

Rod Taylor Scholarship
Faculty of Science
2025

Notes to Applicants

Scholarship Available in 202t

The following scholarship is available for the upcoming academic year:

The **Rod Taylor Futures Scholarship** provides a one-off payment of £2,000, per Scholar, for an undergraduate programme in any Faculty of Science subject. Typically, six new Scholars are selected from each first year intake. The scholarship is funded by a donor to the University.

Am I eligible to apply?

You are eligible for this scholarship if:

1. You are commencing your studies in the Faculty of Science in October 2024 (this includes if you will be commencing your Foundation Year); and
2. Your official fee status is Home student; and
3. Your household income has been, or will be, assessed by Student Finance England (SFE or equivalent) as below £47,200; and
4. You have been educated at a state-maintained UK school, college or other education provider for the whole of your education.

Applicants who also meet the following criteria will be prioritised:

- You are a resident in North East of England, at the point of submitting an academic application through UCAS for a place at Durham University, residing in one of the following postcode regions: CA, DH, DL, NE, SR or TS.
- You are a Widening Participation programme participant (inc. Futures in STEM, Supported Progression, STEP and Sutton Trust); or
- You are a first generation scholar.

How can I use the Scholarship?

The scholarship is intended to help you get the best out of your time in the Faculty of Science. The funding awarded to you is yours and does not need to be repaid. You can use the money to pay for the things that would help you most. Typically, students find it helpful to use such awards to purchase their own learning resources such as textbooks, laptops and related devices; membership and other costs relating to clubs, societies, sports and activities that interest them and help build skills which may transfer into the workplace; and/or to enable participation in activities that support personal development and employability – perhaps volunteering or attending employer insight days.

How and when to I apply?

To apply for this scholarship, please;

Complete and submit the [application form](#) and provide a copy of your Student Finance England (or equivalent) assessment letter, so that we can verify your household income (if you have not received this yet, you can provide it later) to Nyla Drisdale-Gordon, Rod Taylor Futures Programme

Coordinator, nyla.drisdale-gordon@durham.ac.uk or rodtaylor.futures@durham.ac.uk with the subject 'Rod Taylor Scholarship 2025')

The information you provide will be treated in strict confidence and will only be seen by members of the selection panel.

Applications must be received before midnight (no later than 23:59 BST) on 31/10/2025. Late applications cannot be considered.

Successful applicants will be notified during the week commencing 03/11/25.

What is the selection process?

Your application will be assessed by a panel chaired by Jacquie Robson, as Rod Taylor Futures Programme Lead. The panel will consider your application against the following criteria:

The statement on the scholarship application form is for you to demonstrate how the award is likely to enhance the contribution you make to the Faculty of Science and University life - Durham University is proud to be home to an enormous range of activities, from sports teams, music, theatre and cultural societies, to outreach programmes working with local community groups and initiatives to ensure that the University remains a warm, welcoming, inclusive and diverse community. Typically, these activities are organised and led by students, and depend on students to keep them going. Please use the application form to tell us a little about:

1. How you hope to contribute to College/Department life?
2. How would scholarship funding help you to do that?
3. How will being an active member of College/Department help you to grow and develop your time at Durham?

Your financial situation – Your Student Finance England (or equivalent) letter enables us to verify your Household income. It is important that scholarships like these help as many students as possible and help those students who can benefit most from them. To help us do that, please tell us about any other funding you receive which you are not required to pay back e.g. grants, awards, scholarships, Bursaries or similar. You do not need to tell us about any tuition fee, or maintenance loans you are entitled to. This information will be considered alongside your verified household Income.

If I am awarded a Scholarship, what else do I have to do?

If you are awarded a scholarship, you will be asked in the first term to write a short letter of introduction to your donor. We will contact you to provide guidance on what to include. At the end of each subsequent year of funding we will contact you again to request that you write a short reflection on the part your scholarship is playing in your experience as a student at Durham University, and again guidance will be given. By accepting the offer of a scholarship you will be agreeing to provide the short reports outlined above. These reports will be shared with the donor who is funding your scholarship, so they can see how this support is helping you and may be published in full or in part in College/Department and/or University publications in print and/or online. You may also be asked to contribute other quotes or content from time to time. If reports, comments or other content you have submitted are to be published, you have the option for these to include your name, photograph, or other content that might identify you, or not – if you prefer not to be identified as the recipient of a scholarship.

The scholarship is about offering support to those who might benefit from it most. Support is typically financial but can also come in the form of having a community around you who can act as trusted friends, mentors and approachable source of listening, advise and signposting to wider networks. You will be invited, at least once per academic year, to meet with other students in receipt of a scholarship, along with a small number of staff of College/Department/the Development and Alumni Relations and perhaps also the donor of your scholarship. These meetings are intended to help you by creating a community of Scholars that you can feel part of, by giving you access to Durham staff who are in your corner, by giving you the chance to understand what motivates your donor to fund your scholarship, and for you to express your response to your scholarship in person. You may also receive invitations to participate in occasional other events relating to your scholarship. By accepting the offer a scholarship, you will be agreeing to make the time (wherever possible) to attend and participate in such meetings and events.

What if I have questions about the scholarship?

If you have any questions about the scholarship, please email Nyla Drisdale-Gordon, Rod Taylor Futures Programme Coordinator, nyla.drisdale-gordon@durham.ac.uk or rodtaylor.futures@durham.ac.uk.