

Summer Vacation Projects for MBChB Undergraduates and Graduate Entry Medical Students

Aims: The Trust wishes to support the most able and talented medical undergraduates registered at the University of Birmingham (including graduate entry medicine) who, in the early years of the course, have expressed an interest in obtaining research experience (**especially laboratory –based**) for a period of **8 weeks** during the summer vacation.

Award Outline:

(a) The Trust will support the award of up to 9 studentships, each of a value up to £2000, to candidates who are considered able and who would be expected to benefit from undertaking a research project.

(b) the 9th award will be provided in conjunction with the 'Education and Research Fund for Diabetes' (ERFD) specifically for a research project on an aspect of diabetes which could include, for example, immunology, genetic and racial factors, biochemistry, ophthalmology, neurology, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, epidemiology, therapies and clinical practice. ERFD trustees are willing to be consulted on proposals; any queries should be addressed to the Arthur Thomson Trust in the first instance.

Selection Process: The undergraduate programme will be responsible for informing the students of the awards and determining appropriate application procedures. A candidate's suitability should be determined by a panel of senior staff with knowledge of both the programme and the students. An Arthur Thomson trustee (and a Trustee of ERFD) should be given the opportunity to participate in the selection process.

Length and Value of the Award: The project will be for a period of 8 weeks and be carried out full-time in a research environment in the University of Birmingham or externally. Periods of 6/7 weeks will be considered in very exceptional circumstances which must be presented to the Trust for consideration and would attract pro rata reduction in funding. Periods of less than 6 weeks will not be considered. The period of time should be long enough to enhance the students' research experience and for the aims of the project, as agreed by the award panel, to be achieved. The value of the award will be £2000 for an eight week project and is intended primarily to support the living costs of the candidate although some travel costs may be included with the agreement of the Trust. Consumable costs up to £500 may be made on receipt of a brief description of appropriate expenditure and payment will be made into a research account of the project supervisor. Payment of the award will be through the College.

Conditions of the Award:

- a) Within 2 months of completion of the project work, students will be required to submit to the Trust secretary a report (one side of A4) written for an intelligent lay audience in which the background to the project, the main findings and the personal impact of their experience are described; students awarded a diabetes bursary are required to give a presentation to the staff at the Diabetes Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham;
- b) The total sum should not be allocated if insufficient candidates meet the criteria;
- c) If a student terminates the project prior to the designated time then the Trust should be informed with reasons for the withdrawal. The Trust reserves the right to reclaim monies paid which have not been used for the purposes for which the award was made;
- d) the Trust expects to receive a written note from the account signatory in sufficient detail to confirm that funding has been disbursed within the conditions of the award;
- e) the Trust **must** be informed if other sources of funding are acquired for the **same project**. Trust funding must not be used to supplement other funding sources without prior agreement of the Trust;
- f) any publications arising from the research should acknowledge the support of the Trust and the Trust should be informed.;
- g) The Trust wishes to follow the careers of those who receive Trust awards and expects the student to agree to their email contact details being provided to the Trust by the Alumni Office.