

## Summer Studentship marking guidelines

These guidelines have been developed to assist students in putting together their applications.

### Project (marks out of 25)

Projects should be underpinned by sound scientific reasoning, should not be over ambitious or complex and should be achievable within the requested time frame (max 10 weeks). They should explain clearly the role of the student. The benefit to the Supervisor should be clear.

Consider the following:

- Clarity of hypotheses, aims, and objectives
- Strengths and weaknesses of the experimental design
- Feasibility of the work programme within the time frame

<b>Excellent</b>	Work that is internationally competitive. A clear project plan that is likely to provide data towards publication and/or a future grant application and which provides the student with a research question, that includes experimentation and data analysis, is achievable within the 10 week time frame and will provide the student with a good insight into research
<b>Very good</b>	Work that is at the leading edge of national research and achieves the rest of the objectives above
<b>Good</b>	Work that is nationally competitive and achieves all or most of the other objectives above
<b>Satisfactory</b>	Work that has merit and achieves most of the other objectives above
<b>Poor</b>	Work that is of little or no scientific merit, flawed, or duplicative of other research. A project plan that is unrealistic in its aims or which is purely technical in nature and offers little real insight into research

### Benefit to student (marks out of 15)

The proposal should provide an insight into academic research to the student and be of clear benefit to the future career of the student. **Priority should be given to those for who this will be their first research experience. Studentships are not normally awarded for continuation of a student's research that has been initiated under a prior summer studentship or as an honours degree research project. Awards are not normally made to students who will have already completed their degree at the time of the Summer Studentship.**

Consider the following:

- Does the student have any other experience of research, other than 1 week "work experience" type of experience?
- Does the project offer defined training that provides added value to the student's degree programme?
- What will the student learn from the project?
- What is the quality of the research environment?

<b>Excellent</b>	A well put together project in a good environment that will provide a high quality experience of research. It should provide a major boost to the student's CV
<b>Good</b>	A sound project in a good environment that will provide a very good experience of research. It should improve the student's CV
<b>Poor</b>	A poor quality project and/or environment or a project that offers little improvement to the student's career prospects either because they already have a future PhD/research position secured or already have research experience in this or a related field

## Suitability of the student (marks out of 10)

Students who have already completed their undergraduate programme are not normally eligible and should only be funded under exceptional circumstances. They should be of an academic standard that would allow them to undertake a higher degree (ie should be a 2:1 candidate or above).

Consider the following:

- Is the student at a stage in their undergraduate degree when they will substantially benefit from exposure to research?
- Do they have a sound academic record in a relevant discipline?

<b>Good/very good</b>	A student with a good academic record undertaking a relevant degree programme, normally a basic science student at the end of their penultimate year, or a medical student with ambitions to carry out research and who has not otherwise had an opportunity to carry out basic research as part of their medical degree
<b>Satisfactory</b>	A student with a reasonable academic record undertaking a relevant degree programme, normally a basic science student at the end of their penultimate year, or a medical student who has not otherwise had an opportunity to carry out basic research as part of their medical degree
<b>Poor</b>	A student who is highly unlikely to attain a degree that would allow them to progress to PhD or one who has already secured a PhD position