

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

All studentships are highly competitive, and you should ensure (and demonstrate) that there is a good match between your own qualifications and interests and those being sought for the particular studentship.

Research School where studentship will be held	Life Sciences
Studentship reference	FNS_FACSLSC2026
Web link to any further information (e.g. Research Institute/School/Faculty)	Life Sciences research: https://www.keele.ac.uk/lifesci/research/ Stevens lab website: https://sites.google.com/view/stevenslab/home?authuser=0
Research topic or field - title	Investigating the evolutionary transition from harmless coloniser of the human nose to invasive pathogen in <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> .
Research topic or field full description (or attached document).	The human body is colonised by a range of microbes that have the potential to cause disease. These microbes are referred to as opportunistic pathogens, which can take advantage of their host when immunity becomes compromised, to cause anything from superficial to life-threatening infections. <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> is one such organism, colonising around 30% of the population, yet also causing major problems in the form of hospital- and community-acquired infections. This project will study the dynamics of opportunistic <i>S. aureus</i> infection using a range of wet lab and bioinformatics techniques, to characterise how it switches from a harmless commensal to invasive
Expected start date	21/9/26
Mode of attendance	Full time
Funding support available – Fees, stipend, duration	Fully funded 100% Home tuition fees for three years, at £5,238 pa in 2026/7. Three years' stipend support at £21,805 pa in 2026/7. £3,500 pa project costs is also available. Students are also provided with access to Faculty research training funds for research related expenses including - but not limited to - conference attendance, external training courses and UK fieldwork. In a limited number of cases, it may be possible to reduce the
Source of funding	Faculty funded (School of Life Science's studentship)
Eligibility criteria	Please see candidate profile.
Terms and conditions of studentship	As per the University Code of Practice
Number of studentships available	1
Application details	Please go to http://www.keele.ac.uk/pgresearch/studentships/ and click on the "Apply online here" button in this studentship. Please quote FNS_FACSLSC2026 on your application.

Closing date for applications	30/5/26
Contact for further information and to whom applications will be sent	Emily Stevens – e.j.stevens@keele.ac.uk

Candidate profile

	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications, Experience and Skills	A first or upper second-class undergraduate degree in Biology or other relevant discipline, such as Microbiology, Biochemistry, Biomedical Science or Biotechnology	A postgraduate qualification in Microbiology or other cognate discipline Research experience in microbiology/molecular biology Experience working in a BSL-2 laboratory
Attitude and Personality	Effective communication (oral and written) skills, presentation and training skills Good interpersonal skills Ability to work independently and as part of a team on research programmes Ability to initiate, plan, organise, implement and deliver programmes of work Attention to detail	

Keele University values diversity, and is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity. In support of these commitments, Keele University particularly welcomes applications from women and from individuals of black and ethnic minority backgrounds for this post. More information is available on these web pages:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/equalitydiversity/>

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/athenaswan/> <https://www.keele.ac.uk/raceequalitycharter/disabilityconfident/>