



BHF Centre of Research Excellence

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BHF Centre of Research Excellence, University of Oxford Cardiovascular Science Vacation Studentships, summer 2019

Application deadline: Tuesday 12th February 2019 (12 noon)

The BHF Centre of Research Excellence (CRE) in Oxford is offering a small number of vacation studentships to enable talented and motivated **undergraduates** to carry out a research project **in cardiovascular science** in summer 2019.

The BHF CRE brings together over 60 world leading research groups, based in departments and centres across the University of Oxford. Together they cover the translational research spectrum from basic science through to clinical and population health research.

The vacation studentships are for 8 to 10 weeks duration, during the summer of 2019, and offer undergraduates an exciting opportunity to contribute to a challenging and meaningful research project in a world leading cardiovascular research group in Oxford.

Students are invited to indicate their choice from the cardiovascular science research topics in the application. Successful students will be allocated to an Oxford BHF CRE research group, and are expected to have the opportunity to be involved in the design and planning of the research project.

Further information about the Oxford BHF CRE research themes and lead researchers can be found [here](#).

Funding available

Each student will receive a tax free stipend of £200 per week, or £100 per week if living at home. Each host lab will receive up to £1,000 towards consumables.

Eligibility

Applicants must be registered for a degree at a UK university and be one of the following:

- an undergraduate in the middle years of their degree (not first or final years).
OR
- a medical student between the end of their second year and the end of their penultimate year.
OR
- a graduate entry medical student at the end of year 1, without significant research experience.

The Oxford BHF CRE research groups are multi-disciplinary in their research approaches; applicants from a wide range of undergraduate courses will be considered such as chemistry, biomedical sciences, statistics, biochemistry, biomedical engineering, physics, computational sciences and others.

The vacation studentships are open to undergraduates and graduate-entry medical students from any UK university, but the summer projects must be undertaken at Oxford University within a BHF CRE research group. International students who are currently studying in the UK and meeting the Tier 4 student visa conditions are welcome to apply.

Selection criteria

Selection will be based on a student's track record, and the enthusiasm and commitment shown to cardiovascular research.

On considering your application we look at:

- your personal statement expressing your desire to undertake a research project in a cardiovascular research group
- the reference letter from your personal tutor / supervisor
- your academic results to date

Please note a preference will be given to students with **limited** research experience.

How to apply

Deadline: Tuesday 12th February 2019 (12 noon)

You must fill in the application form including the following information:

- The University where you are currently enrolled as a student
- The full title, start and end dates of your degree course
- The year of study you are currently in (up to end of academic year 2018/19)
- Academic grades (*if available, please attached an interim transcript of your undergraduate grades to date*)
- The dates you will be available to work in Oxford during summer 2019.
- A one-page CV summarising your education history, work experience, leadership positions and extracurricular interests
- A statement explaining your interest in undertaking research, indicating particular areas of cardiovascular-related research you are interested in, with reference to the [Oxford BHF CRE core research themes](#) (one A4 page maximum). You can propose to work with a specific Oxford BHF CRE supervisor but this is not a requirement.

Your current academic supervisor / programme manager should submit a letter of support separately:

- Letter of support should confirm the applicant's academic grades, and comment on their potential to work independently on a research project on a sustained basis, and to cope with the challenges that arise when conducting experiments. *Please note we do not contact supervisors/referees on behalf of the student.* It is up to the student to request a

letter of support which the supervisor submits by the application deadline 12th February 2019 (12 noon).

Applications and letters of support (preferably submitted directly by the supervisor) should be emailed to: BHFCRE.VacationStudentships@cardiov.ox.ac.uk

Please note students are not permitted to use the vacation studentship to work on a dissertation, project or other submitted work towards their degree.

Successful applicants will be informed by mid-March 2019.

Final report

All students will be expected to submit a short report (three pages max) at the end of their studentship; outlining the background to their research, the results they obtained and the conclusions. In addition they are requested to write a paragraph on how the studentship has benefitted them.

Any questions regarding the studentships should be directed to BHFCRE.VacationStudentships@cardiov.ox.ac.uk

Past BHF CRE vacation studentships feedback

'The studentship was an invaluable experience. It allowed me to experience first-hand working in modern scientific research and it has reinforced my desire to pursue a career in academia. The chance to develop my critical thinking and exercise my scientific curiosity is what I cherished most about my studentship.'

2nd year Human Biology

'My nine weeks gave me significant training in fundamental molecular biology techniques such as Western Blotting, qPCR, protein extraction/quantitation, RNA extraction and HPLC, as well as experience with data analysis and an understanding of the methods and challenges of working with an animal model.'

2nd year Pre-clinical Medicine

'I was able to attend lab meetings and observe the interplay between different research teams in an area for I had expressed an interest in my application; I appreciate that a large effort was made to place me with a team which aligned with my interests.'

2nd year Medicine & Surgery

'I feel that this was a valuable introduction to the workings of a typical research lab, where experiments do not always go as planned. I believe this experience will be very useful to the rest of my undergraduate studies, and will make me a stronger candidate when I apply to postgraduate positions in the future. This experience has made me seriously consider a career in cardiovascular research.'

3rd year Biochemistry