Fictional Exemplars

For Guidance Purposes Only

This exemplar is a fictional application created solely to demonstrate the expected standard, structure, and level of detail required for an IMarEST Student Bursary submission. It is intended to guide applicants and illustrate the minimum level of clarity, completeness, and professionalism expected in a strong application.

IMarEST bursaries support undergraduate and postgraduate students, apprentices, and cadets who are studying or working in marine engineering, marine science, marine technology, or a closely related field. The bursaries aim to help Student Members undertake technical research or community projects that contribute to the marine profession.

IMarEST Student Bursary Application Form

IMarEST bursaries are targeted at undergraduate and postgraduate students, cadets and apprentices studying or working in marine engineering, marine science and marine technology and related topics. The purpose of the bursaries are to encourage and support IMarEST Student members to work on technical research projects or community based projects.

To apply an individual must be:

- Current IMarEST Student (SIMarEST) member
- Enrolled in a full time undergraduate or postgraduate course or undertaking a cadetship or apprenticeship at time of application
- Studying topics or working (if an apprentice) in a field related to marine engineering, science or technology

Please complete this form online and send us the saved completed form via e-mail to awards@imarest.org

SECTION 1 – PERSONAL DETAILS

1.1 Contact Information

Surname/Family Name	Doe
Forename(s)	Jane
SIMarEST Number	800123456
Daytime Telephone Number	+44 7700 000000
Email Address	janedoe@exampleemail.com

Address	148 Seawind Crescent, Harbourview
County/State/Province	Devon
Postcode/Zipcode	AB0 1CD
Country	United Kingdom

1.2 Education

Current Course	MSc Marine Science and Technology
Institution	Northshore Institute of Marine Engineering
Date Started	25 September 2025
Course Duration	One year (full time)
Performance Indicator (please provide modules studied and grades received)	Advanced Oceanography: 71 Marine Robotics: 73 Autonomous Survey Systems: 68 Research Methods: 70 Offshore Surveying: to be confirmed Coastal Systems Management: to be confirmed
Previous Qualifications	BSc Marine Biology (First Class Honours) University of South Coast A Levels in Biology, Physics and Mathematics (A, A, B)

SECTION 2 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Please give a brief overview of your project or activity including statement of purpose, method, and impact.

Project Title: Assessing the Operational Performance of Compact Autonomous Surface Vehicles in Nearshore Benthic Habitat Surveys. Autonomous systems are becoming increasingly important for modern coastal monitoring. They offer safer and lower emission alternatives to traditional vessel-based surveys. However, there is limited practical understanding of how compact autonomous surface vehicles perform in dynamic nearshore environments.

Access to the autonomous surface vehicle used in this project is provided through the Coastal Robotics and Surveying Laboratory at the Northshore Institute of Marine Engineering. The Laboratory has agreed to support the work by supplying the vehicle, technical oversight, and pre-deployment training. The operational and maintenance costs of the vehicle are covered by the Laboratory's research budget. As a result, the bursary is required only for travel, accommodation, and essential deployment logistics at the survey sites.

This project will evaluate the reliability, accuracy, and operational practicality of a compact autonomous surface vehicle that is equipped with side scan sonar and environmental sensors. The purpose is to assess how well the system collects benthic habitat data under different environmental conditions.

Two coastal sites have been selected for this investigation. St Brides Bay in Wales provides a moderately exposed environment with mixed sediment types. Portree Sound on the Isle of Skye offers a more sheltered setting with stronger tidal movement and varied seabed characteristics. Together, these locations provide an effective comparison for assessing real-world performance.

The project will collect data on acoustic imagery, environmental conditions, navigation behaviour, battery endurance, and operational stability. These results will be compared with conventional small vessel survey methods to identify strengths, limitations, and recommendations for using compact autonomous systems in routine coastal habitat work.

This research supports the mission of the Institute to advance marine engineering, science, and technology and encourages safe, modern, and sustainable approaches to marine data collection.

SECTION 3 – APPLICANT PERSONAL STATEMENT

3.1 Purpose of funding

Please give details of how you intend to use the funding and how the project supports the IMarEST mission and vision

Funding is required to support travel, accommodation, and local operational costs for the two field deployments. The bursary will contribute to fuel, equipment transport, accommodation, and harbour or launch fees.

Both survey trips are essential for generating a complete dataset. Without financial support, I would only be able to complete a single local deployment, which would significantly reduce the scientific value and comparative insight of the research.

The project aligns strongly with IMarEST objectives. These include sustainable marine practice, responsible technological innovation, and supporting the professional development of those entering the marine sector. It also supports the aims of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development by supporting low carbon and responsible monitoring methods.

Budget Summary

Site	Return Distance	Estimated Cost	Notes
St Brides Bay Wales	410 miles	£312	Fuel, two nights accommodation, launch fee
Portree Sound Isle of Skye	684 miles	£507	Fuel, three nights accommodation, equipment transport
Total Estimated Cost		£819	

I understand that the IMarEST bursary award provides up to £500 for applicants in Group A countries and that any amount awarded will significantly support the successful delivery of this project.

3.2 Candidate Statement

What does this award mean to you and, if awarded, how will it help you? Please provide any additional information or statements if applicable.

My academic background and practical experience reflect my strong interest in marine science and technology. I have developed a particular passion for the use of autonomous systems to support safe, efficient, and environmentally considerate monitoring of the marine environment.

This bursary would allow me to gain valuable field experience with an emerging technology and contribute original findings that will benefit the scientific and professional community. The project will also support my long-term aim to work in offshore environmental monitoring and marine robotics.

As a Student Member of IMarEST, I value the role the Institute plays in developing early career professionals. I am committed to sharing my work with the community and supporting wider knowledge exchange.

3.3 Outreach

Please give details of how, if funded, you will present the outcomes of your project to IMarEST members
If I receive this bursary, I will share the outcomes of my research with the IMarEST community through the following activities:

- A presentation to relevant IMarEST Special Interest Groups
- An article for The Marine Professional
- A blog contribution to Sea Your Future
- A short webinar on the use of autonomous surface vehicles in sustainable marine surveying

These outputs will ensure that the findings benefit other students, early career professionals, and the wider membership.

SECTION 4 – REFEREE DETAILS

Note to referee – by signing this form you hereby state that you are in support of the candidate's application for an IMarEST Student Bursary and believe all information given to be correct. Please note that you may be contacted to provide a written statement in support of this application.

Title	Dr
Full Name	Eleanor Hart
Job Title	Senior Lecturer in Marine Technology
Institution	Northshore Institute of Marine Engineering
Email Address	ehart@example.com
Signature	*Example signature*

SECTION 5 – APPLICANT DECLARATION

Have you ever applied for an IMarEST award before?

Y	N	*Give details (if applicable)*
	N	N/A

I confirm that I have met the criteria for this award and all information given in this application and any supporting documents is correct. I hereby apply for an IMarEST student bursary.

Signature:

Example signature

Date: 1 January 2026