

The Rutherford Appleton Laboratory is changing the way it does Work Experience.

Due to the popularity of placements and the resources of the scientists, we can only take students from April until August.

If you are in Year 10 or 11 wanting an experience of working in a scientific environment then please apply for placements starting between April and July, during your own schools term time.

If you are in Year 12 students looking for a longer term placement please apply for placements starting between April and August.

Important Dates

Date	Deadline
05 September 2011	Applications open for the following year
25 December 2011	Applications close
Feb Half Term 2012	All places are confirmed. Letters to all applicants
6 weeks before placement	All forms to be received by RAL, including Student/Parent Agreement and Indemnity Form.
April - August	Placements begin

The application process:

FAQ's

Before applying

1. I would like to do Work Experience at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, how do I go about it?

Excellent, before applying please ensure you meet the criteria in the above statement.

- The first step is to download and complete the application form. At the same time download a copy of the Indemnity form to show to your school (to ensure they are happy to sign it).
- Once you have completed the application form send it back to the email address: ralworkexp@stfc.ac.uk by the 25 December, unfortunately we cannot accept applications after this date.
- The next step is a waiting game; we will search for a supervisor for you. You will receive a letter by email or post either confirming your placement

2. I have received a form from my Education Business Partnership saying I have a place at Rutherford Laboratory, is this the case?
No, unless you have been through the process outlined in (1.) you have not been accepted. If it is still before the deadline then please apply as quickly as possible, if it is after the deadline then you have not been accepted.
3. I know someone who works at the Laboratory, should I approach them?
Yes, you are more than welcome to approach them; however they cannot guarantee a placement without going through the application process. Please put their name on the application form as a RAL contact.
4. I would like to come during the summer holidays, but I am in year 10/11.
If you are in year 10 or 11, we ask that you apply to come between April and July or until the end of your school year. If your school has a specific work experience week, please put those dates on the application form. Our aim is to take you during the term time, as particularly if you are in year 11, we cannot accept you after your GCSE's due to insurance purposes*
*Unless your school is willing to sign the Indemnity form, however this is extremely rare.
5. My school only runs work experience in the Autumn or Spring?
Unfortunately due to the busy schedules of the scientists and engineers we cannot accept students all year round. If your school is happy for you to come during term time or at the end of the school year and you can apply before December 25 then we will consider your application.
6. On the application form it asks me about my favourite language, why is that?
Science is a multicultural entity, with over 40 different languages spoken at RAL. If you are interested in doing your placement at RAL whilst also improving your language skills, please put down which language you would prefer. If you are successful in your application we will try to match you with a scientist or engineer who speaks that language and you will spend your placement talking science in another language.

After Application

7. I have received an indemnity form, what does this mean?
The indemnity form is a legal document that replaces Employers Liability Insurance at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. If your school is an independent school or an academy responsible for its own accounts, the form should be signed by your Bursar or Head Teacher. If your school is a state school or a state maintained academy, then the form should be sent to your school and then passed onto the local authority to be signed by the County Solicitor. Your school should contact us if they're unsure who should sign the form.
8. My school/local authority has a query about signing the indemnity form, what should I do?

We are happy to answer all questions regarding the indemnity form, however unfortunately without the form being signed we cannot allow you to do Work Experience at the Laboratory. Please ask the school or local authority to contact us directly and we will try to resolve it.

9. I haven't received a confirmation of a placement and my school wants to know?

As a working laboratory with a very large number of applicants we do our best to inform you of your placement as soon as possible. All placements will be confirmed by the February Half Term.

10. I haven't been offered a placement, what other options are available to me?

There are plenty of opportunities:

Anyone can attend our [Talking Science Lecture Series](#) – Free talks about the current cutting edge science, presented by scientists at the forefront of science.

If you are in Year 11 now, you can apply in September for next years Work Experience programme.

If you are in year 12 you can apply for the Nuffield Bursary Scheme, which is a placement for 4 – 6 weeks over the summer holidays.

We can also offer opportunities before, during and after University.

- Before: [Year in Industry](#) – You spend a 10-12 months working on a project relevant to your chosen degree.
- During: [Sandwich Student Placement Scheme](#) – As part of a sandwich degree course you will spend 12 months as an STFC employee.
- After: [Graduate Recruitment Scheme](#) – A fast track scheme for graduates with a 2:1 in Physics, Engineering or Computer Science.

11. I live many miles away, is there accommodation for me to stay at?

Yes, there are hotels and B&B's in and around the Laboratory for you to stay at during your placement. For information on accommodation prices and location, please follow the link. The Laboratory cannot provide subsistence for either travel or accommodation.

12. How do I get to the Laboratory?

The Laboratory is located next to the Village of Harwell in Oxfordshire. The most local train station is Didcot Parkway, regular buses run to the Laboratory.

Follow the [link](#) to find out directions to reach the Laboratory by road, rail and public transport. The Laboratory cannot provide subsistence for either travel or accommodation.