Research Experience Placements (REPs) Summer 2024

13/02/2024

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.

Funding

NERC have allocated us funding for 6 research placements of up to £4208.32 each (including £500 research costs). This is a suitable amount of funding to cover placements of 6 weeks, depending on your organisation's recruitment and pay policies. Please note that **REP students must be made an employee of the host organisation and receive a salary for the duration of the placement**[1] **and it will be your responsibility as primary supervisor to complete this process and monitor expenditure on salary and research costs.** Students must be paid *at least* the appropriate National Minimum Wage rate (for those 22 and under) or National Living Wage rate (for those 23 and over) and where necessary receive a contribution towards research and training expenses during the placement. Additional funding beyond this amount must be found from other sources. Placements may be undertaken as full or part-time to allow more flexibility for students.

Call for Proposals

Researchers are invited to submit REP project proposals for consideration by **Monday 25 March 2024** using the ARIES REP Proposal Form to the following ARIES representative at your research organisation:

Organisation	Submissions to
BAS	Ali Teague
EI	Jose DeVega
RHUL	Alex Dickson
UEA	Lucy Maughan
University of Plymouth	Greg Price

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.
- Include more than purely a computer/modelling component

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[1] Local recruitment policies and the ARIES ED&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). They cannot have graduated at the time of the placement
- Be eligible for subsequent NERC PhD funding (Details of eligibility for PhD studentships can be found here).

- Give scope for thought and initiative on the part of the student and should not use the student as a general assistant.

Besides the criteria listed above, which all projects should meet, the following will be considered 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.

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

Responsibilities of the Host Institute

- Selection of the participating student[1]
- 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 16 September 2024