

**JRCF Studentships in Sustainable Chemistry sponsored by the Joseph Rufino Cordeiro Foundation**  
**Call for Applications**

*After three successful years of summer research studentships, the Joseph Rufino Cordeiro Foundation is looking for up to five talented students to support with a fully funded research place in sustainable chemistry over July and August 2026. To learn about the experiences of former students on the programme and understand their areas of research, read about the [2023](#), [2024](#), and [2025](#) cohorts*

**Background**

The Joseph Rufino Cordeiro Foundation (“the Foundation”) was incorporated in January 2022 to honour the memory and legacy of the late Joseph Rufino Cordeiro who was of Goan origin and educated in India. The Foundation’s objectives include the advancement of science by providing funding for scientific research projects as well as improving scientific research capabilities among early-stage academic researchers.

Given the origins of the founding Trustees, the Foundation is particularly keen to encourage and nurture Goan or Indian students. With these goals in mind, the Trustees inaugurated the Foundation’s work in 2023 with the establishment of the Joseph Rufino Cordeiro Summer Research Studentships in Sustainable Chemistry (“JRCF Studentships”) in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oxford. For the fourth year, the Foundation will support eight-week research placements in the Department of Chemistry. The programme is designed to provide students in the UK and Europe (particularly any group that is currently under-represented in chemistry research environments) with the opportunity to pursue Sustainable Chemistry research at the University of Oxford.

**The grants will:**

- Give you the opportunity to experience postgraduate research at the University of Oxford.
- Enable you to undertake exciting research and inspire you to pursue postgraduate study and a career in Sustainable Chemistry.
- Improve your research and transferrable skills.
- Give you access to advice on further study and research careers.

We intend to offer up to five JRCF Studentships in 2026. The studentships will provide successful candidates with £16.60/hour for up to 35 hours/week (that is, up to £4,648, subject to any statutory deductions) for a defined period of eight weeks in July and August. Paid-for accommodation in [Worcester College](#), Oxford, during this time will also be included.

**Eligibility**

All applicants should:

- Be enrolled on an undergraduate degree in chemistry (having completed at least one full year and having at least one full year left).
- Demonstrate academic excellence and potential (on track to achieve a high 2.1 degree or above or equivalent).
- Have proof of right to work in the UK (e.g. British citizenship or a UK student visa, which allows full-time work out of term-time).

## Application Guide

All applications must be submitted by email to Sue Henderson at [sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk) by **12pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**.

To apply, you should review the list below of academic staff working in Sustainable Chemistry in the University of Oxford's Department of Chemistry and identify up to three with whom your research interests align most closely. You should then submit:

- A completed application form (which includes the names of the Oxford Chemistry academic staff with whose group(s) your research interests align).
- A CV/resume (no longer than 2 pages) that demonstrates knowledge and potential in the field to be researched.
- A cover letter (no longer than 1 page) which covers why you are interested in sustainable chemistry and your specific area of research.
- Your grade transcript from the last year.

The applications will be assessed in a rigorous and well-established selection process which will be led by senior admissions experts and leaders in sustainable chemistry research in Oxford. The Department of Chemistry will draw up a short-list of potential candidates. Applicants will be assessed on merit and the suitability of the project.

Shortlisted candidates will be assigned a Principal Investigator (PI) and a mentor (an accomplished post-graduate or post-doctoral researcher working in the identified research group and reporting directly to the PI). The mentor will provide feedback so the candidates can hone their research project proposal (500 words). Please note, the department has the right to modify your proposal, and has final decision on which PI will be assigned to you. Your finalised application should be submitted by **12pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

You will also need to provide a letter of recommendation from a professor or tutor who has supervised you in the past year. Your referee should submit this letter to us directly to [sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk) by **12pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**.

## Timetable for the Selection Process

1. Please submit your initial application by the deadline of 12pm on **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April**.
2. We will inform candidates if they have been shortlisted or not and if their application will progress to the next stage during the week commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Candidates will be assigned a mentor to assist in finalisation of proposals.
3. Finalised project proposals should be submitted by 12pm on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May**.
4. Applicants will be informed of the outcome during the week commencing Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

Please contact Sue at [sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sue.henderson@chem.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

### **List of Academic Staff with Research into Sustainable Chemistry**

[You can read more about sustainable chemistry research at Oxford here](#). We have many talented academics, specialising or combining sustainable chemistry into their research work. Potential Principal Investigators include:

[Simon Aldridge](#)

[Fernanda Duarte](#)

[Mike Neidig](#)

[Alyssa Avestro](#)

[James Durrant](#)

[Yujia Qing](#)

[Yimon Aye](#)

[Stephen Faulkner](#)

[Patrick Rabe](#)

[Dan Congrave](#)

[Georgina Gregory](#)

[Anna Regoutz](#)

[Volker Deringer](#)

[Paul McGonigal](#)

[Claudia Tait](#)

[You can read more about our other research themes and academic staff working across the breadth of the Department of Chemistry here.](#)