

London Mathematical Society Undergraduate Research Bursaries in Mathematics Guidelines 2024

These guidelines describe the **London Mathematical Society Undergraduate Research Bursaries in Mathematics** and are for the 2024 round only. Please read the information provided on the website and these guidelines before completing the application form.

This information can be downloaded from <https://www.lms.ac.uk/grants/undergraduate-research-bursaries/applications>

The closing date for receipt of applications is 1 February each year.

Nature of Awards

The purpose of the awards is to give experience of research to undergraduates with research potential and to encourage them to consider a career in scientific research.

The awards provide support for the student at a rate of either £265 per week (for bursaries held at universities based outside London) or £275 per week (for bursaries held at universities based in London), for a period of between 6 and 8 weeks. The London Mathematical Society does not pay overheads. The bursaries produce no National Insurance contribution liability.

Eligibility

- By the summer of the award, students must have completed (the equivalent of) at least two full academic years of an undergraduate degree in mathematics/statistics and be intending to continue in mathematics education after the summer vacation either as an undergraduate student or a master's student. Applications on behalf of first-year undergraduates will **not** be considered.
- Researchers in Mathematics at universities and research institutions within the UK are eligible to apply. Interdisciplinary projects will be considered providing the project has significant mathematical content.
- **Postdoctoral researchers** and **new lecturers**, early in their careers are also encouraged to apply, and should note this on the application form.
- Only **one** application should be submitted by a supervisor and a maximum of **six** applications per institution.
- Institutions are asked to provide **match-funding** for half of the grant awarded (for example, for a 6 week grant at £265 per week, departments will be asked to contribute £795 and the Society will contribute £795). Institutions offering match-funding will be able to receive funding for up to 4 half-funded Bursaries. Institutions not willing to provide match-funding will only be able to receive funding for up to 2 Bursaries. Please bear in mind that this is a national scheme with a limited number of bursaries.
- Students will normally be expected to be on track for a first-class degree in order to be considered.
- Students must be registered at a **UK institution** for the majority of their undergraduate degree.
- Supervisors and students do not necessarily have to be based at the same institution; however, we expect that they will work together at the same institution for the duration of the project and have regular meaningful contact (an average of at least 1 hour per week meeting in person/online is the minimum expected).
- Bursaries will **not** be awarded for projects that are a **part of degree work**, or that take place overseas for more than 50% of the project time.
- Bursaries will only be granted for the student named on the application form; awards are not transferable between students.



Adjudication

Adjudication will be by the Early Career Research Committee of the London Mathematical Society, advised by an independent URB Advisory Board. The scheme is competitive, and applications will be judged primarily on the quality and merits of the student, as well as the mathematical merit of the project and the experience the student will have whilst working on it. Preference will be given to:

- Students who are expected to achieve a first-class degree, who are considering a career in research, but who have not yet had an opportunity to experience research.
- Research projects that have a clearly defined objective which is achievable by the student in the time available.
- Projects which give scope for thought and initiative on the part of the student and do not use the student as a general assistant.

How to apply

The application must be made by the person who will supervise the research and not the student. However, supervisors should discuss the project in detail with the nominated student who should also contribute to the project design. The application form includes a section for the supporting documentation to be uploaded, this includes the Student's Supporting Information (to be completed by the student), Referee's Statement (to be completed by someone who works closely with the student, i.e., tutor or any other academic that has regular contact with the student) and Head of Departments Statement. The required documents can be found on the LMS website, **they should be included in the application form and not attached separately**. Applications must be made using the application form for 2024 which can be downloaded from the London Mathematical Society's website – <https://www.lms.ac.uk/grants/undergraduate-research-bursaries/applications>

Awards are not offered directly to individual researchers but to the institutions to which they belong. By signing the Head of Departments Statement, the Head of Department signifies their willingness for the award to be administered by their department, and agrees to the Conditions of Award and reporting requirements of the scheme. Departments are asked to provide match-funding for half of the grant awarded (for example for a 6 week grant at £265 per week, departments will be asked to contribute £795 and the Society will contribute £795). Departments offering match-funding will be able to receive funding for up to 4 half-funded Bursaries. Departments not willing to provide match-funding will only be able to receive funding for up to 2 Bursaries.

Awards are made formally to the institution on the understanding that the research complies with the safety and ethical regulations of the institution and that the institution will ensure that the requirements of all relevant regulatory authorities will be met before the work commences.

The closing date for applications is 1 February each year and all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail to Supervisors. Decisions will be communicated to Supervisors during April 2024. If necessary, the bursary administrators can be contacted on urb@lms.ac.uk.

If you **need to withdraw your application**, you must let us know as soon as possible on the email above. Please bear in mind that we are a small central team and that processing each application takes time. If you receive alternative funding for your project, please let us know immediately so that, if necessary, we can re-allocate our funds accordingly. We receive many more good applications than we can fund, so please help us to use our resources in the most effective way.



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Further copies of these guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from the London Mathematical Society's website, www.lms.ac.uk/grants/undergraduate-research-bursaries/applications