

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The School aims to offer undergraduate students a range of opportunities to engage in the research programs of academic staff. Almost all academic staff run a research program, and details of what we do can be found here on our [research web pages](#).

Sometimes there are opportunities to obtain funded Research Assistant positions (see below), and many research groups also offer opportunities to volunteer, both during the semester and in the vacation. **Be bold:** If you are interested in an area that you have found on our research pages, **do** email the academic who leads the group. Just a few lines will suffice, indicating when you would like to get involved, and why that area interests you.

If the staff member is interested in providing research experience, the student should then apply for scholarship funding in collaboration with the member of staff.

Below is a list of potential schemes, which vary greatly in eligibility (e.g. year of study).

Please note that most of the deadlines are early in the year (usually January to March).

Please read all the sections. Some offer a myriad of funding opportunities. For the most current and up to date information always visit the websites.

Within the University

School and University Research Assistant Scheme (URAS)

The Undergraduate Research Assistant Scheme is an exciting programme that aims to give undergraduate students an opportunity to engage in academic research. The University of St Andrews prides itself on its research-led teaching and is keen to promote projects that emphasize the many ways in which Research and Teaching can come together. Through this scheme students will have the opportunity to enhance their learning experience by working on academic research projects with university faculty members. To apply to the scheme, you should first find your area of interest by exploring the School's [research web pages](#). Then, contact an academic member of staff by e-mail, asking what opportunities might be available in their area. If potential supervisors have projects available, they will get back to you. The School has a single application deadline of early December each year, for funding from both its own Research Assistant Scheme, and the University Scheme. Please note that the deadlines published on the University website are not used by this School.

Applications should be made jointly by supervisors and students and be submitted to the School Office by **the first Friday in December**. The application form and deadline date will be emailed to all undergraduate students in October/November every year. We expect to announce the awards the following January. For those successful applicants, funding will cover a stipend only (£50 per block of 6 hours, up to a maximum of 20 blocks, 120 hours, £1000) to support the student during the duration of research, which can be undertaken during term time (Semester 2), or out of term time, but must be completed by **31st August each year**. Applications will be judged on research merit and benefit to the student. Students should not have been awarded other funding for research experience for the year in which the research will be undertaken, and if they are awarded funds after the award date, supervisors should let us know and we will withdraw funding. We will favour applications where the student has not gained any previous funded research experience. Successful applicants will be required to submit a short summary of the project to the Lead Research & Impact Administrator (psyneuroresearch@st-andrews.ac.uk) by the first Friday in September of the year in which the research is undertaken.

Laidlaw Scholarship Programme in Research and Leadership

Leaders of tomorrow will need to deal with an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving world. Demonstrating responsibility, ethical decision making and pushing for equality are only some of the characteristics that will be required. Underpinning such qualities is an appreciation of the importance of critically approaching and relying on high-quality research for decision-making, and a wider understanding of, and ability to demonstrate, what good leadership requires. The Laidlaw Scholarship Programme in Leadership and Research offers students an opportunity to develop these skills and abilities. Starting in 2014, the University of St Andrews was one of the first Universities to offer Laidlaw Scholarships. Through the generous donation by Lord Irvine Laidlaw, and what is now the Laidlaw Foundation, they originally started as a one-year research programme with some additional training and leadership elements. Over the years, the programme has evolved and grown considerably. Today the Scholarship runs over two years and offers students two summers of projects - one focussing on research, while the second emphasises leadership in action (frequently building on the research conducted during the first summer). The Leadership component of the program has been significantly developed, and Scholars now receive bespoke leadership training both during the semesters leading up to, as well as during the months of their summer research. Scholars are now also part of an ever-expanding international network of academic institutions offering the scholarship and leadership training around the world (you can find the most up to date list on the Laidlaw Foundation website). The end of the Scholarship however only marks the beginning for our Scholars. There is now a growing and vibrant network of Scholars and Scholarship alumni from around the world. Many of those who have completed the programme remain closely in contact with current Scholars and, regardless if they have chosen an academic or professional career path for their next step, are working towards achieving the core reason for the existence of this Scholarship. Scholars will be supported by a generous stipend of £500 per week up to a maximum of 10 weeks across the two research periods. Full details of the Programme and how to apply can be found [here](#)

Deadline: late January each year.

Out with the University

Animal Behaviour Collective

The ABC is a collective of animal behaviour researchers (from students to faculty members) committed to the active support of animal behaviour students from working-class and historically excluded communities who are both regularly excluded by traditional scholarship and academic programs, or who require more economic support than those resources cover. They provide microgrants from £5 to £300 (or the equivalent in other currencies) - no questions asked - to animal behaviour graduate and undergraduate students who need it. Students may be living in any country. They can also work to find you larger amounts of money and/or connect you with mentorship for non-monetary needs (e.g. if you need an animal behaviour researcher from your racial/ethnic group or class background to talk something over with, or if you have an issue impacting your academic career that you don't feel comfortable letting your department know about, or even if you need access to a certain journal/manuscript, etc.). There is no deadline set for this and details on how to apply can be found [here](#)

Ethologische Gesellschaft

The Ethologische Gesellschaft provides up to €2'000 per research project. The funds can cover material expenses as well as travel and subsistence costs (of applicant only). The goal of funding is to support: Particularly promising pilot studies or investigations at an early stage that would not normally be eligible for funding from governmental organizations or science foundations; and / or smaller or additional projects that are - though important - due to their small volume not having chances to get funded elsewhere.

Deadline: 31 January in each year. Details and application forms can be found [here](#)

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour

Undergraduate Project Scholarships enable undergraduates to undertake supervised research projects, which fall within the field of animal behaviour, defined as the sphere of interest of papers published in *Animal Behaviour*. Projects can run from 1 to 10 weeks during academic vacations (including the vacation immediately following graduation). The applicant is the undergraduate, although applications are often written in collaboration with the applicant's academic supervisor. The scholarship includes £200 per week towards subsistence for the student and up to £500 total towards research expenses. The subsistence costs are calculated on the basis of a weekly rate, which is reviewed annually. They welcome applications from applicants who are not members of ASAB, but either the applicant's supervisor or Head of Department must be an ASAB member. Awards will not be granted to support work that contributes to the requirements of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree (including any inclusion in an undergraduate or graduate thesis), whether of the applicant or other person, or for participation in a larger project or expedition. The project should be supported by a proposed supervisor and the Head of Department. Retrospective applications will not be considered. Full details can be found [here](#)

Deadlines: end of January / beginning of February each year.

Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

The BBSRC-funded Research Experience Placements (REPs) provide an excellent opportunity to second- and third-year undergraduate students to gain hands-on research experience in bioscience research. This year, the EASTBIO Doctoral Partnership will award four 8-week placements across the four universities of the DTP2 partnership - Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and St Andrews. Each REP awardee will receive a salary for a total of 8 weeks, plus c. £450 (per project) as a contribution towards research expenses during the placement. For a decision of sponsoring a student for this scheme, students should approach a supervisor they are interested in working with and discuss with them their suitability for a project the supervisor may wish to submit for the scheme. Full details can be found at [Eastbio scheme](#)

Deadlines: Still to be advised due to Covid-19.

Bradshaw-Eagle Undergraduate Research Scholarship

The aim of this scheme is to support undergraduates who wish to carry out supervised summer research projects during the middle years of their degree in a vision laboratory, normally in a UK Higher Education Institution. The Scholarship will provide a stipend (£200 per week, subsistence, for up to 8 weeks) to support undergraduates to carry out a self-contained vision-related research project, in the laboratory of an AVA member. The purpose of the scheme is to allow the student to experience a real research environment and to be trained to carry out a piece of scientific research, with the aim of encouraging them to consider an academic research career. The project supervisor will be responsible for the application and will be the formal award-holder, if an award is offered. They must be an AVA member. The supervisor must hold an established academic position, normally within a UK university. They must be able to guarantee the student space, and full supervision, in their laboratory for the project period. Preference will be given to applicants who have not held this award in the past. Only one application per student and supervisor is allowed in any one year. Supervisors must be able to confirm that the student has not obtained an award from any other source for this project. Students must be studying a relevant discipline (usually psychology, biology, optometry or a related discipline) and should be in the middle years of their degree program (i.e. not the first year, nor the last year, of studies) when the application is submitted. An application form can be downloaded [here](#).

Deadline: The award is currently suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be reinstated when the pandemic is over and "normal" lab work resumes, as that will ensure the best possible experience for the successful candidate.

British Psychological Society Undergraduate Research Assistantship Scheme

The scheme is a prestigious award that marks out a student as a future researcher and potential academic. It is hoped that the senior researcher, to whom the award is made, will develop the student's potential and interest in research. Applicants must be members of the Society who are active psychology researchers employed by a UK HEI, who may then appoint an undergraduate student who is finishing the penultimate year of their degree to become their Research Assistant in the summer break before the start of the final year of their degree. To be eligible to receive a Research Assistantship award, students must be completing a society accredited undergraduate degree (or equivalent) in psychology; be considering research as a career; be expecting to achieve a 2.1 or a 1st class degree; and be finishing the penultimate year of their degree and due to start their final year following the completion of the project. The award provides a student stipend at a weekly rate of £270, for a 6-8-week project. Further details, including the full criteria and an application form, can be obtained from the [Board Administrator](#).

Deadline: March 2021.

Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland

The Carnegie Vacation Scholarships enable undergraduate students to develop their research skills through a summer project. The Scholarships aim to encourage undergraduates to develop their independent research skills. The Scheme is open to students enrolled on an undergraduate degree course at an eligible Scottish institution. Awards enable them to learn how to manage a research project and prepare for postgraduate study. Students often see their research results published in academic journals or reported in conference presentations. Each year, the Trust organises a poster competition for Vacation Scholarship recipients to allow them to meet and network with each other. The scholarship includes a weekly stipend which will be the equivalent of the current Scottish Living Wage rate (£9.50 per hour in 2021)@ 35 hours per week for 2 -12 weeks. The Scholarships is intended to cover your living and accommodation costs while conducting the research. The stipend will be paid to you by your university at regular intervals during the scholarship. NOTE: There is no additional funding for consumables, equipment, overheads etc. Host organisations are responsible for ensuring the student has access to all the necessary equipment and consumables to undertake their project. Full details, including how to apply can be found [here](#)

Deadline: 31 January 2021

Experimental Psychology Society Undergraduate Research Bursary

This scheme will finance a number of bursaries to support undergraduates studying psychology or a related discipline in the summer vacation immediately prior to their final year. Ordinary members may apply for such an award so long as they have not been awarded an EPS Undergraduate Research Bursary in the immediately preceding calendar year, and provided they have not been awarded an EPS Small Grant in the current or preceding calendar year. Applicants cannot apply both for a Small Grant and for an Undergraduate Research Bursary in the same calendar year. Students must take up the award during the summer vacation prior to their final year (in the case of integrated undergraduate and masters level courses, this is usually the end of the second year of study). Awards will be made to members of the Society and will provide up to 10 weeks' support (£250 per week) for their nominated undergraduate. It is intended that the bursaries be targeted at undergraduates who are planning a research career in experimental psychology (as defined by the content of the Society's journals). Full details can be found [here](#)

Deadline: 01 March 2021.

Medical Research Scotland

MRS Vacation Scholarships provide promising undergraduate students with hands-on experience of research relevant to human health or disease. The awards are intended to help students develop academically, make informed career choices and strengthen their career prospects.

Up to 100 Undergraduate Vacation Scholarships are available each year for projects lasting six to eight weeks, each with a student stipend of £270 per week. Undergraduate students who intend to apply for a Vacation Scholarship should contact potential supervisors directly or seek advice from their tutors or advisers of studies about how best to find a suitable supervisor. Medical Research Scotland is not involved in matching students and supervisors. Full details can be found [here](#)

Deadline: The call will not be opening in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. It is hoped the programme will resume in 2022.

Physiological Society

The PS offer an Undergraduate Summer Studentship Scheme. This is open to Undergraduate and Master's Members. Integrated Masters students may apply during the first three years of their degree only. MSc students are not eligible for this scheme. International students are also eligible to apply. The supervisor must be a Full Member, Postgraduate Member or Affiliate Member (with support from a Full Member). The Physiological Society is committed to the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion, and thereby welcomes applications from individuals of all backgrounds. The funding is up to £200 a week for a maximum of eight weeks. Full details can be found [here](#)

Deadline: 28 February 2021.

Royal Society of Biology

This [website](#) is a goldmine of opportunities. Rather than reproduce all the information for each of the opportunities, a very small selection of grants available is given below. Please follow the links for up to date information and current deadlines, and *most importantly visit the RSB website for a list of all funding opportunities.*

[Alzheimer's Society - Undergraduate Bursaries](#)

Alzheimer's Society provides undergraduate summer studentships. The purpose of the awards is to give experience of research within the field of dementia to undergraduates with research potential and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research. Award: A stipend of £200 per week can be requested for up to 8 weeks (maximum £1600). Up to £500 can be claimed towards project expenses. *Currently paused due to Covid*

[British Society of Animal Science \(BSAS\) - Summer Placement Scheme](#)

These enable companies and institutes to have access to students to help complete specific projects and tasks. Depending upon the individual companies and institutes involved the work available ranges from practical field work or lab studies to computerised data handling of literature reviews and report writing. BSAS help match appropriate companies and students and put them in touch. Placements last for a minimum of 6 weeks. Award: £500 for each project
Application deadline: End of April each year

[Universities Federation for Animal Welfare \(UFAW\) - Student Scholarship](#)

These are available to students studying at universities or colleges in the British Isles or an overseas institution at which there is a UFAW University Links representative. Students will usually be undertaking courses in the agricultural, biological, psychological, veterinary or zoological sciences. Award: £170 per week Application deadline: See website for specific deadlines

Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vacation Scholarships

These awards provide promising undergraduates with hands-on experience of research during the summer vacation, with the aim of encouraging them to consider a career in research. Scholarships are available for 6-8 weeks and currently provide a salary of a real living wage. You can apply for a Biomedical Vacation Scholarship if you're studying for an undergraduate degree in a relevant subject and you want to find out more about research in the biomedical sciences. Examples of relevant subjects include science (including biomedical, natural, computing or physical sciences), medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, engineering, mathematics. The university where you're currently doing your undergraduate degree must be in the UK or Republic of Ireland. You're eligible to apply in the middle year(s) of your degree, when you have not yet undertaken a substantial period of research. We particularly encourage students from groups that are currently underrepresented in postgraduate science research, including black and minority ethnic (BME) students and those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wellcome has decided to cancel the Biomedical Vacation Scholarship scheme for 2020. The scheme will re-open in 2021. In 2021, applicants should apply directly to one of the universities below that run our Biomedical Vacation Scholarships.

Universities: Health Data Research UK; King's College London; Queen Mary, University of London; University College London; University of Bristol; University of Cambridge; University of Dundee; University of East Anglia; University of Edinburgh; University of Glasgow; University of Leicester; University of Manchester; University of Nottingham; University of Oxford; University of Sheffield
Before February 2019, students who wanted to do a Biomedical Vacation Scholarship submitted their application forms to Wellcome. From 2021, students will apply direct to one of the universities that run our Biomedical Vacation Scholarships.