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Making Waves

The Campaign for St Andrews

Rectors' Fund 2025 Update Prepared for The Lucky Club



Contents

Introduction 2

2025 Recipients..... 3

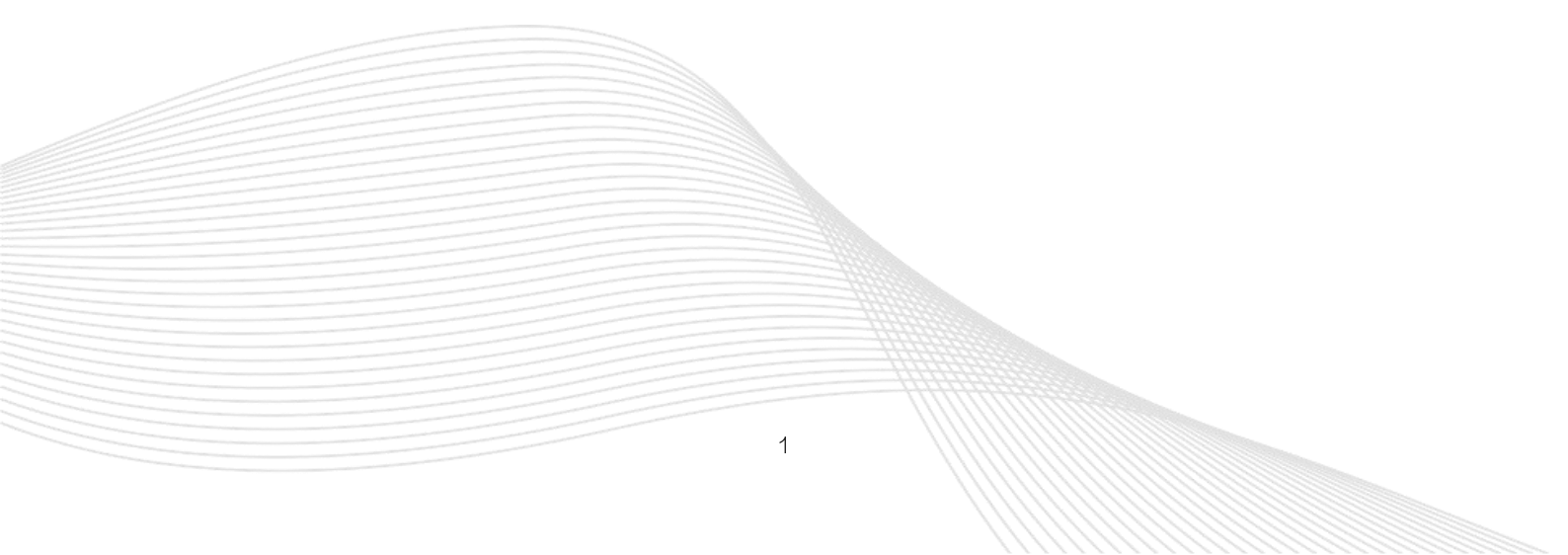
Internship Reports 5

 Eva Moriarty 5

 Hoi Cheung..... 7

 Ethan Beddard..... 8

 Natascha Watt 8



Introduction

I am delighted to share with you the latest update on the Rectors' Fund which, thanks to your generosity, continues to provide opportunities for promising students to pursue summer internships and take meaningful steps toward their career aspirations. Your support makes these awards possible, and we are very grateful for the impact you create.

This year, with your kind donations totalling a generous £8,900, we continued to offer awards of £500 and introduced a £750 award for students with the greatest financial need. In total, £8,250 was provided to 13 students, enabling them to undertake internships across a diverse range of fields including finance, conservation, the arts, and scientific research.

Included within this update is a selection of reflections from this year's recipients of the Rectors' Fund. As demonstrated in the students' words, their work-related experiences have allowed them to develop their knowledge, gain valuable employability skills, and in some cases, achieve additional future job offers within their chosen career pathways.

We are incredibly thankful for your support and hope you will enjoy reading this update and learning how your gifts are continuing to make a difference to our students' lives.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Fleming', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Robert Fleming
Director of Development

2025 Recipients

Thanks to your generous support, 13 recipients received funding from the Rectors' Fund to pursue work-related opportunities. Below is a summary of these students' internship projects.

Rose Gallichan – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Environmental Earth Sciences

Rose received funding to gain training as a **scientific diver** and contribute to local **marine conservation and research** with Marine Action Research in Mozambique.

Greta Zakelyte – 4th Year MA (Hons) International Relations

Greta interned with the **Corporate Social Responsibility** team at Infosys – a global digital services and consulting company – in London.

Thenu Kudakolawa Kaluarachchige – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Physics

Thenu investigated why **star aging models** estimate some stars to be older than the current estimated age of the universe at the University of Portsmouth.

Grace Stroer-Jarvis – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Physics

Grace explored **how dielectric materials can be adopted to create new defect states** with the **DAAD-RISE Germany programme** at the University of Duisburg-Essen in Germany.

Sasha Rudling – 4th Year MA (Hons) International Relations and Sustainable Development

Sasha worked with the Women's Rights Initiative, **WORI Uganda**, to support the development and long-term sustainability of a women's shelter in Uganda.

Mairi Inglis – 4th Year MPhys (Hons) Physics

Mairi participated in a project in the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of St Andrews to develop and quality test an in-house **clinostat machine** that can simulate microgravity conditions.

Ethan Beddard – 4th Year MPhys (Hons) Physics

Ethan worked with an international research group on **experimental biophysics** at the **University of Hamburg** in Germany.

Tanya Sanders – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Neuroscience

Tanya completed an internship at EY with their **International Tax and Transaction Services** team at their Edinburgh office.

Alice Nisbet – 4th Year MChem (Hons) Chemistry

Alice supported a project to develop a generally applicable **computational model** to predict the autocatalytic efficiency of a **molecular self-replicator design** for the School of Chemistry at the University of St Andrews.

Natascha Watt – 4th Year MA (Hons) Art History

Natascha received funding to undertake a **museum internship** at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in **Venice**.

Eva Moriarty – 4th Year MA (Hons) Management and Sustainable Development

Eva successfully increased **senior engagement in Urban Rivers' programmes and spaces** whilst completing her internship in Chicago.

Hoi Cheung – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Mathematics

Hoi gained experience in a range of financial work at the **National Audit Office** whilst based at their Newcastle office.

Perry Chung – 4th Year BSc (Hons) Mathematics and Physics

Perry received funding to obtain experience in research and laboratory work in the field of **laser physics**, in particular the characterisation of ultrafast optical pulses, at the **Max Plank Institute for the Science of Light** in Germany.

Internship Reports

Eva Moriarty – 4th Year MA (Hons) Management and Sustainable Development

Hello! My name is Eva, and I am currently in my fourth year at the University of St Andrews, studying Sustainable Development and Management. I am originally from Chicago and grew up in a household that instilled in me a strong sense of environmental stewardship and the importance of community and intergenerational relationships. Both at home and in Scotland, I've formed meaningful friendships with people several decades older than me. These friendships have shaped my perspective and taught me the value of learning from those older and wiser than me.

The values I grew up with, and my intergenerational friendships, inspired the project that I created and executed with Urban Rivers, a non-profit organisation in Chicago, this past summer. I have worked with Urban Rivers over the past two summers – first in a part-time unpaid role in 2024, and then in a full-time position in 2025 which was made possible by an award from the Rectors' Fund. During my first internship, I noticed a lack of senior citizens participating in Urban Rivers' programmes. Although my part-time role limited my ability to address this, the experience sparked my interest in developing a project to increase senior engagement. When I later learned about the Rectors' Fund, I realised I could turn this idea into reality through my summer internship.

My internship primarily consisted of three main components designed to execute my project: outreach and network-building, leading guided tours, and developing educational materials for older adult learners.

The first component focused on outreach and creating networks with senior communities and organisations, including senior centres retirement homes, community groups, and churches. This stage involved a significant amount of cold calling and emailing. At first, I found it quite nerve-wracking to call people unexpectedly, but I quickly became more comfortable and confident in my communication skills. Once I had contacted all the organisations I could find online, I expanded my efforts by reaching out through personal networks, asking friends, colleagues, and family if they knew of any senior groups I could connect with.

After establishing contact with several groups, I moved on to the second component – organising and leading guided tours of Urban Rivers' flagship project, the Wild Mile, a floating eco-park on the Chicago River. This part of the internship challenged me to step outside my comfort zone, as public speaking was something I initially found intimidating. However, with each tour, my confidence grew. The tours included an overview of the Chicago River's history, the origins of Urban Rivers and the Wild Mile, the ecological principles behind the project, and how Urban Rivers' work helps reconnect city dwellers with nature in an

urban setting. Each tour concluded with a hands-on or reflective activity designed to encourage engagement and learning.

The third component of my internship involved developing a Lifelong Learning Guide for Urban Rivers, which outlined educational activities and workshops tailored to older adult learners. While Urban Rivers had abundant materials for children, there was a noticeable gap in programming for adults. Some of the activities I developed included: birdwatching; native plant identification; meditative sit spots; and nature journaling – each designed to foster curiosity, connection, and mindfulness.

Finally, to ensure continuity beyond my internship, I compiled a detailed contact document listing all the organisations I collaborated with, their key contacts, and notes on their interests and group dynamics. During my internship, I increased senior engagement at the non-profit by 133%. The contact document will allow Urban Rivers to maintain and strengthen these partnerships in the future and continue to enhance senior engagement.

The Rectors' Fund made it possible for me to pursue this project as a full-time paid internship. Urban Rivers is a small non-profit organisation that does not have the financial capacity to pay its interns, so without this funding, I would not have been able to dedicate my summer to the project. I rely on my summer employment to cover expenses during the academic year, so receiving the Rectors' Fund, along with additional funding, allowed me to focus my time and energy on developing and implementing my senior engagement initiative rather than seeking other paid work.

This support not only enabled me to gain valuable professional experience but also to create something lasting for Urban Rivers – a programme that will continue to benefit the organisation and the community. The experience has strengthened my interest in community-based environmental work, and I hope to continue pursuing opportunities that combine sustainability, social inclusion, and education in the future.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the donors of the Rectors' Fund for their generosity and support. Your contribution made it possible for me to pursue a full-time internship at Urban Rivers and bring to life a project that connects senior communities with environmental stewardship. This experience has been deeply meaningful and has shaped both my academic and personal growth. I am truly grateful for the opportunity your support provided.

I am an undergraduate student of Mathematics, mainly interested in applied mathematics, so I knew that I wanted to be able to apply similar skills in a career. Audit allows me to use some of my mathematical knowledge, but more often problem-solving skills and attention to detail, in a way that benefits others (the public) for a variety of situations. The range of work at the National Audit Office (NAO) is what attracted me to it – being able to audit health, transport, specific projects, and several other key parts of our day-to-day lives, in a place with a very welcoming and healthy work culture. I believe it is essential for the public to be able to trust where their tax money goes, and I really wanted to be a part of ensuring that trust is earned.

The internship began with an induction week in their London Office (I was based in their Newcastle office) to bring together both sets of interns to complete trainings, learn more about the NAO, and be given full understanding of the internship process and next steps. It included a Q&A session with the Comptroller and Auditor General to answer any questions we had about his specific role, the development at the NAO, and how to get the most out of the experience. Following this, I was placed in the Department of Health and Social Care team and given a manager and a buddy to help me with and assign work.

Throughout the summer, I actually worked across six different projects related to the health department, some of which were for the annual audits, some of which were for Value for Money reports. The wide range of experience I got from this, and the different people I got to work with were invaluable to me and were key in me enjoying my time there. I also found that as a whole, the work culture was incredibly friendly and respectful – even the most senior staff treated everyone kindly and with understanding, and I never felt worried about not knowing enough, as they were great guides and always available to ask for help.

Since I live in Manchester, I had to travel by train to the Newcastle office every week. This was an unavoidable cost, made much more manageable by the Rectors' Fund award. It ensured I was eligible for the internship (as one/two days a week in person were mandatory) and could participate in meetings, office events, and socialise and learn from others. I believe that my time in person added a lot, from picking up on experience of others, to learning more about the general culture fostered by the NAO. It was key in me choosing to partake in the assessment centre following the internship and subsequently receiving an offer for the Graduate Scheme starting next year, which I am extremely excited about.

It would not have been feasible for me to pursue this internship without the assistance of the Rectors' Fund, and therefore, for me to secure a job in a place I am truly excited to work for and contribute to. For this, I am deeply grateful to have had this opportunity, and the benefit it provides to people is extraordinary – it opens doors to things they may otherwise miss out on, fostering a more inclusive world. The Rectors' Fund is a wonderful idea that is made very accessible and known to those who may benefit from it, and I hope it continues to provide others with opportunities such as mine.

Ethan Beddard – 4th Year MPhys (Hons) Physics

I'm a Physics undergraduate looking to gain research experience and explore different areas of the field. Whilst biological physics isn't my main focus, I was drawn to this internship because the topic was genuinely interesting, and it offered a chance to work with cutting-edge experimental techniques at an international research facility. I wanted to see what research looked like in practise and develop skills that would be useful regardless of which direction I take in future.

During the internship, I got stuck into both the experimental and computational sides of protein crystallography. I worked hands-on with synchrotron equipment, developed computational physics models for the experimental setups, and even presented my work to international audiences. The biggest challenge was getting up to speed with the advanced work the group was doing, but that made it rewarding when I actually started contributing meaningfully. Beyond the technical bits, I gained a proper sense of what academic research is like and how to tackle complex problems. Meeting and working with researchers from different backgrounds also gave me a much broader perspective on how science actually gets done.

The Rectors' Fund supported my living costs over the summer, which took a lot of pressure off and let me focus properly on the research. It made the whole experience much more manageable and meant I could make the most of the opportunity without financial stress. Since finishing, I've been working on writing up my findings as a short paper, which has been really useful for consolidating what I learnt and improving my scientific writing. I'm very grateful for the support as I figure out my next steps.

Thank you to the donors of the Rectors' Fund for making this possible. Your support gave me the chance to have an international research experience that's genuinely shaped how I think about my future in physics. Being able to work in a world-class facility, learn new skills, and see what real research looks like has been invaluable. I really appreciate you investing in students like me.

Natascha Watt – 4th Year MA (Hons) Art History

I am a final year Art History student and had already undertaken an internship in a museum during the summer in between my second and third year. I thoroughly enjoyed it and as it was mostly a desk job, I wanted to experience the museum environment from a different angle, allowing for closer contact with the visitors. Having studied Italian at school and in my first two years at university, working in Venice also presented an opportunity to better my speaking skills. After graduation I would like to work in the arts field, which is why I decided to apply for this internship.

Over the two months I spent working at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection I undertook a range of activities. I worked on the front desk, providing people with audio guides and scanning their tickets. I also invigilated rooms and partook in cultural mediation, meaning I interacted with visitors on the gallery floor, talking to them about the art. Additionally, I gave private tours of the museum and helped out during one of the children's workshops put on by the museum. Another important part of the internship was giving talks and presentations to visitors on Peggy Guggenheim's life, the temporary exhibition and artworks that I had selected. Thus, part of the internship was research orientated, as each intern prepared their own talks. At the end of my internship, I prepared a seminar on the topic of my choice and presented it to the other interns. During my second month, a fellow intern and I were made assistants to the intern coordinators, meaning we were there to help them out with any tasks they asked us to complete and help ensure that every intern knew which tasks they were undertaking.

One of the highlights of the internship was working during the event put on for Peggy Guggenheim's birthday. After invigilating the gallery rooms, we were able to listen in to the classical music concert organised in the museum's garden. One of the other interns was also an Art History student from the University of St Andrews whom I did not know before the internship. We became friends over our time in Venice, and it has been really nice being able to reminisce over the time we spent there now that we are both back in St Andrews.

This was a paid internship but given that most of what I received from the museum went towards my rent, the Rectors' Fund helped me cover other expenses such as food and transport. This allowed me to focus fully on the internship and the opportunities it presented. As there were many other interns undertaking the International Internship Programme, I was able to create connections with people who share similar interests and have similar ambitions after graduating, with whom I will one day maybe reconnect. Having the financial support offered by the Rectors' Fund enabled me to fully immerse myself in the experience.

I would like to thank the donors of the Rectors' Fund as your contributions allowed me to fully immerse myself both in the experience of the internship and of living in Venice for two months. These, combined with what I received from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection, allowed me to cover the majority of my expenses.



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