

2019

Student Research Competition

SCOTTISH ROAD RESEARCH BOARD

Can you help Scotland's road authorities combat the climate emergency?

Apply for up to £10,000

Scotland is in a great place to tackle the challenges of the global climate change emergency but no matter how good we are in reducing carbon and waste we must adapt to the changes in climate that are already locked in. The Scottish Road Research Board want to hear from you if you have an idea for how the roads in Scotland can adapt. We are looking for innovative projects related to roads that will provide real benefits for safety, construction, operation and maintenance.

Up to £10,000 is available, further details overleaf.

This opportunity can offer undergraduate students:

- direct access to the maintenance operations of both local and national roads
- the chance to work with experts to establish how your research might be applied across Scotland
- the possibility for a summer secondment in 2020.

Applications close on 31st October 2019. For full details please contact SRRB@transport.gov.scot or Drew.Hill@transport.gov.scot

Who can apply

Undergraduate students or groups of students from across Scotland who believe they have an innovative research idea that falls within the context of our research themes.

Who we are

The Scottish Road Research Board (SRRB) is a collaborative research partnership including Society of Chief Officers for Transportation in Scotland (SCOTS), the Scottish Road Works Commissioner (SRWC), and Transport Scotland. We commission research and analysis to deliver direct improvements in safety, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Scottish road network. We also coordinate research within the roads community in Scotland, and have links to other world research organisations.

We are governed by a board of senior roads professionals, who meet quarterly to consider new bids for research funding, and to prioritise, co-ordinate, commission, and manage research through our framework of contractors and consultants.

How you can apply

You should prepare and submit a description of your proposed research project, explaining the methodology, objectives, timescale, risks, deliverables, and the funds you require. Please keep your response to no longer than 2 sides of A4. Projects must be roads related, fall within the context of research themes defined on the SRRB website, and realise real benefits in terms of either safety, operation, or functionality of either trunk or local roads.

For more information on current SRRB research projects, please contact our mailbox at SRRB@transport.gov.scot. For details on our latest project themes visit our website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/our-approach/industry-guidance/scottish-road-research-board/#45121>.

The closing date for entries is Thursday 31 October 2019. Applications and queries regarding the competition should be directed to Drew.Hill@transport.gov.scot

What happens next

A separate panel of the SRRB will meet to assess applications on the criteria of methodology, objectives, timescale, risks, deliverables, and the funds required. This will particularly focus on needs and priority in relation to combatting the Climate Change emergency. The panel findings will be announced in November 2019.

Further opportunities

We may recommend highly regarded projects for presentation at national events. Successful applicants may be provided the opportunity to undertake a paid summer placement with either Transport Scotland, Scottish Local Road Authorities, or other relevant organisations depending on their research. Any such placement will be for an 8 week period, likely commencing in July 2020. Any dates will be confirmed on selection of the students, to try to accommodate other responsibilities they may have. The placement will include a number of site visits which will provide students with an invaluable insight into the planning, construction, and maintenance of local and national roads projects.

Later during 2020, all applicants will have the opportunity to present their research to the SRRB, and to have their work published on the Transport Scotland website. Winners will be given the opportunity to visit the Forth Road Bridge, for an engineering master class with and a trip to the top tower.

Funding

A total of £10,000 is available - but this may be separated into separate lots. The money will mainly be for equipment and materials.

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