

We are pleased to offer a limited number of awards to fund UK University iGEM teams. For successful teams 50% of the stipends, for up to 10 students, will be awarded at a rate of £180 per week for a 10-week period. In addition, a contribution of up to £1000 towards consumable costs will also be provided.

The deadline for this scheme is **Friday 14th March 2021.**

Please read all the information on this page carefully before submitting an application.

The **International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM)** competition is a worldwide synthetic biology competition (see www.igem.org) that is primarily aimed at undergraduate university students. Teams are usually highly multi-disciplinary, covering wet (e.g. cloning, protein expression) and dry lab (e.g. mathematical modelling or engineering) approaches. 'Human practices' are a key part of iGEM, with students expected to participate in outreach events. Students present their project both orally and in the form of a poster at a 'regional' (European) jamboree, with the most successful teams going forward to the 'world' jamboree held at MIT in Boston.

Preparing the application

Applicants will act as one of the project supervisors and should be PhD qualified or hold a senior research or academic position. Applications must be made on behalf of the named students. The students must be registered for their degree at an institution in the UK. Students should have completed a minimum of one year of study on the programme, but not have started their final year at the time they take up the funding.

- It is appreciated that projects may evolve during team discussion. Please provide a rough idea of the likely area of the proposed research.
- Projects may start at any time between 1st April and 15th July. A maximum of 10 weeks of funding will be provided.
- Please outline the types of approaches that are likely to be undertaken by the students. Preference will be given to interdisciplinary approaches that encompass for example experimental techniques along with mathematical modeling, engineering, entrepreneurship, design etc.
- Outline how you will provide training for lab work in a COVID secure way.
- Show how your project has flexibility 'built in' in order to accommodate the potential impact of any COVID guidelines developing in the meantime that may interrupt or completely prohibit wet lab work.
- The application should include clear evidence of how the project will have significant input from the students.
- Please outline the contribution of the sponsor to the team. In addition, please outline the physical arrangements for supervising the team. Where will the team be located? Will all of the team be in the same physical location? How will – if at all possible - the 'wet' and 'dry' parts of the project be integrated? How often will the students meet with the sponsor and other advisors?
- Please list additional project advisors and their contribution to the team. It is expected that at least one additional advisor should be named. Preference will be given to teams that have a clear and coherent strategy for supervision.
- Please list the details of all the students in the team. Preference will be given to teams that are strongly multi-disciplinary.
- Information on student's destination upon completion of their degree will be sought in due course.

In addition to the application form, please include a letter from your host institution stating that it will provide matching funds to support the remaining 50% of stipends of the students. The letter should also state that the host institution will cover the travel and registration costs to support attendance of all of the students at the iGEM jamboree.

Terms and Conditions

Applications will be judged by a panel of stakeholders (BBSRC, Wellcome Trust, UofG, UCL). Awards are made at the discretion of the Panel and the decision of the Award Panel is final.

Grants are made to the applicant's institution on the understanding that it will administer the award. The institution is responsible for providing adequate facilities and ensuring that all necessary requirements of regulatory authorities are in place before work begins and are maintained for the duration of the grant. The project supervisor is responsible for the conduct of the research.

The work must take place in the summer following the award.

A brief report and financial statement must be provided within one month of completion of the project. The report must include details of the project undertaken, ranking at the final judging, nominations/awards for specialist categories as well as submit details of the **students destination on completion of their undergraduate degree** in due course.

Applicants should expect to receive notification of the outcome of their application within one month of the closing date.