



Terms and conditions for application for the NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award for the Next Generation

Compulsory reading for everyone making an application for the 2022-24 award

- National Sheep Association (NSA) Next Generation and the Company of Merchants of the Staple of England (the Staple) will award two individuals with a travel bursary of £2,750 each, to support them in study trips to explore the application of science in sheep production.
- In this context, science is a broad term and means looking at factual, observational and experimental work in any area affecting sheep farming. Advice on this and other elements of applying for the award is provided further on in this document.
- The application process requires applicants to roughly design a trip suited to their own situation, to travel and learn and then share their findings via various presentations and a short written report. The two successful applicants will be given support to take the rough design outlined in their application and make it a reality, and given similar support for the required verbal and written reports afterwards.
- Applications are open to any young person actively involved in the UK sheep sector or ancillary industries, aged more than 21 years and less than 35 years on 1st November 2022, with the exception of NSA and Staple employees and their families. They must have a UK passport and be willing and able to travel within and outside the UK. Applicants are not required to be an NSA member, but the two award recipients will be expected to join before the end of 2022 and remain a member for a minimum of two years at their own cost.
- Personal data submitted to NSA as part of the application process will be kept and stored securely on the NSA database in accordance with the [NSA Privacy Policy](#). By completing the application form, you are consenting to participate in the NSA Wider Interest Group and may be contacted in the future. Application forms will be shared by NSA with the Staple, but not with any other third party.
- By submitting an application, individuals agree to the following timeline.
 - Applications to be received via the NSA Next Generation website by 9am on **Monday 12th September 2022**.
 - Applications to be shortlisted by NSA and the Staple. Successfully shortlisted applicants must be available for a virtual interview on **Monday 3rd October 2022**.
 - Two successful applicants to be notified by Friday 7th October at the latest and required to make themselves available **before 31st October 2022** to attend a briefing day.
- At the briefing day, the award recipients will enter into a signed agreement with NSA and the Staple confirming the details of the bursary, conditions of payment and the activities and conduct expected from the recipients. The agreement will include the following points.
 - Award recipients to receive the bulk of the travel bursary (£2,250) once flights etc are booked, and the remaining £500 when the written report has been submitted.
 - UK and/or overseas travel to be completed between 1st November 2022 and 31st January 2024 and written report (3,000 words)/photographs to be submitted in May 2024, for circulation by NSA and the Staple, and a summary printed in NSA Sheep Farmer magazine.



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National Sheep Association is an organisation which represents the views and interests of sheep producers throughout the UK.
NSA is funded by its membership of sheep farmers and its activities involve it in every aspect of the sheep industry.

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- Verbal reports to be delivered at NSA and Staple events, as agreed in advance, from May 2024 and throughout the summer. Expenses to be covered if travel is involved.
- Award recipients to attend, as a minimum, a Staple function in York (April 2023) or London (October 2023) and the NSA Sheep Event Dinner and NSA Sheep Event in 2024 – reasonable expenses to be covered.
- **There is an expectation for award recipients to remain active with NSA on a longer-term basis, to promote the award to future applicants and to get involved with the wider NSA Next Generation and/or their NSA region at whatever level they are comfortable with. Please only apply for this award if you are willing to make a longer-term commitment.**

Top tips for applicants for the NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award for the Next Generation

Recommended reading for everyone making an application

Choosing a topic

- Have a clear topic in mind. You can use the bursary to travel wherever you want and, wherever you go, you are bound to see plenty of farming practices and sheep production systems. However, the selection panel will be looking for someone with a particular topic in mind, so that person can focus their attention while travelling and report back afterwards in a way that provides practical information and insight.
- Within your application, clearly state the reason for your chosen topic i.e. to investigate the potential impact of x or y on the profitability / sustainability of the UK sheep sector.
- Before you apply, think about the written and verbal reports you'll be asked to give afterwards! We're not looking for the world's best public speaker or the finest report writer. And we will offer as much help as you need with planning presentations or writing the report, so don't worry about that. However, we won't want a travel diary – "I went here and then I went there and I saw this farm and then I went to this farm". What we will want is to know what you *learnt* – "I went to this farm and they did this, which made me think I could try that at home and so now I'm back I'm doing this with my flock and, if it works, I think other farmers could try it too."
- You can choose any topic you like, as long as it relates to the application of science in sheep production. In this context, science is a broad term and means looking at factual, observational and experimental work in any area affecting sheep farming. Here are just a few general areas and some topics within them that might be of interest.

Area	Potential topics
Nutrition / grassland / soil	Practical integration of sheep in arable rotations to benefit soil health and flock performance.
	Different options for over-wintering.
	Effective utilisation of grazing systems.
	Benefits of herbal leys / diverse swards on productivity, lamb growth etc.
Health	On-farm implementation of sustainable parasite control options.
	Practical protection of health status / engaging farmers with biosecurity measures.
	Effective flock health plans.
	Responsible approaches to antibiotic usage.
Genetics	Approaches to iceberg diseases.
	Using technology to measure performance traits and implementing breeding improvements.
	Integrating abattoir feedback (meat yield/quality and disease data) into breeding programmes.
Wool	Options to share performance data across flocks and different systems.
	Changes on-farm (breeding, management and wool handling) to add value further down the chain.
	Maximising wool as a sustainable alternative to synthetic textiles.
	Novel applications for wool.

Sheep and the environment	Maximising the role of sheep in nature recovery and biodiversity.
	Integrating sheep and agroforestry.
	Ways to measure and reward farmers for delivering public goods.
	Balancing sheep farming with at-risk wildlife species (e.g. high level predators)
	Successful partnership working/collaboration between sheep farmers and other land users.
Meat marketing & promotion	Making sheep meat appealing to younger consumers.
	Promoting sheep meat in a world where veganism is on the rise.
	Selling sheep meat by promotion of production system, specific breeds or age of sheep.
The next generation	Effective ways to engage farming families in successful planning.
	Successful match-making systems – e.g. young farmers and retiring farmers / sheep farmers and arable farmers / shepherds and employment opportunities.
	What do younger sheep farmers need to emulate to follow in the footsteps of the top producers.
Production systems	Novel production methods based on new technology.
	Gathering and utilising data to maximise production.
	Acceptance and integration of new technology and new practices.

Planning your trip

- Don't just pick the obvious! Yes, there are lots of sheep and some really exciting things happening in Australia and New Zealand, but countries like China and India have lots of sheep too, and countries closer to home, such as Scandinavian countries and the Republic of Ireland, have plenty going on. We're not suggesting you travel somewhere unsafe or spend time in a country where English isn't widely spoken if you don't have a magic touch with languages, but do your research and think about where you might learn the most.
- £2,750 is a lot of money and, depending on where you plan to go and how much time you can spend away from home, you might want to consider more than one country.
- You don't need to have planned exactly what you'll be doing each day, but the more specific you can be the better, as it shows you've put some thought in and are serious about getting the most out of the trip. Think about roughly how the bursary will split between flights/travel, accommodation and subsistence. Will you need a visa(s)? Can you provide some of your own money for e.g. beer money and tourist trips?!
- NSA and the Staple will invite the two successful applicants to a preparation day very soon after they are awarded the bursary, to help you plan your trip and make the most of it. So don't worry if you know where you want to go and what you want to learn but are unsure which specific farms, businesses or companies you need to contact to make it happen. We can give you lots of ideas and contacts – but what we want to know is that you're self-motivated and organised enough to use those ideas and contacts to make your trip a reality.

Selling yourself

- The selection panel is going to have a really tough job to choose who to give the award to, so put yourself ahead of the rest by telling us what we really want to know:-
 - That you are committed to the sector and plan to continue with sheep long into the future.
 - That you are self-motivated, organised and enthusiastic about this opportunity.
 - That you will be a good ambassador for the UK sheep sector while you are overseas.
 - That you have a positive outlook and are willing to consider new ideas and apply new skills to your own sheep farming situation. There's no point travelling overseas and seeing new things if you're going to get home and keep doing what you've always done!
 - That you have thought about how you might share your experiences with the industry, while you travel and when you get back.
 - That you are aware of the wider industry, and the importance of the work of NSA and other industry bodies to provide a voice for the sheep sector.
 - That you understand and have thought about a longer-term commitment to NSA, perhaps by getting involved in other NSA Next Generation work or joining your regional committee.