

Junior Research Associate International scheme at Sussex



The University of Sussex is one of Britain's leading research intensive universities. In 2014, the Times Higher World Rankings rated Sussex as being 14th in the UK and 34th globally for research influence. Since its inception in 1961 Sussex has celebrated three Nobel prize winners. It is this tradition of research excellence the University wishes to continue with the Sussex Junior Research Associate International scheme.

Junior Research Associate scheme at Sussex

The University of Sussex Junior Research Associate (JRA) scheme is a pioneering project which aims to develop future research leaders. It encourages talented and ambitious undergraduates to consider a career in research following graduation. The scheme recognises academic excellence and drive by supporting academically gifted undergraduates during the summer vacation as they work alongside Sussex's top research faculty on real-life research projects.

Junior Research Associate International scheme

The University of Sussex is seeking to open up the well-established JRA scheme to international students from partner institutions. In 2016, Sussex will be able to support up to a maximum of 10 international JRAs. The eventual aim would be to match the 25 University of Sussex JRAs with 25

international JRAs. The scheme looks to establish peer to peer relationships between promising undergraduates who are considering a research career.

Information for partner institutions

We would like to invite you to publicise this scheme to interested students. We would very much like to use the JRA International scheme as a reciprocal vehicle for student exchange. We recognise that some partners will not have a similar scheme up and running, but we remain open to encouraging our students to attend Summer school and academic and cultural programmes you may offer.

To explore reciprocal arrangements or to promote summer school opportunities at your institution to Sussex students, please contact Georgie Chesman, International Partnerships Officer E.G.Chesman@sussex.ac.uk



Our commitment to you:

- We will make up to two student places available for each partner institution in 2016.
- We will support the students you send by waiving the JRA International fee. Students will need to provide funding to support their subsistence and living costs for eight weeks.
- We have identified a range of research areas that we can supervise in 2016. All being well, this will be expanded in 2017. We would like to work with you to identify particular research areas you would be interested in developing further.
- Where possible we would very much like to reciprocate, by sending similar numbers of our students to your institution over the next few years and we are keen to hear from you as to how we might support this objective. This might be in the form of us supporting up to two students to attend a Summer School or cultural or language programme you offer international students.
- We will provide suitable on campus accommodation at our Falmer campus, located 10 minutes from Brighton by train.
- We would like to evaluate your student's participation in the scheme, to give feedback, in the same manner as home students, wherever practicable.
- We will provide you with an official report on each JRA International student at the completion of the visit.
- We will provide appropriate academic advice, orientation and attend to the welfare needs of your student(s) during the programme.

How to apply

We hope that you will have students who are interested in applying to be part of our inaugural JRA International class. To help identify potential students, we will provide some potential projects and research areas on our JRA International website: www.sussex.ac.uk/research/undergraduate/jra-international

Duration of the scheme

JRA International research projects will run for eight weeks during the summer vacation from Monday 27 June to Friday 2 September 2016. During this time we will provide on-campus accommodation on our Falmer campus.

Selection process

In order to select the final candidate(s) to attend the Sussex JRA International scheme in 2016, we ask that partner institutions conduct an internal competition and selection process, nominating the students you have selected to undertake a JRA International project.

Entry requirements

In order to be admitted to the International JRA we require that the undergraduate students have the following IELTS levels:

- Arts and Humanities – IELTS 6.5 overall, with not less than 6.0 in each section
- Sciences – IELTS 6.5 overall, with not less than 6.0 in each section
- Social Sciences – IELTS 6.5 overall, with not less than 6.0 in each section

Students must have completed at least one academic year of study at your institution. We would expect a GPA of 3.0 in year 1 of study.



Applications procedure

Please send your nominations for the scheme to Julie Carr, University of Sussex JRA programme manager:
E j.l.carr@sussex.ac.uk, by the end of March 2016.

To find out more:

Although our JRA scheme is long established, we recognise that the JRA International being a recent addition to the scheme, you may have additional questions. If you do have any questions at this stage, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Carr, programme manager:
E j.l.carr@sussex.ac.uk or
T +44 1273 678036

More details on the JRA International can be found on the JRA website: www.sussex.ac.uk/research/undergraduate/jra-international

Deadline for applications

The deadline for partner institutions to send nominations to the University of Sussex for the JRA international scheme is end of March 2016.

Selection procedure

Once you have selected which students you would like to put forward to Sussex and for which research areas, please send your nominations to Julie Carr, JRA programme manager:
E j.l.carr@sussex.ac.uk, by end of March 2016. Sussex will send confirmation of successful nominations by the end of April, with the JRA International students expected to arrive and start their research projects at the end of June 2016.





What past JRA students say

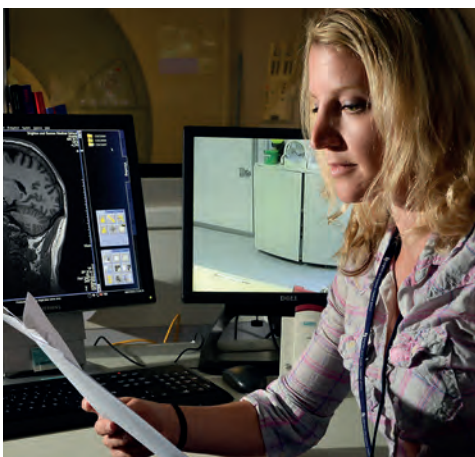
'The JRA scheme allowed one of the most rewarding experiences in my academic career. I studied honey bees in the new £250,000 bee and social insect lab over the summer, loving every minute. I carried out original research [which] I'm hoping to publish soon in a scientific journal. The scheme catapulted me into real-life research with real-life animals, and thus I now feel more confident overall as a student, as well as having a much clearer idea of the career I want to pursue. When you take part in this scheme, it's not just research you undertake; you understand your degree topic from many further angles, you see how your university functions, and you make contacts and friends invaluable to your academic success.'

Heather Moore
JRA (Biology)



'I feel that only positives have come from my summer as a JRA. I have worked as part of a group that are researching ground-breaking technology, which is a huge privilege and only came about because of the JRA scheme. I have had a really good look into the research lifestyle, which has given me a better idea of whether I want to do a PhD. The time I spent working will also help throughout the rest of my degree as I have been encouraged to think independently whilst working on a side project I was given.'

James Sayers
JRA (Physics)



'I found participating in the JRA scheme a very beneficial and rewarding experience that offered me an immense sense of achievement and satisfaction. It improved my competence in the areas of Neuroscience and Imaging and provided me with an in-depth knowledge of Autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), a debated developmental condition. The unique opportunity of conducting research so early in my medical education equipped me with key transferable skills and generic research tools, eg data acquisition, data handling and statistical analysis that will be invaluable for my future career.'

Bilyana Brignell
JRA (Medicine and Surgery)

More information

Julie Carr, programme manager:

E j.l.carr@sussex.ac.uk

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