

Scholarship Projects for Undergraduate Researchers (SPUR)

Overview and Guidance for Proposals

SPUR

The SPUR scheme offers twelve bursaries for NTU students to collaborate with staff on cutting-edge research projects. It provides staff with the opportunity to mentor and receive assistance from an undergraduate student and enables students to gain research experience and contribute to the production of new knowledge in their field. SPUR projects also feed back into the curriculum to benefit the wider student community.

SPUR-SoTL

Two additional bursaries are available for research projects related to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). Colleagues may propose projects for staff and students to collaborate on research into learning and teaching which demonstrates the potential to enhance the student academic experience.

Proposal and project timeline

Deadline to request feedback on applications	18 December 2019
Application deadline	27 January 2020
Applicants informed of final outcome	February 2020
Briefings for supervisors	March 2020
Student selection and finalisation of project plans	March / April 2020
Briefings for students	April / May 2020
Projects undertaken	Summer 2020 ¹
Submission of student posters for exhibition	Early October 2020
SPUR poster exhibition and award ceremony	November 2020

Review of proposals

SPUR proposals will initially be ranked by a peer review panel within Schools; shortlisted proposals will then be considered by a cross-institutional panel. SPUR-SoTL proposals will be considered by a cross-institutional panel.

The panel aims to ensure a broad distribution of bursaries to high quality SPUR projects across disciplines and Schools.

Awards may be made on a conditional basis: in this case applicants will be asked to supply additional information or further develop aspects of their proposal to ensure the project fully meets scheme requirements.

Strong proposals which are not successful in receiving SPUR funding may be eligible for SPUR-type funding from a local scheme within their School or disciplinary area.

Award criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following considerations:

¹ Depending on the nature of the research, it may be necessary to begin the student involvement before the summer break. Dates can be discussed following award.

- Clearly articulated aims, process, outputs and dissemination plans for the project;
- Meaningful experience for scholarship students, including opportunities to collaborate with staff and to participate in diverse aspects of a research project;
- Benefits for the wider student community: a clear statement of how the project will strengthen links between teaching and research in the undergraduate curriculum or, in the case of SPUR-SoTL, enhance the wider student academic experience;
- Practical considerations, including clear plans around workspace and supervision.

Who may apply

- The lead supervisor for the project should be a member of NTU staff.
- Lead supervisors should hold, or be demonstrably working towards, HEA Fellowship.
- Co-applications are welcome for projects that offer scope for inter-disciplinary, multi-disciplinary work or collaborative work within and beyond NTU.
- Previous holders of a SPUR award are welcome to apply with a new project.

Project outputs

SPUR students might be involved in the production of a report or publication, and/or alternative outputs such as an event, a social media campaign, a performance, or a toolkit. Please note that SPUR (including SPUR-SoTL) does not provide funding for projects which centre on the production of learning and teaching materials.

Colleagues from TILT will contact award holders in future to request information on project outputs, as well as information regarding dissemination within and beyond NTU.

SPUR and SPUR-SoTL bursaries

- A SPUR bursary is intended to contribute to students' living costs during involvement in the project. The award covers up to 370 hours of student involvement. Proposals should include a plan for how the funding will be used: for example, it may pay for one student for ten weeks FTE or two students for five weeks FTE. The bursary is not intended to cover any research costs, including travel for research.
- Bursaries will be paid directly to participating students.
- Supervisors will receive guidance on student selection.
- Additional opportunities exist to mentor sixth-form students as short-term research assistants on SPUR projects. More information is available from the TILT Coordinator.

Submitting your proposal

- Proposals to SPUR or SPUR-SoTL must be submitted on the SPUR Proposal Form available on the TILT website: <https://www.ntu.ac.uk/c/tilt/tilt-spur>
- Please indicate clearly in your proposal whether you are applying for a SPUR or SPUR-SoTL (Scholarship of Teaching and Learning) award.
- Proposals should always be discussed with the proposer's line manager prior to submission and the proposal form must include the name of a relevant manager.
- To request feedback on your project idea, or with questions about any aspect of your proposal, contact ADQSPUR@ntu.ac.uk by **18 December 2019**.
- The deadline for proposals is **27 January 2020**. Please email your completed form to: ADQSPUR@ntu.ac.uk