

Summer Studentship Programme 2025 - Early Career Members

Early Career Summer Studentships provide ECMs 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 you, a student and 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 £2000. The ECM's 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. In addition the Nutrition Society, will 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 – an ECM application, or a combined ECM/Student application. Either way the online application should be submitted by the ECM who will host the student and be involved in the project.

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

For the ECM/Student combined application you can already have a student engaged or in mind or you can apply and then recruit your student.

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).

- 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, it is expected that you will formally accept the project within 7 days, so that we may offer it to a 'runner up' if you decline.
- Closing Date for Applications - Midnight on 19 March 2025 (it is anticipated students will then be recruited in April/May, if needed)
- The project must be concluded by the 17 August 2025.

Judging Criteria

The application

- Closing Date for ECR Applications - Midnight on 19 March 2025.
- All applicants will be notified of outcomes 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 a judging panel.

The proposal (out of 20) 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)
- *Future career aspirations* - The statement clearly articulates the candidate's future aspirations (student and ECM) for a career in nutritional science (or an appropriate related discipline) and indicates how completing the project will help them realise these aims. (out of 5)

Completed Projects

Once completed the project should be written up and an abstract submitted for further judging by the panel in order to award the Best Project award. This is usually presented at the Annual Reception ahead of the Winter Conference each year.

Additionally, each student involved will be required to present their abstract as an Oral Communication (OC) at the Nutrition Futures 2025 Conference 4-5 September 2025 in London. This provides excellent experience for the student in making a scientific presentation, in front of an empathetic group of their peers.

How to apply

- 1) Please read the sections on eligibility and the application and judging processes.
- 2) Find your student and make a joint application, or apply and then find your student. Either way we can help you identify student members of the Society at your university (contact membership@nutritionandsociety.org for help).
- 3) Submit your application.
- 4) If you are lucky enough to receive a successful outcome, get a plan together of timings.

Key timings are

- Closing dates for application: **19 March 2025**
- All applicants notified: **end of March 2025**
- Projects begin: **from May 2025**
- All projects to be completed: **August 17 2025**
- All abstracts submitted for Nutrition Futures: **midnight 24 August 2025**
- All final abstracts submitted for judging: **midnight 30 September 2025**
- Presentation of the Best Project award: **Annual Reception January 2026**

We look forward to receiving your application to be part of the 2025 Summer Studentship programme.