



## John Blackburn Main Award – Undergraduate and Postgraduate for Students at the University of Strathclyde

These awards were inaugurated in 2007 following a generous donation from the family of Mr John Blackburn Main, a former director of Shell Marine International, whose career had started in the drawing office of Scott's Shipyard, Greenock. Throughout his life, Mr Main encouraged education and training for young engineers.

The John Blackburn Main Memorial Fund helps support **students at the University of Strathclyde** to gain practical experience, lasting between 1 and 3 months, in a country different from their birth or normal citizenship. The awards are administered by the IMarEST, where Mr Main was a Member, and subsequently a Fellow, for almost 50 years.

The assessment criteria are based on academic performance, together with a demonstration of the value of the placement to the student's immediate studies and longer-term career aspirations. Specifically:

- (i) the winning candidate(s) will have a strong, academic record
- (ii) students will be expected to explain how this placement would augment their studies
- (iii) students will be expected to describe how this placement would improve their professional and personal development
- (iv) winning student(s) will be expected to use this experience to promote/enthuse other students – possibly by giving a short presentation to first and second year students studying on the same degree course
- (v) although the University of Strathclyde will administer the Fund, the Institute will be involved in the final selection process – probably by interview

At the end of the placement, each student must submit a report describing their activities and benefits gained. Successful students normally receive their awards in person from the IMarEST President at the AGM.

### Criteria

The JBM scholarship is for Undergraduate and Postgraduate students at the University of Strathclyde studying within the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. The award provides up to £3,000, reimbursed to scholarship holders upon submission of receipts, to undertake a placement overseas. The scholarship covers travel, insurance, accommodation and subsistence expenses. The placement is aimed at helping students gain international industrial experience (in a country different from that of their normal non-university residence). In addition, with the support of the applicant's supervisors, successful applicants may be provided an additional £2000 to support attendance at a relevant conference if it can be shown to benefit their research.

### Application Requirements

There is no standard application form. Instead, the assessors invite applicants to describe themselves, their academic and personal qualities and achievements, and the benefits they believe they will gain from being awarded a scholarship. The application should take the form of short statements (500 words max) and a CV.



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Applicants should make initial enquiries for their placement prior to application, and certainly before the interview towards the end of second semester. The duration of the placement should be a minimum of one month and a maximum of three months.

The prime objective of the interview (normally held in late April or early May) is to assess the applicant's ability, potential and motivation in order to gain maximum benefit from the award.

The interview can be expected to last about 45 minutes. Every effort will be made to achieve a relaxed atmosphere so that applicants are given every chance to demonstrate their capabilities.

Applicants selected for interview will be expected to make a short presentation (lasting up to 10 minutes) outlining their undergraduate work and achievements within the Department, as well as any other relevant experience or external activities, together with a statement of how the placement would augment their studies and improve their professional & personal development. A PowerPoint presentation may be used, but is not essential.

During discussion the interviewers will consider:

- The applicant's engineering/science/technology education and any professional training and experience
- Special aptitudes, skills and knowledge which will help the applicant to gain the maximum benefit from the award
- The benefits which the applicant may gain from the award
- Disposition, general demeanor, commitment and motivation of the applicant
- Other information, as appropriate, to inform the assessors

### **Submission Deadline**

Applications should be submitted no later than the last Friday of February each year.

### **Award**

Up to £3,000 for the placement with an additional £2,000 for conference support.

### **Judging**

The judging panel consists of the Dr Sayer and a local IMarEST member (or members). Where possible a member of the IMarEST Executive will also attend.

### **Rules of the Award**

- The judging panel will consider all properly submitted nominations and any materials supplied in support of them.
- There will be no feedback at the interview itself, but the outcome and decisions will be confirmed in writing, shortly afterwards.
- The decision of the judging panel is final.
- Materials submitted in support of any nomination will be accepted on the condition that:
  - The IMarEST may disclose the name(s) of the winner(s);
  - The applicant agrees that disclosure of material submitted in support of the application does not breach the terms of any contract of employment or any other contract, and that there is entitlement to make use of the material.