



London Mathematical Society Undergraduate Research Bursaries in Mathematics Assessment Guidance for the URB Advisory Board

When assessing the applications assessors may like to consider the following aspects and create a set of criteria for ranking the application from these points.

Student:

- Is the student on track for a first-class degree? Is the student ranked highly in the cohort?
- Is the student seriously considering continuing to postgraduate study in mathematics? Are there any pertinent comments about the student's planned career?
- Has the student attained the required mathematical skills/knowledge to benefit from the research experience described in the project?
- Has the student contributed to the preparation/design of the project?
- Does the referee's statement mention the student's motivation and any aptitude for research?

Supervision:

- Are the arrangements for supervisory meetings clearly explained and appropriate? (This includes the frequency and length of meetings, who will the student see each time, remote or face-to-face meetings, and so on).
- Will there be any opportunities for the student to experience an academic environment suitable for research (e.g. appropriate space to work in the department, possibilities of interacting with current PhD students, opportunity to attend a research meeting or conference, and so on)? If the student is working remotely, is it clear that steps will be taken to ensure the student does not feel isolated?

Project:

- Is the amount of new material to be learnt appropriate given the duration of the project and the current mathematical maturity of the student? Have the courses taken so far by the student prepared the student properly to understand this material? Ideally there should be clear links between the courses taken so far and the prerequisites for the proposed project.
- Are the aims of the project clear?
- If the final aims are not achieved, will there still be a good chance of a meaningful outcome to the project? Has this been made clear in the proposal?
- Does the project offer an opportunity to experience research? This can involve learning a mathematical method and then applying it in a novel situation which is beyond "book work", or having an opportunity for independent exploration of a mathematical problem.