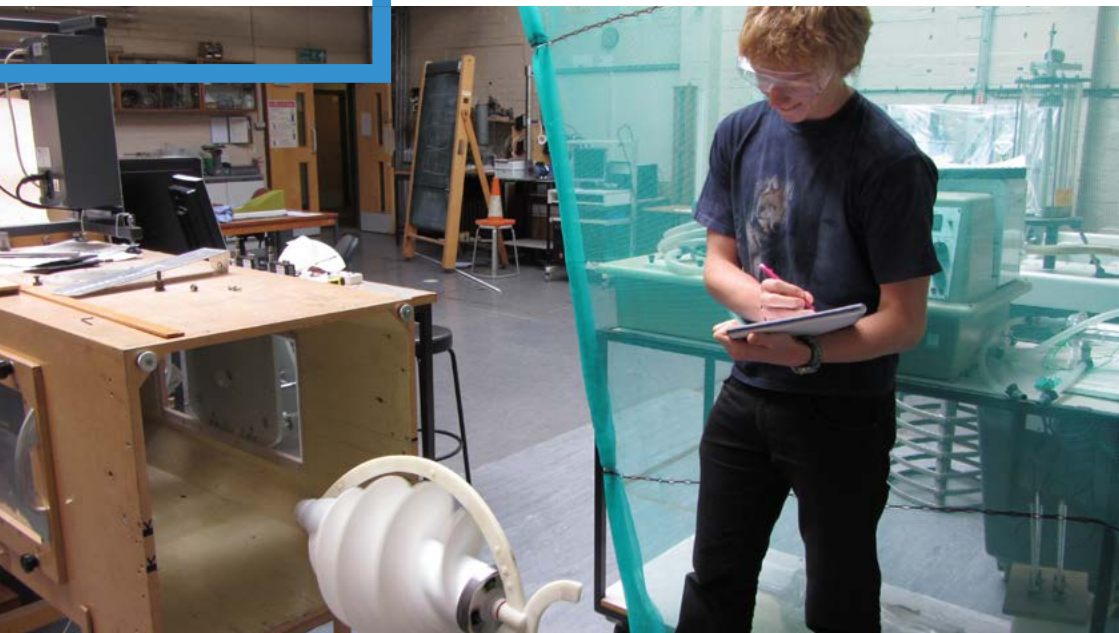
You will produce a report of your project and present your findings at a local celebration event where you will receive a certificate from the Nuffield Foundation.

Your placement will not cost you or your parents/carers anything. We reimburse travel costs for all students, and depending on your family circumstances, you may also be eligible to receive a bursary.



Stand out from the crowd with a Nuffield Research Placement

- Your Nuffield Research Placement will be some of the best few weeks of your life so far. You will apply skills and knowledge you've learned at school or college AND learn so much more from your expert supervisor. The benefits will continue long past the end of the placement.
- Nuffield Research Placements are highly valued by universities. UCAS recommends including your Nuffield Research Placement in your personal statement.
- You will write a project report, which you can enter for a Gold CREST Award. You can also enter your project into the Big Bang Competition.



What do I do now?

1. Look at our website

Check out our eligibility requirements by visiting **www.nuffieldfoundation.org/student-applicants**. Not all students are eligible to apply so please check before you start an application.

2. Check at home

Make sure you will be able to set aside about five consecutive weeks in July and August for a placement without it clashing with holidays and other arrangements.

3. Talk to your teacher

Tell your teacher you are interested in applying and ask if they can write a reference for you.

4. Get in touch with your Nuffield Regional Coordinator

The coordinator will talk you through the application process and the sort of project you might do. You can find their contact details on our website.

5. Prepare your application

Register and complete the online application form at nuffieldresearchplacements.org, describing why you are interested in the placement and how it will benefit you.

6. Submit your online application

Good luck!

“My project was about reconstructing rapid climate change in South Wales. I was part of a project providing the first complete record of long-term climate change in that region. Winning Young Scientist of the Year was amazing and it’s been really exciting to share my enthusiasm for science with other young people.”

Roxanne El-Hady undertook her Nuffield Research Placement in the Department of Geography at Royal Holloway, University of London. In 2016 she won the Young Scientist of the Year Award for her project.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my Nuffield Research Placement, it was a truly life changing experience. It opened up my eyes to the different opportunities out there and gave me motivation to work hard in my studies so that I can contribute to research in the future. My project was an investigation of whether targeting executive function – for example by teaching children to play chess – could improve education. The experience I had, and the skills I gained, are invaluable and have helped me become the person I am today.”

Ilana Foreman completed her project at the University of Cambridge.

“During my placement I worked on identifying patterns in the annual fluctuation of the UK’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). I used a range of statistical techniques to analyse economic data, which I obtained from journal articles and online databases.

“One of the best outcomes was being able to apply the concepts and theories that I’d learned from AS-level maths and economics. This really helped me see the value of continuing with my mathematical studies at a higher level.”

Quincy Okeke undertook his project at Coventry University.

“I’m amazed at how my Nuffield Foundation Project took me from one place to the next. First, I carried out my project at UCL’s nanoparticle laboratory at the Royal Institute, where I investigated the optimum synthesis conditions for a particular nanoparticle. After doing the research and writing my report, I decided to apply to The Big Bang Competition. Making the finals a few months later was a pleasant surprise!”

Sayed Ahmed went on to become a London International Youth Science Forum Special Award Winner at the Big Bang Competition Finals in 2019.

Also from the Nuffield Foundation...

Q-Step: social science for the 21st century

As well as offering Nuffield Research Placements, the Nuffield Foundation works with 18 universities across the UK to provide undergraduate degrees in quantitative social science. These are called Q-Step degrees, and they are available in a range of social science subjects, from area studies to sociology and many more.

Q-Step degrees enable you to develop your quantitative skills, or in other words, your ability to handle data and use numerical evidence. These skills will enhance your insight and understanding of the big questions in your chosen field of study, as well as being valuable in the job market when you graduate.

Go to www.nuffieldfoundation.org/q-step to find out more.

About the Nuffield Foundation

The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance social well-being.

We fund research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare, and Justice. We also fund student programmes – Nuffield Research Placements and Q-Step – for young people to develop skills and confidence in quantitative and scientific methods.

The Nuffield Foundation is the founder and co-funder of the Ada Lovelace Institute, the Nuffield Council on Bioethics and the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory.

With special thanks to UK Research and Innovation for their continued support of Nuffield Research Placements.

nuffieldfoundation.org/nrp

#NuffieldSummer

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