

## **Pre-announcement: Joint British Geriatrics Society / Vivensa Foundation Undergraduate Research Placement Scheme**

**Opening for applications June 2026**

### **Introduction**

We are again partnering with the [British Geriatrics Society](#) (BGS) on this scheme, which aims to increase opportunities for undergraduate students, from any discipline, to undertake ageing-related research. This round will be the second of our two-year pilot.

The need for undergraduate students to engage in research has been highlighted by both the BGS, through its internal review of research capacity development, and our own analysis of a number of national reports<sup>1</sup> focused on the UK research and ageing landscape. We therefore hope that this Joint Undergraduate Research Placement scheme will enable students to test and develop their interest in ageing-related research at an early stage, and make them more competitive for future research opportunities and fellowships.

### **What will we fund?**

Up to four centres / departments / institutes will be awarded funding to each provide three undergraduate research placements. The placements will be a maximum duration of six weeks and can be structured flexibly – i.e. in a single block (full-time), or spread out over a longer period of time (part-time).

Within the application form, the applying centre will be asked to outline the placements. These must address at least one of the priority research themes highlighted on page 22 of the [Vivensa Foundation's 2025-2030 Strategic Framework](#). The placements could constitute a standalone research project, or form a distinct element of a wider / larger project. Placements with a specific focus on cancer are not eligible.

Applications must demonstrate the host centre's strategic commitment – either long-standing or emerging – to ageing-related research, as well as the active support /

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<sup>1</sup> Academy of Medical Sciences: [Future-proofing UK Health Research: a people-centred, coordinated approach](#)

Nuffield Council on Bioethics: [The future of ageing](#)

Older People's Housing Taskforce: [Our Future Homes: Housing that promotes wellbeing and community for an ageing population](#)

Chief Medical Officer's annual report 2023: [Health in an ageing society](#)

supervision and development opportunities that will be provided to the students. We are particularly keen to support proposals that can build capacity within underserved centres / disciplines / student demographics.

### **Who can apply?**

Applications are welcomed from prospective supervisors within centres / departments / institutes at any UK university, or other [eligible research organisation](#), with a strategic commitment to ageing-related research. **Only one application will be accepted per centre / department / institute.**

Centres / departments / institutes which were successful under the previous round of the scheme are not eligible to apply to this round.

If successful, the lead applicant will become the lead for the research placement cohort and the main point-of-contact for the grant. Named supervisors must be prepared to commit sufficient time to ensure that the students supported via this scheme receive an appropriate grounding in the relevant research methods, as well as wider support / supervision.

Host centres / departments / institutes must have the appropriate capacity, research record and governance arrangements to ensure that the research placements will be carried out in an appropriate manner and in a supportive environment.

It will be the responsibility of host centres / departments / institutes to recruit students to the research placements, and applicants will be asked to describe how the students will be recruited within the application form. The students can come from any discipline – the scheme is not solely for undergraduate medical students and those completing healthcare-related degrees – and must be undertaking their undergraduate degrees for the duration of the placements.

### **How much is available?**

The scheme will fund the full salaries / stipends / bursaries of the students, at the [real Living Wage](#) (£13.45 per hour outside of London; £14.80 per hour within London), for up to six weeks.

In addition, centres can apply for up to £1K per student (i.e. up to £3K in total) to be spent on other relevant costs to support the placements.

On this basis, the maximum amount<sup>2</sup> that can be applied for is as follows:

- **For centres / departments / institutes outside of London:** £11,475
- **For centres / departments / institutes within London:** £12,325

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<sup>2</sup> Based on three students being funded for six weeks on a 35-hour working week.

We welcome applications that can be part-funded by the host institution either financially<sup>3</sup> or in-kind through the provision of services, facilities etc.

Full details on eligible costs will be provided in the call guidelines.

### **Timetable and deadlines**

- Call open to applications: June 2026
- Deadline for applications: Late July 2026
- Eligibility checking and panel review: July – September 2026
- Approval of the panel's funding recommendations: October 2026
- Applicants informed of the outcome of their application: Late November 2026

Please note that this timetable may be subject to change prior to the publication of the finalised call guidelines.

### **Further information and contact details**

Full details will be provided in the call guidelines, which will be available once the call opens.

If you wish, you can access a PDF template of the application form from last year's round of the scheme at [this link](#). **However, please note that there are likely to be some changes between this template and the application form for the upcoming round – therefore, this template is only provided for planning purposes.**

Before applying, prospective applicants should complete the [general eligibility quiz on the Vivensa Foundation website](#). We also recommend that you read our [general Funding FAQs](#).

To subscribe to receive news and updates from us, please add your details to the 'Join our community' section of our "[Contact us](#)" page. You can also follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#).

If you have any queries relating to the call, please email us at [grants@vivensafoundation.org.uk](mailto:grants@vivensafoundation.org.uk).

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<sup>3</sup> This may be internal funds, funding from industry or other charities etc.