**STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT (SRA) PROGRAMME**

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**Criteria for staff applications**

**Introduction**

The Student Research Assistant (SRA) programme at BU was launched in autumn

2014, funded by the Fusion Investment Fund. It provides on-campus employment opportunities for undergraduate students to work in clusters, centres and institutes, alongside academics, supporting research that is directly related to their career path and/or academic discipline. This enables the student to assist academic staff with their research whilst also gaining research experience.

**SRA programme objectives:**

* Increase co-creation between staff and students through the production of outputs, related to PI10
* Increase student satisfaction and NSS scores
* Promote careers in academia and research to students
* Increase progression to further study
* Provide support to academic staff with their research

Departments have been allocated a budget to support a specific number of SRAs through this scheme and the allocation process will be undertaken at Faculty level.

**SRA programme conditions**

* Only BU on-campus students on taught programmes may apply for the positions
* All studentships are 120 hours and must be taken over 4 weeks in the summer. Students within the Faculty of Health & Social Sciences who have a heavy practice based element to their programmes may undertake the work over a longer period.
* Only students with an average grade of 70% or higher may apply.

**Application process**

There are two stages to the application process: 1) staff application stage whereby BU academic staff within each Department can apply for funding for SRA positions, and 2) student selection stage whereby Department staff recruit to the funded positions.

Staff apply for funding for SRA positions by completing an online application form. Applications received are reviewed by a Faculty panel using the criteria presented in this paper. Decisions are confirmed with staff applicants by the Chair within one week of being made by the panel.

**Criteria and decision-making process**

In assessing staff applications for funded SRA positions, the panel use the following criteria to prioritise funding for positions that will provide an excellent student and staff experience and support the achievement of the programme objectives. Applications are assessed against the following six criteria:

1. Student-centred – the position is designed with the student in mind and will provide the student with transferable skills and enhanced opportunities for further study, a career in research/academia and/or future employability.
2. Co-creation and co-production – the position will provide the student and staff member with clear opportunities for co-creating/co-producing outputs, such as journal papers and conference presentations.
3. Fusion – the position meets the BU Fusion agenda of linking research with education and/or professional practice.
4. External engagement – the position provides the student and/or staff member with the opportunity for external engagement that wouldn’t otherwise take place, for example a public engagement event.
5. Impact – the position supports the acceleration and delivery of a potential impact case study for the next REF assessment or the position supports the submission of a research proposal.
6. Cross-Faculty – the position supports research activity to take place outside of a single Faculty.

The panel will assess each application against these six criteria, giving a score out of four for each. The scores will be totalled to give each application a score out of a maximum of 24.

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| **Score** | **Definition**  |
| 4 | Provides an outstanding opportunity for achievement of the criteria |
| 3 | Provides a good opportunity for achievement of the criteria |
| 2 | Provides a limited opportunity for achievement of the criteria |
| 1 | Does not provide an opportunity for achievement of the criteria |

*Table 1: Definitions of scores*

To be eligible for funding, applications must achieve a panel consensus score above 15, including a score of at least 2 for criteria 1 and 2. Eligible application will be ranked with funding awarded to those scoring the highest. The panel reserves the right to be flexible with the number of positions awarded in each round.

The panel aims to meet within one week of the closing date and for decisions to be confirmed with applicants within one week of the panel meeting. The Chair must email sra@bournemouth.ac.uk within one week of awarding the assistantships to provide information as to which applications have been accepted.

**Appeals**

Appeals can be made to the Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Innovation. Applicants wishing to appeal should contact the Head of RKEO in the first instance.

**Post award conditions**

It is a condition of the award that a co-authored paper is submitted for publication within three months of the SRA position end date.