University of Strathclyde
Science

THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

www.strath.ac.uk/science

SIPBS Summer Research Internships

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What is an internship?

- A period of **professional work experience**
- May be **paid**, **unpaid** or **partially-paid** (stipend)
- Usually funded by a third-party (e.g. learned society or charity)
- Often **competitive**; may be **prestigious**

What do you get out of it?

- **Knowledge**, **skills** and **experience** in a real research environment
- Contribute to answering **real cutting-edge research** questions
- Establish **connections** and network in the field
- Prestige
- Find out if research is the career for you

In what areas do we offer projects?

- **Cellular Basis of Disease**
  - Cancer and inflammatory disease
  - Cardiovascular and metabolic disease
  - Neuroscience and mental health
- **Computational Biology/Bioinformatics**
- **Industrial Biotechnology**
- **Microbiology**
- **Pharmaceutical Sciences**
  - Drug discovery, formulation and delivery
  - Materials and manufacture
- **Pharmacoepidemiology & Health Care**

Ways to get a studentship

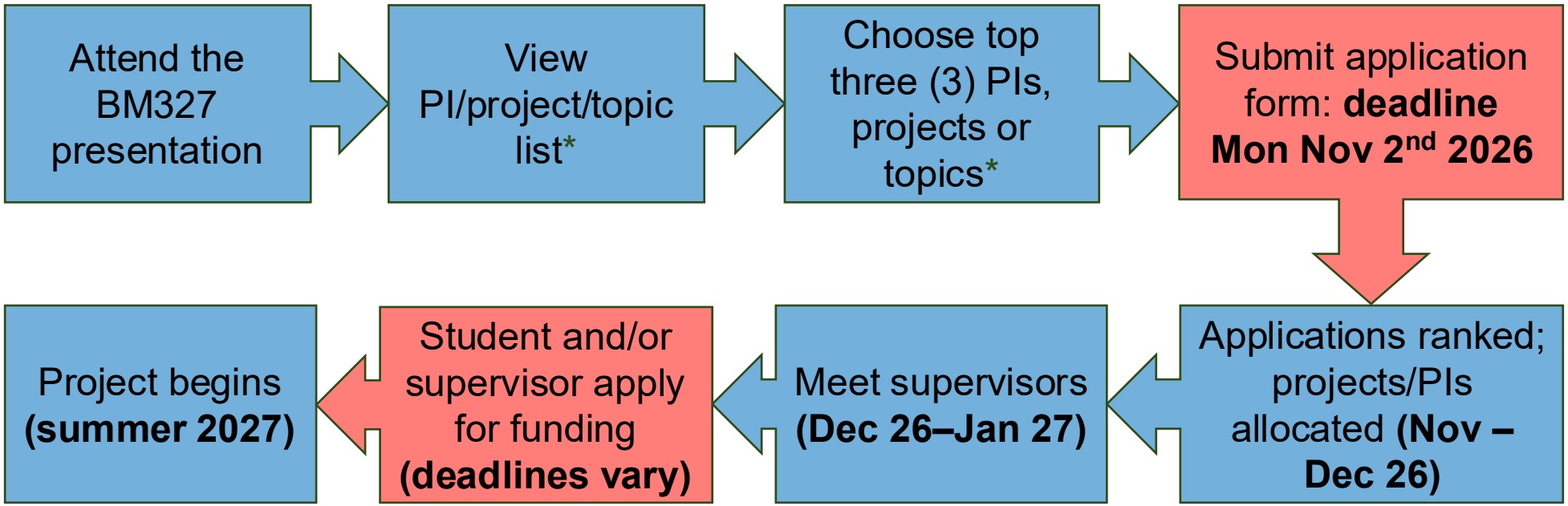
- **SIPBS matching scheme**
- 2025-26: 7 studentships *via* this route
- **Independently contact a potential supervisor at SIPBS**
- 2025-26: >8 studentships *via* this route
- **Independent application to company/NHS/other university**
- 2024-25: Students don’t report back to us, so we have no record

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SIPBS Project Matching

What is the procedure?

*You can approach PIs/groups independently of the matching process



- If you are shortlisted for a SIPBS internship, this **does not come with financial support**
- **Any financial support must be obtained either by the PI, or the student with the support of the PI**

What are the selection criteria?

- **Applicants are ranked** by 2nd year credit-weighted average (%CWA)
- **Other criteria are applied for 3rd year direct entrants; 2-4 places reserved**
- The **highest-ranked students (usually 8-10 in total, but dependent on projects offered: LAST YEAR THERE WERE SEVEN PLACES AVAILABLE) are allocated** to projects/PIs on the basis of student preference
- **Applicants may be excluded** from consideration on the basis of January examination results (e.g. failing mark)

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What next?

- **Select** from the PIs and projects at:
- https://sipbs-compbiol.github.io/sipbs-internships/projects/2026-27.html

- **Download the Internship Application Form**
- https://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/mod/resource/view.php?id=1774870
- BM327: Being A Biomolecular Scientist 3 on MyPlace (Development, Employability and Careers): https://classes.myplace.strath.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=21691#section-4
- **Complete** the form with 150-word personal statement of why you would benefit from a studentship
- **Submit completed form by MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2025**
- **Email the completed form to: philip.brown@strath.ac.uk**

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Application form

Summer Placement Application Form

Surname		First Name	
Reg. No.		Nationality	
Email		Degree Course	

Please indicate a preferred research topic and/or supervisor	
(please note that preference is for guidance only; we cannot guarantee to offer you a specific placement)	

Supporting statement **(150-word limit)** (This should briefly outline why you would be a good candidate for a summer placement, what you hope to gain from it and how this will support your career development. Please also provide any other information that is relevant to your application)
Any other relevant information?

FORM SHOULD BE EMAILED TO PHILIP BROWN at philip.brown@strath.ac.uk

DEADLINE IS MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 2026

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Routes other than SIPBS Project Matching

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A SIPBS non-matching route

1. Approach a PI/group you might like to work with
2. Ask if they might be interested in taking you on as an intern

- https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/subjects/pharmacybiomedicalsciences/
- **This route accounted for over 50% of summer placements in SIPBS, in 2025-26**

University support

- Careers Service
- “Source your own internship & placement: It's very important to be proactive in your job search. **Do not wait for vacancies to be advertised - it might never happen. Many organisations do not need to advertise their work experience opportunities, as they receive hundreds of speculative applications from students.”**
- **(i.e. be one of those speculative applicants)**
- https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/careers/students/workexperience/internshipsplacements/
- https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/careers/students/makingapplications/makingspeculativeapplications/

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Online resources

- Internship search at e4s
- Internship search at graduatejobs.com
- Internship search at prospects.ac.uk
- Internship search at ratemyplacement.co.uk
- Internship search at targetjobs.co.uk
- Internship search at brightnetwork.co.uk
- Internship search at milkround.com
- Internship search at gradcracker.com

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Where to get funding

Where can you get funding?

- **An incomplete list… (see MyPlace)**
- **You or your supervisor may need do be a member of the funding organization to be eligible.**
- Interns@Strathclyde: https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/scholarships/researchinternsstrathclyde/
- Carnegie Trust: https://www.carnegie-trust.org/award-schemes/vacation-scholarships/
- Saltire Internships: https://www.entrepreneurialscotland.com/2023-apply-now
- Wellcome Trust: https://wellcome.ac.uk/grant-funding/schemes/biomedical-vacation-scholarships
- British Society for Cell Biology: https://bscb.org/competitions-awardsgrants/studentships/
- Biochemical Society: https://www.biochemistry.org/grants-and-awards/grants-and-bursaries/summer-vacation-studentships/
- Medical Research Scotland: https://medicalresearchscotland.org.uk/undergraduate-vacation-scholarship/
- Microbiology Society: https://microbiologysociety.org/grants/travel-research/harry-smith-vacation-studentships.html
- Society for Applied Microbiology: https://sfam.org.uk/career/grants/summer-student-placement-scholarship.html
- Physiological Society: https://www.physoc.org/grants-and-prizes/grants/research-springboard-studentship/
- Experimental Psychology Society: https://eps.ac.uk/undergraduate-research-bursary/
- **A long list at Royal Society of Biology:** https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/grants/undergraduate-studentships

2025-26 SIPBS studentship funders

- **An incomplete list…**
- Carnegie Trust: https://www.carnegie-trust.org/award-schemes/vacation-scholarships/
- Academy of Medical Sciences: https://acmedsci.ac.uk/
- MRS: https://medicalresearchscotland.org.uk/undergraduate-vacation-scholarship/

How do you get paid?

- **Depends on the funder…**
- There may be output requirements, e.g. production of a project report or poster presentation: may need to be met for fund release.
- **READ THE SMALL PRINT IN THE APPLICATION FORM/DESCRIPTION!**
- When?
- Before the project starts (British Pharmacological Society)
- During the project
- After the project (Medical Research Scotland)
- How?
- Through university/department
- Directly

What now?

- **Apply to the SIPBS matching scheme**
- Identify what kind of work/science appeals to you and **approach PIs at SIPBS** to see if they might take you on as a summer student
- **Apply to external funding schemes**
- **Contact the careers service** for professional advice
- **Work on your CV and a cover letter** for adapting to specific employers

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Any questions?



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