NeuMat Summer Undergraduate Studentships 2027

Call for Host Project Proposals

The NeuMat Network is pleased to announce the call for host project proposals for its Summer Undergraduate Studentships 2027. **This call is for host researchers to propose projects; students should not apply at this stage.** Following selection of the successful host projects, NeuMat will launch a separate student call in February 2027, through which eligible undergraduate students can apply to undertake the selected projects.

The studentships provide 8-week research placements 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

- 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 funding of £4,000**, which should cover all student expenses, including travel, accommodation, and subsistence for the 8-week summer placement.

Eligibility and Industry Collaboration

Host eligibility

- Proposals must be submitted by a lead supervisor based at a UK university or other UK research organisation eligible to receive EPSRC funding.
- Industrial partners, including companies and R&D centres, are strongly encouraged to collaborate, for example through co-supervision, access to facilities or data, or an industry-relevant contribution to the project. However, the NeuMat award must be made to the eligible UK research organisation and cannot be paid directly to an ineligible organisation such as a private company.

Student eligibility for the subsequent student call

Hosts do not need to identify a student when submitting a project proposal. Students will apply separately after the successful host projects have been selected. The student undertaking the placement must:

- Be a current undergraduate student enrolled at a UK higher education institution.
- Be enrolled at a UK higher education institution different from the host institution.
- Undertake the 8-week placement at the successful host institution between June and September 2027.

- Students enrolled at institutions outside the UK are not eligible for support through this scheme, irrespective of nationality.

Timeline

Milestone	Date
Host project proposal deadline	**15 January 2027, 17:00 GMT**
Notification of awarded projects	Early February 2027
Student call opens	Immediately after award notification
Student application deadline	Early March 2027
Student placement	8-week period, June–September 2027

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 (for example, 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 on a case-by-case basis 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 for transparency.

How to Submit

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

- **Project title and summary** (maximum 100 words).
- **Lead host institution, supervisors, and any collaborating industrial or academic partners.**
- **Research quality:** describe the project's originality, feasibility, and alignment with NeuMat themes (maximum 200 words).
- **Opportunity to learn across the stack:** explain how the student will gain interdisciplinary experience across materials, devices, and systems (maximum 200 words).
- **Research environment:** describe supervision, support, inclusivity, and practical arrangements (maximum 200 words).

> Email the completed proposal to info@neumat.co.uk with the subject line **"NeuMat Summer Studentship 2027 - Host Project Proposal"** by **17:00 GMT on 15 January 2027**.

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. The scores will 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

These questions support review and are not individually scored.

- **Alignment with Themes:** Does the project clearly align with NeuMat research areas?
- **Ambition and 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

Score	Rating	Descriptor
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

Score	Rating	Descriptor
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; the 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

Score	Rating	Descriptor
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 (for example, 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 2027 call are listed below.

- Judith L. Driscoll
- Eleni Vasilaki
- Omesh R. Kapur
- Neil T. Kemp