Summer Vacation Studentships / Placements

The following organisations and societies offer funding to enable undergraduate students to work in an institutional research lab during summer vacations. Funding amounts and closing dates vary, some require that the lab leader or staff applying for the grant are members of the society or are already in receipt of a grant from the organisation.

Please note, if you would like any further information on any of the studentships or placements listed in this document please contact the organisation offering the funding direct.

If you have details of any further organisations who offer studentships or placements to UK students you would like to add to the list please contact Katherine Clark at the Centre for Bioscience on k.a.clark@leeds.ac.uk

Biochemical Society
Grants of up to £1600 are available for 2nd or 3rd year undergraduate students to spend their summer working in a research lab. Applicants (supervisors) must be members of the Biochemical Society working in a university or research institute. The student would normally be an undergraduate following a course in biochemistry or a related molecular life science subject and would take up the award during the summer vacation before their final year. Those awarded studentships will receive three years' free student membership of the Biochemical Society on submission of their final report.
www.biochemistry.org/education/vacation.htm

Society for Applied Microbiology (SfAM) Students into Work
The Society offers FULL members the opportunity to give undergraduate students studying microbiology as part of their degree programme, or those who have recently graduated, the chance to obtain work experience. Grants can be made available to any full member who is able to offer a suitable work placement for a period of up to 10 weeks any time during the year.
www.sfam.org.uk/grants.php

Nuffield Foundation Undergraduate Research Bursaries in Science
Nuffield Undergraduate Research Bursaries offer up to 450 funded places a year, helping undergraduates across the UK to gain an insight into scientific research careers. Supervisors are invited to apply on behalf of a named student. Students and supervisors should develop the project and application together.
www.nuffieldfoundation.org/go/grants/nsbur/page_400.html

Available from the Centre for Bioscience
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk
Society for General Microbiology Vacation Studentships
Awards to enable undergraduates to work on microbiological research projects during the summer vacation. The purpose of the awards is to provide undergraduates with experience of research and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research. The studentships provide support at a rate of £185 per week for a period of up to 8 weeks. An additional sum of up to £400 for specific research costs may also be awarded. Applications on behalf of named students are now invited from SGM members in higher education institutions and research institutes.
www.sgm.ac.uk/grants/vs.cfm

Cancer Research UK Undergraduate Long Vacation Scholarships
These bursaries should be used to encourage exceptional undergraduates to consider a career in cancer research, by providing research experience during the long summer vacation. The bursary will provide a subsistence allowance for the student of £200 per week. A contribution of £500 will be made towards laboratory expenses. The duration of the project should be 6-10 weeks. Applicants must be long term Cancer Research UK grantees, students should normally be completing the penultimate year of their degree in the summer in which the award is taken up.
science.cancerresearchuk.org/gapp/personalfund/otherbursaries/long_vacation_bursary

The Wellcome Trust Biomedical Science Vacation Scholarships
The Vacation Scholarship is intended to provide promising undergraduates with 'hands-on' experience of research during the summer vacation and to encourage them to consider a career in research.
www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Biomedical-science/Grants/Undergraduate-support/WTD004448.htm

Society for Reproduction and Fertility Vacation Scholarships
The Society for Reproduction and Fertility invites applications from undergraduate students for a limited number of Vacation Scholarships. The objective of these scholarships is to enable particularly promising students to work during the summer vacation in university departments or research institutes in the UK or Irish Republic on research projects related to reproduction, fertility and lactation in man and other animals.
www.srf-reproduction.org/grants/vacation.htm

British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC) Vacation Scholarship Grants
Vacation Scholarships are designed to give undergraduates experience in research. Each research project should be designed so that it could be completed in the time available (up to 10 weeks).
www.bsac.org.uk/grants & awards/vacation_grants.cfm

Available from the Centre for Bioscience
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk
The Genetics Society Summer Studentships
The aim of the Genes and Development Summer Studentship scheme is to provide financial support for undergraduate students in any area of genetics, to gain research experience by carrying out a research project in the long vacation, usually prior to their final year. Studentships will only be awarded for students who have yet to complete their first degree i.e. who will still be undergraduates during the long vacation when they do the studentship. www.genetics.org.uk/genetics_society_summer_studentships

The Physiological Society Vacation Studentships
Vacation Studentships offer undergraduate students who have completed at least two years of full time study in a higher education institute or equivalent, the opportunity to undertake physiological research projects. www.physoc.org/site/cms/contentCategoryView.asp?category=350

BBSRC Vacation bursaries
The purpose of Vacation Bursaries is to give promising undergraduates an opportunity to experience first-hand a period of time during the summer vacation in a research laboratory in a UK university or a BBSRC-sponsored research institute. The aim is to encourage students to consider a career in scientific research and to give them a realistic experience of working in research environment. www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/studentships/vacation_bursaries.html

Carnegie Scholarships
Undergraduates who were born in Scotland or who have a parent born in Scotland or who have at least two years of secondary education in Scotland, may be considered for the award of a Vacation Scholarship for the pursuit of a full-time research project, usually in the vacation between their second and third years. Scholarships are for maintenance of up a maximum of eight weeks, whether based at home, elsewhere in the United Kingdom, or abroad. Nominees can come from any Faculty. www.carnegie-trust.org/our_schemes.htm

BSPP (British Society of Plant Pathologists) Undergraduate Vacation Bursary Fund
The undergraduate vacation bursary is open to all BSPP members and will provide modest support for work on specified research projects during the summer vacation. The objective of the bursaries is to provide undergraduates considering a research career with some practical experience in a plant pathology laboratory and to assist supervisors to meet some specific research objectives. www.bspp.org.uk/funds/vacation.htm

UFAW Vacation Scholarship Awards
Applications are welcome from undergraduates (or equivalent) in agricultural, biological, medical, veterinary or zoological sciences. Students must be registered at a university or college in the British Isles. Preference is given to undergraduates, but applications from MSc students on appropriate courses will also be considered. www.ufaw.org.uk/vacationScholarshipawards.php
Pathological Society
The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland is offering a number of bursaries to undergraduate students of medicine, veterinary medicine, dentistry or biomedical science to enable them to work for elective or vacation periods in departments of pathology in universities, medical schools, NHS laboratories or research institutes in the United Kingdom or overseas.
www.pathsoc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=29

GlaxoSmithKline summer placements
Summer placements typically last 8 to 12 weeks, GSK are interested in students who can add value to the company through their skills and experience and who, after graduation, may be able to fill some full-time roles (subject to success at selection events).
www.gsk.com/careers/uk-stud-summer-plac.htm

Sanger Institute Vacation Placements
Vacation Student placements are available to Degree and Masters level students who are looking for work experience during the summer break. The likely duration of these placements is 3 months, between June and September. Placements are available across the fields of Molecular Biology/ Biology/Genetics, Engineering, and Bioinformatics and are based within specific teams where students will become involved in the work of that team.
www.sanger.ac.uk/careers/placements/vacation/

Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
Dstl offers a broad range of university students the opportunity to participate in their industrial internship schemes, and offers a number of holiday placements, mainly in the summer.
www.dstl.gov.uk/careers/StuOps.php

John Innes Centre Undergraduate Summer Vacation Bursaries
Many laboratories at JIC welcome undergraduates to work on research projects during the summer vacation. Students typically work in a laboratory for around eight weeks during the summer vacation. This provides an excellent opportunity to gain first hand research experience in an internationally respected laboratory and is particularly useful for undergraduates who may be considering taking up a PhD studentship after they graduate. The ideal time for this experience is during the summer vacation following the second year of an undergraduate course.
www.jic.ac.uk/students/undergrad_bursaries.html

Available from the Centre for Bioscience
www.bioscience.heacademy.ac.uk