



Nuffield Future Researchers Guidance on submitting for a CREST Award

The work you complete as part of the Nuffield Future Researchers programme can be used to gain a CREST Award. CREST is a nationally recognised scheme for student-led project work in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths).

CREST has its own criteria that you must meet to achieve an Award. Elements of this are outlined in the programme structure below. We recommend submitting for a Silver or Gold Award. Take a look at the criteria for each level [here](#).

You can enter your work for a CREST Award by visiting www.crestawards.org/sign-in and creating an account for a Silver or Gold Award. You can either enter yourself, or an adult can enter you. To gain a CREST Award you will need to provide evidence of your work and how you meet the CREST criteria. Your work will be assessed by a specially trained CREST assessor.

Please note: Submission to CREST for Nuffield Future Researchers students is **FREE this year at Silver and Gold levels!**

Simply enter in the voucher code “NUFFIELD2020” when you go to submit.

Some tips for completing a CREST project:

- Document everything you do from the beginning and use your [CREST profile form](#) to show where you have met the criteria.
- You need to show ownership of your project. Think about where you can make the project your own and document the decisions you make.
- You need to show that you made decisions around the running of the project. However, this isn't always possible. Instead, consider where you *would* have made a different decision or done things differently. Alternatively, if you agree with all the decisions made, explain your rationale for running the project this way.
- There will always be elements you do have control over, so make sure you highlight these. The CREST column in the table below is there to help you see where you may be able to hit the essential criteria, however this is not a definitive or exact list of how to hit the criteria.
- We advise looking at the criteria guidance relevant to the level you are entering on the [CREST website](#).

Module	What you will learn	What you will need to do to complete the activities	CREST criteria <i>if you can, ensure that you link even the earliest modules to your wider project</i>	Time to complete
Building essential professional skills	<p>Show that you know what is meant by the key essential skills.</p> <p>Explain what essential skills will be required during your research experience.</p>	<p>You will not be formally assessed in this module; however, regional coordinators will monitor your completion of the Kahoot activities.</p> <p>You will also be asked to submit a separate reflective piece on the essential skills required for your project.</p>	<p>Use this to meet:</p> <p>2.1 You have made good use of the materials and people available</p> <p>Use the CREST student profile form to help build what you learn here into the planning for your project</p>	1 - 2 hours
Developing research skills	<p>Identify, evaluate and synthesise information from relevant subject-related sources.</p> <p>Use the internet effectively and critically as a research tool e.g. to complete a literature review.</p>	<p>You will not be formally assessed in this module; however, regional coordinators will monitor your completion of the module activities.</p> <p>You will be asked to complete several core activities with an opportunity to complete further optional activities if desired.</p> <p>Part of the core activities will be that you will need to submit a reflective piece on the research skills required for your project.</p>	<p>Use this to meet:</p> <p>2.1 You have made good use of the materials and people available</p> <p>2.2 You have researched the background to the project and acknowledged your sources appropriately</p> <p>3.3 You have explained what you have learnt and reflected on what you could improve</p>	10 - 15 hours
Developing data analysis and numerical skills	<p>Describe how data can be collected and managed.</p> <p>Give examples of how data can be analysed.</p> <p>Track the development of specific numeracy skills including your numeracy/data strengths and areas to develop.</p>	<p>You will not be formally assessed in this module; however, regional coordinators will monitor your completion of the module activities.</p> <p>You will be asked to complete several core activities with an opportunity to complete further optional activities if desired.</p> <p>Part of the core activities will be that you will need to submit a reflective piece on the data analysis and numeracy skills required for your project.</p>	<p>Use this to meet:</p> <p>2.1 You have made good use of the materials and people available</p> <p>2.2 You have researched the background to the project and acknowledged your sources appropriately</p>	10 - 15 hours

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Investigating a research question in collaboration with a knowledge expert	<p>Summarise the aim and objectives of the project within the wider context of the research (to include ethical, social and economic implications).</p> <p>Identify a range of approaches, select the most appropriate approach to investigate the research question and justify this choice.</p> <p>Make good use of materials and sources available.</p> <p>Select and use the research skills and applications (e.g. software packages etc.) required to investigate, gather information, analyse and interpret data and findings as identified in earlier modules.</p> <p>Employ essential skills.</p>	<p>You will need to keep in regular contact with your project supervisor on an ongoing basis in order to collaborate on the research question.</p> <p>Your communication with your project supervisor will be via activities and tasks uploaded by them to the VLE and through video conferencing. You will be required to respond in a timely manner.</p> <p>To aid this process, you will complete a project plan via a template supplied by the Nuffield Foundation.</p>	<p>Use this to meet:</p> <p>1.3 You have identified a range of approaches to the project</p> <p>1.4 You have described your plan for the project and why you chose that approach</p> <p>1.5 You have planned and organised your time well</p> <p>2.1 You have made good use of the materials and people available</p> <p>2.2 You have researched the background to the project and acknowledged your sources appropriately</p> <p>3.1 You have made logical conclusions and explained the implications for the wider world</p> <p>3.2 You have explained how your actions and decisions affected the project's outcome</p> <p>4.2 You have made decisions to direct the project, taking account of ethical and safety issues (N.B. your project is being completed remotely, so there may be few safety issues, but you should still make it clear you have considered this in your project)</p> <p>4.3 You have shown creative thinking</p> <p>4.4 You have identified and overcome problems successfully</p>	<p>60-80 hours</p>

<p>Communicating your research evidence</p>	<p>Complete a written research report in the area of research against a given brief for submission to the Nuffield Foundation.</p> <p>Complete a research poster in the area of research against a given brief for submission to the Nuffield Foundation.</p> <p>List the different avenues where your research findings could be communicated.</p>	<p>You will need to complete a report and poster that has been reviewed by both your project supervisor for specialist subject and technical knowledge and by your regional coordinator to ensure all required elements are present.</p> <p>You will need to upload your report and poster to the Nuffield Foundation's online application system.</p> <p>Part of the core activities will be that you will need to submit a reflective piece on the skills gained during your project.</p>	<p>Use this to meet:</p> <p>3.2 You have explained how your actions and decisions affected the project's outcome</p> <p>3.3 You have explained what you have learnt and reflected on what you could improve</p> <p>4.1 You have shown understanding of the science behind your project, appropriate to the Award level</p> <p>4.3 You have shown creative thinking</p> <p>4.5 You have explained your project clearly, in writing or conversation</p>	
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