

Summer Studentship Programme 2025 - Early Career Members

Early Career Summer Studentships provide ECRs with an opportunity to collaborate with an undergraduate student to undertake research in a University, research institute, or industrial setting. This programme offers an opportunity to both the ECR and student to initiate, or further develop, a specific area of research.

Overview

The Nutrition Society Summer Studentship programme is aimed at Early Career Members (ECMs), who wish to take on a student to undertake a short bespoke research project within their team.

The studentships will provide funds to ECMs to take on an undergraduate student, registered on a nutrition (animal or human) or other related undergraduate degree programme, to undertake a period of research in a university, research institute or industrial setting. The research will be undertaken in collaboration with an academic supervisor based at the university at which the selected student is registered.

Studentships are available for up to eight weeks and are worth up to £2500. The ECMs university / organisation will receive the funds, which should then be administered as follows – a stipend of £1600 for the student and £400 towards research expenses associated with the project. An additional £500 will be retained by the Nutrition Society, to cover travel and accommodation costs to enable the student to attend the Nutrition Futures 2025 Conference to present the findings of the research project.

Please note - direct costs only will be funded. No institutional overheads will be awarded within this grant.

The following applications will be considered – ECM application, combined ECM/Student application

For the ECM application, it is anticipated that the ECR will submit the initial application. If successful, the ECM can then advertise, and recruit a **student member** of the Society for the studentship. This will be done with the support of the Society.

Eligibility

To be eligible to make an application, please read the following requirements carefully.

- The ECM applicant must hold a current ECM membership which started before 1 November 2024 (i.e. the preceding year). It is expected that the recipients of the award will continue membership of the Society for two years following the award (in ECM or Full member category).
- The online application should be submitted by the ECM who will host the student and be involved in the project.

Following the award of the Studentship, the recruited student should meet the following criteria

- It is anticipated that student(s) undertaking the studentship will have already undertaken at least two years of study at university for their FIRST degree (undergraduate), and have at least one year of their course remaining.
- The student will hold University Group Membership or Student Membership of the Society.

Considerations for the award:

- The project must be carried out and supervised by the name(s) listed on the application form.
- The proposed project supervisor (of the students university/institution), and host school or department (ECM's organisation) will each need to confirm their willingness to support the project and confirm that appropriate facilities will be made available.
- The University / organisation of the ECM will be expected to administer the grant.
- **All projects should be original research.**
- If you are selected as a winner, it is expected that you will formally accept the project within 7 days, so that we may offer it to a 'runner up'.
- Closing Date for Applications - Midnight on 9 March 2025 (it is anticipated students will then be recruited in April/May, if needed)
- The project must be concluded by the end of August 2025.

Judging Criteria

The application and judging process

- Closing Date for ECR Applications - Midnight on 9 March 2025 (it is anticipated students will then be recruited in April/May, if needed).
- Applications will be sent for judging within a few days of closure and all applicants will be notified by the end of March.
- Applications will consist of a proposal of no more than 500 words, detailing the project including aims, hypotheses and methodology (not including references), and a statement of no more than 150 words explaining how the project will enhance your future career aspirations in nutritional science.

Judging of the application

Projects outlined in the application will be judged on their merits based on the criteria outlined below.

Marking scheme

A total of 20 marks will be awarded by each of the judges. These will be combined to determine the highest-scoring recipients. Those with the highest aggregate scores will be offered the studentships. The Society reserves the right to only fund the best two applications from any one institution should multiple applications be received. Applications will be reviewed and scored independently by at least three Nutrition Society Trustees, Advisory Council Members and/or Science Committee Members.

The proposal (out of 15) will be awarded for the:

- *Clarity of writing* – Clearly and concisely outlines the nature of the topic to be addressed and the methods to be used (out of 5)
- *Hypothesis, Aims and Objectives* – A logical and appropriate hypothesis to be tested and a clear indication of how the stated aims and objectives will test this (out of 5)
- *Novelty* – The project addresses an important aspect of nutrition (animal or human) and the approach suggested is novel (but achievable in the timescale outlined) (out of 5)
- *Marks for the statement (out of 5) on:*
Future career aspirations (out of 5) - The statement clearly articulates the candidate's future aspirations for a career in nutritional science (or an appropriate related discipline) and indicates how completing the project will help them realise these aims.

The projects will be judged and the award for the Best Project will be presented at the Society's Annual Drinks Reception ahead of the Winter Conference.

How to apply

Please read the sections on eligibility and the application and judging process. Find your student or apply and then find your student. Either way we can help you identify student members of the Society at your university (contact membership@nutritionssociety.org for help). We look forward to receiving your application to be part of the 2025 Summer Studentship programme.