

2026 Summer Research Studentships

OVERVIEW

This is the tenth year of our Summer Research Studentships designed to give second year undergraduate students the opportunity to run their own research project during the summer break.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to make an application, please read the following requirements carefully. You must meet **all** of the requirements to be considered:

- The applicant must hold a current Nutrition Society Student or University Group membership that started before 1 November 2025 (i.e., the preceding year). It is expected that the recipients of the award will continue their membership of the Society for two years following the award.
- It is anticipated that the student undertaking the studentship will have already completed at least two years of their FIRST (undergraduate) degree prior to doing the studentship and have at least one year of their course remaining.
- When the online application is submitted, the applicant should already have a supervisor.

Considerations of 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 student's university/institution) and host school or department will need to confirm their willingness to support the project and in doing so, confirm that appropriate facilities will be made available.
- The University/organisation will be expected to administer the grant.
- All projects should be original research of the applicants choosing.
- If you are selected, it is expected that you will formally accept the project within 7 days, so that, if you decline, we can then offer it to someone else.
- **Closing Date for Applications is 18 March 2026.**
- The project must be completed by the 23 August 2026. Students are expected to present an abstract of their findings at the annual Nutrition Futures Conference in London 10-11 September 2026.

CRITERIA

The application

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 the applicant's 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

Applications will be reviewed and scored independently by a judging panel.

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 studentship. Should multiple applications be received from the same institution, The Society reserves the right.

The proposal will be evaluated for:

- **Clarity of writing** – Clear and concise outline of the topic to be addressed and the methods to be used (**5 marks**).
- **Hypothesis, Aims and Objectives** – A logical and appropriate hypothesis to be tested, and a clear description of the aims and objectives (**5 marks**)
- **Novelty** – The project addresses an important aspect of nutrition (animal or human) and the approach suggested is novel (but achievable in the timescale outlined). (**5 marks**).

Please include relevant references

MAX 500 words

- **Future career aspirations** – The statement clearly articulates the candidate's future aspirations for a career in nutritional science (or appropriate related discipline) and indicates how completing the project will help them realise these aspirations (**5 marks**)

MAX 150 words

Completed Projects

Once completed, an abstract should be submitted as an oral communication (OC) for presentation at the Nutrition Futures Conference on 10–11 September 2026 in London. There is an expectation of attendance at this conference, and as such £500 will be reserved from the overall award, which will be made available to support travel and accommodation for the Nutrition Futures Conference.

How to apply

Need link for application?

Applications must be completed by the student and supported by the identified supervisor. Please read the sections on eligibility and the application and judging process. If you are eligible, we look forward to receiving your application to be part of the 2026 Summer Studentship programme.