

**Undergraduate/Postgraduate Research Bursaries at Northampton (URB@N) Scheme 2020-21**

Institute of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education

University of Northampton

The purpose of this document is to invite University of Northampton staff, from all academic faculties and professional services departments, to bid for an URB@N student research bursary enabling them to work in partnership with a student on a pedagogic research project. The document sets out the parameters and criteria that bidders should consider before submitting proposals.

URB@N stands for ‘Undergraduate Research Bursaries at Northampton’. It is a scheme offering opportunities for current undergraduate students (and – following the successful pilot last year - taught postgraduate students) to participate in a pedagogic research project taking place at the university. The premise behind URB@N is facilitating opportunities for staff and students to work together *in partnership* to explore learning and teaching issues for the benefit of the student experience.

The scheme can provide staff with the valuable resource they might require in order to undertake such research. In addition, student involvement in scholarly research can add valuable additional insight to the student voice not easily accessed using other means – generating real authentic data with the potential to impact on teaching and learning practice and hence the student experience. For students, participating in ‘real world’ research through the scheme is a great way for them to get valuable work experience, develop new skills and make a meaningful contribution to their university and the experience of fellow students. A core feature of URB@N is staff and students working and learning together to facilitate educational enhancement. This reflects wider interest in the higher education sector about student engagement through partnership working.

Each year there is a designated amount of funding allocated to the scheme. Staff are invited to propose projects that they want to supervise, and students are selected to be researchers on those projects. Student researchers will receive a £500 bursary to support their involvement in the research project.

**Your bid**

* You can bid for one, or more than one, student bursary (equating to £500 per student).
* Each faculty may submit any number of bids.
* **The deadline for submissions is Friday 30th October 2020**. Successful applications will be announced by the end of November 2020. Bursary projects are expected to commence in January 2021.
* All projects must finish, including payment of all student bursaries, by the end of July 2021.
* Student bursaries are paid at the end of the project, on submission of agreed outputs and with supervisor approval.
* The lead applicant (who will be the main supervisor) must be a substantive member of staff at the University of Northampton.
* All staff and students participating in the URB@N scheme are expected to present a poster of their research at the annual Institutional Learning and Teaching Conference (held in May/June).

**Priorities for funding**

For this round of funding, we would welcome projects that address one or more of the following strands:

1. Student retention and progression
   1. Integrated learning support
   2. BAME attainment
   3. Engagement
   4. Inclusivity
2. Learning and teaching during covid-19
   1. Transition to online learning
   2. Community and belonging in virtual environments
   3. Student experience and identities
   4. Creative strategies for socially distanced teaching and learning
3. Open call
   1. Pedagogic projects relevant to the student experience

Examples of previous successful projects are found on the [URB@N website](https://www.northampton.ac.uk/ilt/research-and-funding/urbn/)

On receipt of applications, there is a review process involving a small team of staff with responsibility for learning and teaching developments at the university. Applications are scored in terms of the suitability of the project; support that will be provided to students; the quality of involvements students will have in the project and the potential benefits to students and the institution.

Informal enquiries about the scheme, and completed applications should be sent to:

Dr Rachel Maunder (URB@N Coordinator, Psychology Subject Group, FHES): [Rachel.Maunder@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.Maunder@northampton.ac.uk)

**URB@N Supervisor Application Form 2020**

We encourage you to be *brief* but *specific* on the application form.

**Section A: Applicant information**

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| Faculty/Department: |
| Name of lead supervisor/project leader: |
| E-mail address: |
| Name of any additional staff members who will be involved in supervising the student (if applicable): |

**Section B: Project information**

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| Project title |
| What is the project about? Please provide a brief overview of the aims and scope of the proposed project |
| Please indicate which ‘theme’ your proposed project sits within:   Retention and Progression   Employability and changemaker   Open call |
| Why is this project needed? Please detail the rationale driving the project |
| What are the likely outcomes for the course/subject area/Faculty//University? |
| How do you anticipate disseminating findings from the project? (both internally and externally – where appropriate) |
| Is this an extension/continuation of a previous URB@N project?  YES  NO  (If YES, please complete Sections C and D. If NO, please proceed directly to Section D) |

**Section C: Continuation projects**

(This section only needs to be completed if you are applying for an extension/follow-up of a previous URB@N project)

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| What has been achieved on the project so far? |
| What ‘added value’ will be achieved by further developing the project this year? |
| Will you be re-employing the same URB@N student?  YES  NO  Please briefly explain the rationale for this decision: |

**Section D: Your URB@N Student(s)**

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| Who will your URB@N student be, should your application be successful?  Student name:  Student number:  Programme of study:  Level of study (4-7):  E-mail address:  (Please state ‘Unknown’ if you do not currently have a student researcher in place for the project) |
| How and why did you select this student to be the URB@N researcher on this project? |
| If you DO NOT currently have an URB@N student lined up for the project, please outline briefly how you intend to find and select a suitable student if your application is successful: |
| What will the URB@N student’s main role be in the research project? Describe the main tasks and responsibilities you will expect them to have, and what their involvement will be in the various aspects of the project |
| How do you intend to work *with* the student to achieve the project aims? Describe your involvement, the way the partnership will work, and what support will be provided to the student (in terms of supervision, training) |
| What will the student get out of the project? (in terms of knowledge, skills, experience) |
| Some projects can be considered for a larger allocation of funding by providing TWO URB@N student bursary places rather than one. If you would like to be considered for this additional bursary place, please tick here:   What will your 'bigger' project deliver that a standard URB@N one would not? An additional 'value for money' statement should be made if you wish to be considered for the increased allocation. |
| **Signature of support from Dean/Deputy Dean (an e-mail confirmation to show support of the application is also acceptable):** |

Completed applications should be e-mailed to Rachel Maunder ([Rachel.Maunder@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:Rachel.Maunder@northampton.ac.uk)) by 5pm on **Friday 30th October**