

Quick Guide to the Carnegie Vacation Scholarships

Who is it for?

- Students from low-income households who are ordinarily resident in Scotland.
- Undergraduate students enrolled at a Scottish university, the Glasgow School of Art or the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.
- Approaching their final year of study: in year 3 of a 4-year degree, or year 3 or 4 of a 5-year degree.

What's a Vacation Scholarship?

- It enables students to gain research experience and skills while undertaking lab work, field work, library or archive visits, interviews, surveys etc. under the supervision of an academic researcher.
- It aims to encourage students to develop and gain experience, skills and knowledge useful for postgraduate study or the workplace.
- It is for novel research projects that would not normally be part of the student's course, which address a specific hypothesis or research question(s).
- It may lead to new scientific, academic or intellectual knowledge, a new product, technology, or creative output.
- The Scholarship comprises a stipend based on the **Scottish Living Wage**.

What it isn't

- Scholarships cannot be used for language study or participation in summer schools or group expeditions.
- It does not support work placements or volunteering activities.
- It cannot be part of the student's assessed course work: e.g. it can't be on the same topic as the applicant's final year dissertation, although it could address a sub-set of issues or questions that might be expanded into a thesis.
- It cannot be the continuation of an existing project or study.

When

- Projects can take place any time between mid-May and August.
- Project duration: from 4 weeks (minimum) to 12 weeks (maximum). Typical duration is around 9 weeks.
- Weeks do not necessarily have to be consecutive.

Where

- A project can be undertaken at the student's own university, a host research organisation or elsewhere, provided suitable (academic) research supervision and the required resources are available.
- It can take place in Scotland or elsewhere.

How to apply

- Ask one of your tutors or lecturers if they would be willing to supervise your project and assist you with the application process.
- Visit the Trust's website at <https://www.carnegie-trust.org/award-schemes/vacation-scholarships/> and use the eligibility checker provided. If eligible, follow the link to the online application form.
- The deadline for applications is **13th February 2026, 5PM**

Need more information?

- Go to the trust's website: <https://www.carnegie-trust.org/award-schemes/vacation-scholarships/>.
- You will find guidance on how to apply as well as examples of previously funded research projects.