

STEM LEARNING - Nuffield Research Placements Opportunities [Nuffield Research Placements | Student Programmes](#)

I would like to draw your attention to this exciting opportunity being offered by STEM Learning. It offers the chance to gain key research skills in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths and Social Science by engaging in a 2 week on-site* Nuffield Research Placement. Thousands of students across the country have participated in Nuffield Research Placements, which has been shown to increase the likelihood of enrolling in a STEM course at a Russell Group higher education institution.

To further develop the programme, Nuffield are now working with [STEM Learning](#), the UK's largest provider of STEM education and careers support, who are committed to achieving a world-leading STEM education for all young people in the UK.

Nuffield Research Placements will continue to operate in a similar way across the UK, in partnership with a network of regional coordinators and project hosts. The eligibility criteria and overall experience will not change, ensuring that students receive the same benefits from the programme, including:

- Developing subject understanding alongside research and quantitative skills to expand their career prospects.
- Enhancing their UCAS personal statements and applications to university.
- Learning more about higher education and different career paths.
- The opportunity to apply for a Gold CREST Award or the Big Bang Competition.

The possible projects include:

- Design of a launch vehicle rocket engine
- The Cognitive impact of Long Covid
- Ocean chemistry during rapid global warming
- Searching for record breaking brown dwarfs in VISTA and DES
- Seeing early cancer in a new light
- How do galaxies shine?
- Detection and geographical distribution of cabbage stem flea beetle adult parasitoids using molecular techniques
- Using Lego to test the addition heuristic
- Developing of the Board Game: Mathematics of a Beautiful Sea Ice Mosaic

What previous Nuffield Placement students have said:

“In general, the experience was not like any other. I enjoyed my time working with scientists and researching. I have found more of a passion for researching now than before I joined. I am so thankful for my mentors that aided me step by step every day. I am happy I got a chance to experience such an event.”

“Nuffield Research Placements have given me opportunities and experience which I have never come across before. It has enabled me to understand my career pathway even better and given me confidence to pick this career path.”

“I was given support and guidance during my placement. I had learnt a lot about what a career in research might be like and enjoyed the experience.”

What are Research Placements and Experiences?

When? – Summer holidays after Year 12 (England, Wales & Northern Ireland) or S5 (Scotland).

How long? – Up to two weeks on placement, along with pre-and-post activities including independent study.

What? – A well-supervised, but independent placement, relating to an area of science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering or maths - or a combination!

Cost? – Students can take part in a placement at no cost. Travel costs are reimbursed and you may also be eligible to receive a bursary.

Where? – Placements take place in a variety of locations including offices, museums, research centres, laboratories or fieldwork settings.

Results so far – initial findings

1. Nuffield Research Placements have a positive impact on participants' access to STEM higher education courses. Nearly a third (32%) of participants enrolled in a STEM course in a Russell Group institution, compared to 25% of comparable pupils with similar demographic background and academic attainment.
2. Participants reported that the placement enhanced their study motivation, overall confidence in abilities and specific skills in presenting, writing and time management. These skills are beneficial both for employment within STEM and for their transferability to employment in other areas.