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# Defence STEM Undergraduate Scheme (DSUS)

## Frequently Asked Questions





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# General Information



## What is the DSUS Scheme?

As part of the Defence Nuclear Enterprise, the Defence STEM Undergraduate Sponsorship (DSUS) scheme is a financial sponsorship programme offered by the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) to support students pursuing STEM degrees relevant to nuclear defence and national security. The scheme provides financial support, work placements, and potential career opportunities within the MOD and its partner organisations.



## Who is eligible to apply?

**To be eligible for the DSUS scheme, you must:**

- ✓ Be a UK national (due to security clearance requirements)
- ✓ Be studying a STEM subject relevant to MOD needs (e.g., engineering, physics, mathematics, computer science, cyber security)
  - ✓ Be undertaking an undergraduate degree at a UK university
  - ✓ Will graduate within three years of submitting your application
  - ✓ Be willing to undergo security clearance



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# General Information



## What benefits does the scheme offer?



Annual financial sponsorship of up to £14,535 per academic year



Paid summer placements with the MOD or affiliated organisations



Networking opportunities with defence professionals



A potential pathway to future employment within the MOD or defence industry






# Application Process



## How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted through the Civil Service Jobs website. The application window is usually open between June and July.

You will need to provide:

-  Examples of demonstrating MOD behaviours
-  A personal statement explaining your interest in the scheme and the defence sector
-  Proof of university enrolment (or provisional offer) in an eligible STEM course

## What is the selection process?



### When is the application deadline?

Applications typically close in July each year.

### When will I hear back after applying?

Successful candidates will usually be invited to interview within 2-4 weeks after the application deadline. The full recruitment process may take 8-12 weeks before an offer can be made.



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# Scheme Details



## What kind of work experience will I receive?

You will be placed in MOD departments or defence industry organisations, gaining experience in areas such as:

Nuclear  
Engineering  
& Reactor  
Physics

Mechanical  
& Electrical  
Engineering

Weapons  
Systems &  
Missile  
Defence

## How long are the summer placements?

Summer placements typically last 9 weeks.

## Will I be guaranteed a job in the MOD after completing the scheme?

The DSUS scheme does not guarantee employment, but there may be an opportunity for a role within the MOD upon your graduation. You will be able to apply for nuclear-related positions within the MOD and other defence organisations.



**Is the financial sponsorship a loan that needs to be repaid?**

No, the sponsorship is a grant and does not need to be repaid.

**Can I receive the sponsorship alongside other student finance?**

Yes, you can receive DSUS funding in addition to standard student loans.

**Will accommodation be provided during summer placements?**

No, accommodation is not provided.







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# Security & Other Requirements



## Do I need security clearance?

Yes, all DSUS applicants must pass MOD security clearance before starting the scheme. This process involves background checks on residency, criminal records, and financial history.

## What happens if I leave my course or fail to meet the requirements?

If you leave your course or fail to meet scheme expectations, you may be required to repay some or all of the sponsorship funds.





## Who can I contact for more information?

For further details, please contact [DNO-DNE-DSUS@mod.gov.uk](mailto:DNO-DNE-DSUS@mod.gov.uk)

