

## **Nuffield Research Placements 2019 (opportunity for S5 pupils) – 1 week until application deadline.**

The Nuffield Research Placement Scheme is aimed at the current 5th year pupils who will be sitting their Highers in 2019 and who are studying any Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Maths (STEM) subjects at that level. Students are also now being placed into Social Science placements where there is an aspect of analysis, statistical investigation and mathematics involved, so the placements are very wide ranging. The placements help increase confidence and improve key skills including practical, communication, report-writing and presentation skills. They also provide students with excellent experiences & skills to include on CVs and personal statements. By working with professional scientists and engineers in a real-life environment, the students gain an invaluable insight into a wide variety of careers.

The Nuffield Foundation's aim in providing placements is to widen access to science and research education and careers. They find that students who benefit the most from a Nuffield Research Placement are those who come from lower income families, or whose parents have not attended higher education. In light of this – and the fact they always receive more applications than there are placements – they have decided to focus exclusively on these students. This means their charitable funding is targeted where it will have the greatest benefit. It also means that they will have fewer unsuccessful applicants.

Before applying, please read the following eligibility criteria carefully as these are different to previous years.

### **To be eligible to apply for a Nuffield Research Placement, students must:**

- Be over 16 years old
- Be in full-time state-funded education in the UK
- Have at least 5 National 5 / GCSEs (or equivalent) at Level B / 6 or above, including Maths, a Science subject and English (or another humanities subject)
- Be studying one or more Scottish Higher, A-level (or equivalent) in Science, Technology, Engineering, Economics, Geography, Psychology, Computing, Statistics or Maths
- Be able to spend several weeks (4-6) of their summer holiday working on a research project

### **Students must also meet at least ONE of the following criteria:**

- Come from a family with a combined household income of below £30,000 a year
- Be entitled to free schools meals, either now or at any time in the last six years.
- Be the first in their immediate family to participate in higher education (not including any older siblings). This means neither of their parents/carers have participated in higher education, either in the UK or another country. If their siblings have attended higher education, but their parents/carers have not, they are eligible.
- Be living, or have lived in, local authority care

### **Summary of the process:**

- Students apply by completing an online application which can be accessed on the Nuffield Research Placement webpage at <https://www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org/>  
The application has various sections - personal details, education, personal statement, teacher reference, parent consent, bursary application (if appropriate).
- When registering, students insert an email address of the teacher who is to provide them with a reference. The system automatically initiates an email to that teacher to allow them to add reference.

- After the closing date (**February 27th 2019**) applications will be scored, matched to placement projects available/suitable (where possible) and the appropriate applications will be forwarded to various supervisors for their consideration.
- If a student and/or teacher has contact details of anyone in local industries/organisations who could offer a placement project, they can include the details on their application, they can then follow this up to check suitability.
- If successful matched and accepted to a project by the supervisor, the student is then offered the project.
- Placements normally take place at the end of June, July or early August. The student will normally be working Mon-Fri (9am-5pm) for 4, 5 or 6 weeks. Students should therefore be aware that is quite a big commitment.
- **All students will receive reasonable travel costs to and from their placement. Students who are eligible for bursary will receive an additional £100 per week of placement.**
- Successful students are required to submit a report at the end of their placement and are also invited to display their work in poster format at a celebration event in Edinburgh, taking place at the end of August / early September.

PLEASE note - there are a limited number of placements available and as such an application does NOT guarantee a Nuffield placement.