

Joseph Rufino Cordeiro Foundation Summer Research Studentships in Sustainable Chemistry

Call for Applications

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 objects 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 have decided to inaugurate the Foundation’s work 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. Starting in summer 2023, the Foundation will support 6- to 8-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, as a successful applicant, the opportunity to experience postgraduate research at the University of Oxford.
- Enable you to advance 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 3 JRCF Studentships in 2023. The studentships will provide successful candidates with £15/hour for up to 35 hours/week (that is, up to £4,200, subject to any statutory deductions) for a defined period of up to 8 weeks in July and August. Up to 3 successful candidates will also be offered paid-for accommodation in Worcester College, Oxford, for up to 8 weeks.

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).
- Be able to provide 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 Jane Rice by email at jane.rice@chem.ox.ac.uk by **12pm on Friday 26th May, 2023**.

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 statement of purpose, which articulates your area of interest in sustainable chemistry and the Oxford Chemistry group with which your research interests align most closely (500 words, named).
- A concise description of the research that you hope to undertake (500 words, named).
- 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 by email at jane.rice@chem.ox.ac.uk. It is your responsibility to ensure that they submit this letter by the deadline of 12pm on Friday 26th May.*
- A CV/resume (no longer than 2 pages) that demonstrates knowledge and potential in the field to be researched.

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 Chemistry Department will draw up a short-list of potential candidates. Shortlisted candidates will be assigned a Principal Investigator (PI) and a mentor (an accomplished post-graduate working in the identified research group and reporting directly to the PI). The mentor will support the candidate in honing their research project proposal (500 words), ensuring that the project is feasible, has the potential to advance research, and is structured well. If you have been shortlisted and your application progresses to this stage, your finalised application should be submitted by **12pm on Friday 16th June, 2023.**

Applicants will be assessed on merit and the suitability of the project.

Timetable for the Selection Process

1. Please submit your initial application by the deadline of 12pm on Friday 26th May, 2023
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 Tuesday 30th May, 2023. Candidates will be assigned a mentor to assist in finalisation of proposals.
3. Finalised project proposals should be submitted by 12pm on Friday 16th June, 2023.
4. Applicants will be informed of the outcome during the week commencing Monday 19th June, 2023.

Please contact Jane Rice at jane.rice@chem.ox.ac.uk with any questions.

List of Academic Staff with Research into Sustainable Chemistry

[You can read more about sustainable chemistry research at Oxford here.](#) Academic staff working in the area include:

[Harry Anderson](#)

[Georgina Gregory](#)

[Ludmilla Steier](#)

[Simon Clarke](#)

[Michael Hayward](#)

[Claudia Tait](#)

[Bill David](#)

[Robert Hoyer](#)

[Edman Tsang](#)

[Volker Deringer](#)

[Iain McCulloch](#)

[Kylie Vincent](#)

[Darren Dixon](#)

[Michael Neidig](#)

[Charlotte Williams](#)

[John Foord](#)

[Dermot O'Hare](#)

[Véronique Gouverneur](#)

[Susan Perkin](#)

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