

UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarships (including the Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship)

UFAW established a student scholarship scheme in 1983 to enable students to develop their interests in animal welfare and to carry out their own project (whether research or educational). Since the scheme began there have been over 450 scholars, many of whom have gone on to careers in research or animal welfare.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from undergraduate and MSc students who are enrolled at a university or institute at which there is a [UFAW LINK](#), OR supervised by someone at a [UFAW LINK](#).

Students will usually be studying agricultural, biological, psychological, veterinary or zoological sciences. However, we would be pleased to receive applications from students from other disciplines who are interested in carrying out a project related to animal welfare. Please note: PhD students are NOT eligible to apply.

What is involved?

Projects must be relevant to improving or assessing the welfare of farm, laboratory, companion, zoo or wild animals whose welfare is compromised by humans. Please note: We do not fund projects where the sole aim is species conservation.

Students are encouraged to design their own project proposals, but they should seek guidance from their Supervisor(s) to ensure that the proposal has a sound scientific methodology, that all necessary facilities are available, and that the work will be properly supervised.

How much is the award?

Student scholarships consist of **£250 per week** subsistence (paid directly to the student) and **£100 per week** project expenses (paid to the host university/institute), to a maximum of **£2800**. Payments cannot be issued to third parties.

Although projects are typically completed during July-September, projects may be carried out at any time during the year of application. Projects usually last between 4 and 8 weeks and support is provided for up to eight weeks. Projects may be longer than 8 weeks (but extra funding is not provided). Projects do not have to be undertaken in one continuous period of study.

Funds are normally paid by cheque, in GBP sterling, to applicants residing in the United Kingdom (UK) and by bank transfer to applicants outside of the UK. Please note that any costs associated with receiving funds by bank transfer must be met by the recipients. Funds can only be transferred into an account bearing the applicant's name or the name of the institution which will administer the award.

Applying for an award

The UFAW Animal Welfare Student Scholarship is an annual Scholarship award that is open for application every September/October, with a closing date of 28 February the following year.

When open, interested students are invited to submit an application form [online](#).

The form is divided into sections and asks for the following information: details about the student and their current course (including a copy of their CV), details about the supervisors(s) who will be supervising the student for the duration of their project, and a description of the proposed project (including location, dates, and implications for animal welfare).

Completed applications must reach UFAW by **28th February** of the year of application.

UFAW Mentoring Partnership

Students who do not have ready access to the help and resources required to plan a scientific research proposal, may also wish to consider applying for a UFAW Mentoring Partnership: www.ufaw.org.uk/mentor. If successful, the Student Mentee is paired with a suitable Mentor before an application is submitted – the aim being for the student to receive guidance during the planning stage of their project proposal resulting in a well-designed study. We want any resulting data to be meaningful and able to answer the original research question posed.

Important considerations when designing an experiment include: a clearly stated aim and hypothesis; a logical and practical methodology; and a clear idea of the type of analyses that you will be carrying out on any data (this helps to ensure that the sample sizes chosen (if using animals or people) and the experimental design is such that the overall experiment will have sufficient power (eg if using 0.8 or greater power you should have an 80% or greater chance of finding a statistically significant difference when there is one).

We all have an ethical responsibility to ensure that any experiment we conduct uses resources appropriately and, if using animals, that a harm-benefit analysis justifies their use, and that the number used is not more, or fewer, than necessary to achieve the desired outcome.

How are applications assessed?

Awards are competitive and applications are assessed on different criteria. These include the importance for animal welfare, educational experience offered to the student scholar, number of animals affected by the animal welfare issue being investigated, scientific merit of the proposed project, and ethical acceptability.

What is expected of the Student Scholar?

On completion of their project, scholars are required to **report** on their work, by **1st November** of the same year (unless otherwise agreed in advance with UFAW).

Additionally, UFAW regularly holds a meeting for Student Scholars at which scholars are invited to present their work. The meeting is usually held online during December or January and attended by all the Scholars of the year (including those awarded Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) Scholarships), their supervisors, as well as staff from UFAW and the HSA.

Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship

An assessment panel may select one of the high-quality projects addressing the welfare of farmed animals to be awarded the **Ruth Harrison Student Scholarship**.

This scholarship has been established with the support of the Farm Animal Care Trust (FACT), and is in memory of Ruth Harrison, whose tireless work at the Trust, and seminal book, *'Animal Machines'*, led to reform and long-lasting improvements in farm animal welfare both within the UK farming industry and beyond.

What is UFAW?

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an international, independent, scientific, and educational animal welfare charity and membership organisation. UFAW's vision is a world where the welfare of all animals affected by humans is maximised through a scientific understanding of their needs and how to meet them. UFAW promotes an evidence-based approach to animal welfare by funding scientific research, supporting the careers of animal welfare scientists and by disseminating animal welfare science knowledge both to experts and the wider public. The organisation works to promote high standards of welfare for farm, companion, laboratory, and captive wild animals, and for those with which we interact in the wild.

Joining UFAW

UFAW is a charity, entirely supported by donations, legacies and membership subscriptions. UFAW does not receive government or university funding. The annual membership subscription is £30; there is a reduced fee of £10 for students. Corporate or group membership of UFAW is open to departments or libraries of universities and colleges, corporate specialist groups and commercial and industrial establishments worldwide.

UFAW

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Information for applicants



Science in the Service of Animal Welfare
The International Animal Welfare Science Society



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