

Research Experience Placements (REPs)

Summer 2022

29/03/2022



The NERC Research Experience Placement (REP) scheme aims to address both thematic skills gaps as well as demographic and diversity-related challenges in the environmental sciences by offering funding to support paid summer placements for undergraduate students, during which they will carry out research projects within the scope of the environmental sciences.

Researchers are invited to submit REP project proposals for consideration by **Wednesday 27 April 2022** using the ARIES REP Proposal Form to the following ARIES member:

Organisation	Submissions to
BAS	Ali Teague
UEA	Alice Brewer
University of Essex	Eoin O’Gorman
University of Kent	Jim Groombridge
University of Plymouth	Greg Price
RHUL	Alex Dickson

The proposed REP projects must:

- Have a clearly defined objective.
- Be within the [science remit of NERC](#).
- Be within one or more of [the ARIES DTP's key research themes](#).
- Be suitable for a student feasibly to complete within the timescale of the award.¹
- Include more than purely a computer/modelling component i.e. some element of fieldwork, data collection, activity to give an understanding of the wider context etc.
- Give scope for thought and initiative on the part of the student and should not use the student as a general assistant.

Projects will be selected for advertising by a panel at the host institution. Besides the criteria listed above, which all projects should meet, the panel will also consider the following positively:

- Involvement of one or more end users (typically non-academic partners) in the design and supervision of the project.
- Co-funding from partners or host organisation.

¹ Students will be paid at least at the National Minimum Wage plus on-costs such as NI. Your institution may have additional rules regarding minimum wage payments for employees, so it is recommended that the placement be planned to take 6 weeks.

Accepted project proposals will be advertised via the ARIES website, but all other advertisement is the responsibility of the host institute.

In addition, the host institute is responsible for:

- Selection of the participating student²
- Ensuring the REP project falls within the NERC remit and is of suitable quality.
- Ensuring that appropriate supervisory arrangements are in place.
- Ensuring an ARIES/EnvEast PhD mentor is appointed for the student, or if not available then a PhD mentor in a NERC-facing research area.
- Ensuring that any necessary ethical committee approvals, animal licences and requirements of regulatory authorities are in place before the work begins and are maintained during the duration of the work.
- The identification, protection and exploitation of any intellectual property rights arising from the work.
- Ensuring that all facilities, agreements about access and collaborations necessary for the work are obtained before the work commences and can be ensured through the period of the work.
- Ensuring that all costs awarded by NERC for the REP are used and accounted for appropriately.
- Ensuring that details and assessment of the project are reported to NERC (via the DTP/CDT lead organisation), as directed in the allocation letter or subsequent correspondence.
- Ensuring that a PhD interview is offered to successful REP candidates where they apply to a PhD at that institute.

A project report will be requested and must be completed by both supervisor and student must by 7th October 2022.

The DTP has currently been allocated £3,312 for each REP, which includes up to £500 for research costs. Placements must be at least 6 weeks in duration. ¹

Where the full allocation of £3,312 is not required for a selected candidate/project, ARIES will use the underspend to support additional REPs and/or cohort activities/development opportunities for REP students.

² Local recruitment policies and the [ARIES EDE&I policy](#) must be followed.

To qualify as eligible for a NERC REP, candidates must:

- Be undertaking their first undergraduate degree studies (or integrated Masters).
- Be eligible for subsequent NERC PhD funding (Details of eligibility for PhD studentships can be found [here](#)).

REP 2021 Project Proposal Form

15/04/2021



Lead Supervisor:	
Email:	
University/Research Organisation:	
Department:	
Project Title:	
Proposed element of fieldwork, data collection, activity to give an understanding of the wider context etc	
Proposed PhD mentor (if already identified)	
Contingency plan <i>We understand that there will need to be some flexibility due to COVID19, therefore applications need to show a contingency plan for if the placement needs to change. How will the student be integrated into the department? For example, if a placement becomes computer-based, students are still invited to lab meetings and other sessions.</i>	
Project Summary (max 500 words)	
Photo for advert <i>Please provide a suitable image for use in the web advert for this project</i>	
Preferred Student UG Degree subject(s)	
Learning/Development opportunities this placement will provide	
Research Costs	
Duration	