



Nuffield Foundation Science Bursaries for Schools & Colleges Guidance for students

This information has been sent out by STEM Sussex at the University of Brighton, the Nuffield Regional Coordinator for Sussex to describe how the science bursary programme works in this area. These notes supplement the information in the colour brochure. You will find the contact details for your local Nuffield Coordinator on pages 10-11 of the colour brochure, or on the Nuffield Foundation website at www.nuffieldfoundation.org/scb.

The more you can take the initiative in liaising with your teacher and Nuffield Coordinator and setting up a project, the more likely you are to be successful.

What happens if I am awarded a Bursary?

If you are awarded a bursary, you will work with a scientist, engineer, mathematician or technologist who will be your supervisor. The projects are often part of on-going work of significance to your supervisor.

Projects run for 4 to 6 weeks and take place during the summer vacation. The award consists of £80 per week to cover travel allowances and other expenses.

Before you start your project, or in the first few days, you may be invited to meet other Nuffield Foundation Bursary students and to meet your project supervisor. There may be a talk by a member of the scientific staff to introduce you to the work of the organisation in a wider context. This is a chance for the organisation, which may seem to you at first to be a somewhat daunting place, to show its friendly face, and for you to meet some of the people with whom you will be working.

Your supervisor will explain what the project involves, why the project is of interest, what contribution your work will make and what outcomes you might aim for during the time you are there. He or she will teach you any new techniques that you might need for the project, but the idea is that you learn by doing things for yourself. You are expected to use your initiative.

What makes a good project?

Your project should be self-contained so that you can experience a beginning, a middle and an end within 4 - 6 weeks.

A project should allow you scope to use your initiative.

The criteria for selecting projects are that they should:

- have clear scientific or technological content;
- contribute to the work of the host organisation;
- be well defined, having a clear outcome in mind from the beginning;
- allow scope for initiative on the part of the student.

How do I apply?

Step 1: Read the colour brochure carefully and look at the Nuffield Foundation website (www.nuffieldfoundation.org/scb). Think about the possible benefits to you and decide whether or not you would like to apply for a bursary.

Step 2: Check at home

Make sure that you will be able to set aside 4 – 6 weeks in July and August 2010 for a bursary without clashing with holidays or other arrangements. You should assume that it will be impossible to fit in a holiday during a project.

Step 3: Talk to your teacher

Tell your teacher about your interest in the scheme. Describe the type of project that would interest you. Check that your ideas for a project would fit the description on page 1. Ask for a copy of the application form.

Step 4: Prepare your application and complete the form

You have a choice. You may prefer to set up your own project placements using your own contacts or contacts provided by your teacher or your Nuffield Regional Coordinator. If this is the case, contact your Nuffield Regional Coordinator before you start. The Coordinator will be able to provide you with guidance to show to any potential project provider.

Alternatively you may wish to apply for one of a number of projects with host organisations which your Nuffield Regional Coordinator has set up. Look at the list of projects and decide which one you would like to apply for. Note that competition for these project placements is likely to be high.

Complete parts **A, B, C** and either **D** or **E** of the application form. Then pass the form to your teacher who will complete part **F** and send it to your Nuffield Regional Coordinator.

The student application forms should be returned to your Nuffield Regional Coordinator by 31st March. You can expect to hear from your Nuffield Regional Coordinator by the end of April.

Timetable

November 2009 to February 2010

Study the information from the Nuffield Regional Coordinator. Register interest with your Nuffield Regional Coordinator.

January to March 2010

Make plans for your project and complete your application.

June to July 2010

Attend an induction event designed to help you get the most from your bursary experience.

July to August 2010

Carry out the bursary project and complete a report

September to December 2010

Show off your work at a celebration event run by your Nuffield Regional Coordinator.