BSI Medical Elective & Summer Placement Award Scheme (MESPAS)

The BSI is offering financial support to both medical students and postgraduate students (PhDs & MScs) who are planning to undertake a formal placement in a selected laboratory for their medical elective or for a summer placement. To be considered for support by the BSI you must be a BSI member and your placement must have immunological relevance.

Applicants will need to complete an application form describing the planned placement and their personal scientific interests, and include a letter of support from their supervisor endorsing their plans. This will be the basis for assessment by the BSI.

Individual awards will be up to the value of £1500 for overseas placements, £1000 for placements within the UK and £500 for placements taking place at your host institution. Applications will be accepted throughout the year, with applications being reviewed every 3 months. Applications will be reviewed on the following deadlines:
- 1 September
- 1 December
- 1 March
- 1 June

We do not stipulate when your placement takes place, except that the application for the award must be received before the beginning your placement and the placement must take place within a year of you receiving the funds.

We recommend that you apply for a review deadline that is at least 4 - 6 weeks ahead of the beginning of your placement. e.g. application received by 1 September deadline for travel mid-October onwards.

Award requirements:

- Applicants must be BSI members/
- Applicants must be either medical students or postgraduate students (PhDs/MScs)
- Planned placements must be greater than two weeks in duration (for shorter placements, please use the standard travel award application).
- The placement must have immunological relevance.
- As part of the submission, the applicant will be required to describe the planned placement in detail, and their enthusiasm for the subject of immunology – see application form for full details.
- The application process will require the formal support of the applicant’s supervisor – in the form of a supporting letter.
- The application process will also require a letter from the placement supervisor confirming the placement and any relevant information.
- The applicant will be required to provide a written report of their activities in the form of a blog for the BSI website. The report should be submitted within 4 weeks of completing the placement.
- See application form for other stipulations.
- The BSI’s decision regarding any individual application shall be final.

Completed forms should be sent to Eolan Healy – e.healy@immunology.org