

NeuMat Summer Undergraduate Studentships 2026 – Call for Project Proposals

The **NeuMat Network** is pleased to announce the **call for project proposals** for its Summer Undergraduate Studentships 2026. These 8-week placements provide high-quality research experience for undergraduate students, typically in their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th year, who may be considering PhD study in neuromorphic materials and computing.

Aim of the Studentships

The NeuMat Summer Studentships are designed to:

- Provide high-quality research training for students considering PhD-level study.
- Offer interdisciplinary exposure across the stack of materials, devices, and systems in neuromorphic materials and computing.
- Foster collaboration between academic institutions and industrial partners.
- Strengthen the UK community in neuromorphic research by developing the next generation of researchers.

Each awarded project (5 in total) will receive a funding of **£4,000**, which should cover all **student expenses** including travel, accommodation, and subsistence for the **8-week summer placement**.

Eligibility to Submit Proposals

We welcome proposals from:

- **Academic partners** (universities, research institutes).
- **Industrial partners** (companies, R&D centres) with active research programs aligned with NeuMat themes.

Projects should be designed to provide meaningful, hands-on experience for a single student over an 8-week period during summer 2026 (June–September).

Timeline

Milestone	Date
Proposal submission deadline	15th January 2026
Notification of awarded projects	Early February 2026
Student call open	Immediately after award notification
Student application deadline	Early March 2026
Student placement	8-week period, June–September 2026

Funding

- Each successful host project will receive **£4,000** to support:
 - Student stipend/subsistence.
 - Accommodation.
 - Travel.
 - Any other essential project-related costs.

- Hosts may optionally provide **partial co-funding** (e.g., 50%) or in-kind support. This is welcome but will not influence scoring or disadvantage hosts unable to co-fund.
- Additional **hardship funding** may be available case-by-case to ensure students can take up placements regardless of financial circumstances.

Assessment and Selection

Selection will be based primarily on Research Quality, alongside Opportunity to Learn Across the Stack and Research Environment.

The **full ranking criteria** are included in Annex A of this call for transparency.

How to Submit

Please submit your proposal as a **single PDF** including the following sections:

- **Project title and summary** (max 100 words)
- **Host institution/company and supervisors**
- **Research quality** – Describe the project’s originality, feasibility, and alignment with NeuMat themes (max 200 words)
- **Opportunity to learn across the stack** – Explain how the student will gain interdisciplinary experience across materials, devices, and systems (max 200 words)
- **Research environment** – Describe supervision, support, inclusivity, and practical arrangements (max 200 words)

Annex A: Ranking Criteria

All submitted project proposals will be assessed by the Summer Studentship Committee (SSC) using the criteria below. The aim is to ensure a transparent, fair, and consistent evaluation process.

Assessors will assign **one score (0–3)** for each of the three main criteria listed below. These three scores will then be combined using the following **weighting scheme**:

Criterion	Weight
1. Research Quality	60%
2. Opportunity to Learn Across the Stack	25%
3. Research Environment	15%

Research Quality is the primary selection criterion.

Guiding questions for reviewers (not individually scored):

- **Alignment with Themes:** Does the project clearly align with NeuMat research areas?
- **Ambition & Novelty:** Is the project ambitious and does it contribute meaningfully beyond the current state of the art?
- **Feasibility:** Are the objectives realistic for an 8-week placement and appropriate for a 2nd–4th year undergraduate?
- **Methodology:** Is the methodological approach sound, clearly described, and well structured?

Host co-funding is welcome but **is not part of the scoring** and will not affect assessment outcomes.

1. Research Quality (0–3, weighted at 60%)

This criterion evaluates the originality, feasibility, and academic strength of the proposed project, as well as its alignment with NeuMat themes.

Scoring descriptors

0 – POOR

Very weak proposal: unclear aims; inappropriate or infeasible methods; limited or no relevance to NeuMat themes; unrealistic outcomes.

1 – WEAK

Partially developed proposal: some elements defined but overall unclear or weakly justified; limited relevance or impact; questionable feasibility.

2 – GOOD

Well-structured proposal: clear aims; appropriate methodology; strong alignment with NeuMat; realistic and achievable outcomes within 8 weeks.

3 – EXCELLENT

High-quality proposal: ambitious and novel; well-designed and feasible; excellent supervision; strong potential outcomes such as datasets, models, prototypes, or contributions to publications.

2. Opportunity to Learn Across the Stack (0–3, weighted at 25%)

This criterion evaluates the project's potential to provide interdisciplinary training across materials, devices, and systems.

Scoring descriptors

0 – POOR

No meaningful interdisciplinary component; limited to a single discipline; no collaboration or co-supervision.

1 – WEAK

Some mention of interdisciplinarity but no clear mechanism for delivering cross-stack learning.

2 – GOOD

Clear interdisciplinary elements; student gains exposure to at least two levels of the stack; co-supervision or collaboration included.

3 – EXCELLENT

Strong, intentional cross-stack learning; structured collaboration across multiple groups or disciplines; rich integration of materials–devices–systems perspectives.

3. Research Environment (0–3, weighted at 15%)

This criterion evaluates supervision, inclusivity, accessibility, and the practical support provided for the student.

Scoring descriptors

0 – POOR

Unsupportive or exclusionary environment; no EDI considerations; unclear supervision; unaddressed safety or accessibility issues.

1 – WEAK

Some awareness of EDI or support needs, but lacking concrete detail; limited accommodation or travel planning; incomplete supervision plan.

2 – GOOD

Supportive, organised environment; clear EDI considerations; accessible working arrangements; defined supervision and training plan.

3 – EXCELLENT

Exemplary environment with strong commitments to EDI, accessibility, mentoring, and student wellbeing; well-developed practical support including onboarding and structured supervision.

Additional Notes (Not Scored)

- **Host Co-funding:** Hosts may optionally contribute financial or in-kind support (e.g., 50% co-funding). This is welcome but **does not affect scoring** and will not disadvantage hosts who cannot provide additional funds.
- **Hardship Support:** Additional support may be available on a case-by-case basis at the student stage to ensure no student is unable to participate due to financial constraints.

Annex B – Summer Studentship Committee (SSC) Panel Members

The selection of host projects and the assessment of applications will be carried out by the NeuMat Summer Studentship Committee (SSC). Panel members for the 2026 call are listed below.

Judith L. Driscoll,
Giuliana Di Martino,
Eleni Vasilaki,
Omesh R. Kapur,
George A. Constantinides,
Neil T. Kemp