

NFU MUTUAL CHARITABLE TRUST

CENTENARY AWARD 2026



Making a real difference to the future of agriculture

APPLICATION GUIDELINES 2026

Eligibility Factors

- Applications should be made from students who have been offered, or have applied for, a place on a Masters or PhD postgraduate course in Agriculture, commencing the 2026/2027 academic year, at an institution in the British Islands*.
- Applicants must have gained (or be expected to gain at the time of application) at least a 2:1 or first class degree in agriculture, or a related degree subject.
- Applicants must study at least one of the following four areas of interest as the main part of their course:

The application of science and innovative technologies to enhance productivity, efficiency, and profitability for UK farming businesses

Building resilience and safeguarding the physical and mental wellbeing of those living and working in the UK agricultural industry

Tackling the risks of climate change, whilst maintaining food security, to improve the sustainability of UK agriculture

Identifying opportunities for supporting nature and biodiversity in the development of farming and land management practices in the UK

Completing and Submitting your Application

- Application forms must be submitted via e-mail.
- Application forms must be completed with concise details and must not exceed the stated word count (where specified).
- Applications will not be accepted after the closing date – 30th June 2026.
- The NFU Mutual Charitable Trust will confirm receipt of all applications by e-mail.

The Selection Process

- A committee from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust will assess the applications and will request to interview shortlisted candidates during July 2026.
- The committee will be looking to award students who demonstrate a desire to make a difference to UK agriculture; individuals who have a real passion for the industry and proven experience of engaging with farmers in the UK.
- Applicants are required to demonstrate the ways in which they could be a future leader within UK agriculture, and how their postgraduate course will help them with their career aspirations.
- It is expected that up to three students will be selected for the Centenary Award in 2026.
- The decision of the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust is final.



NFU Mutual
Charitable Trust

Successful Students

- All students receiving a bursary will be asked to write a report on their studies at the end of their course for the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust.
- For successful students the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust will pay up to 75% of annual course fees**.
- The bursary for the course fee will be paid directly to the college or university upon confirmation that the awarded student has paid their 25% to their college/university***.
- If the duration of the awarded student's course is

more than one year, bursary payments for course fees will be paid in annual instalments.

- All successful applicants will be required to sign an agreement with the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust before receiving their bursary.
- Successful applicants awaiting their degree results will be given a conditional offer of a bursary, until their degree results have been confirmed as a 2:1 or above.

Queries

- Any queries relating to the Centenary Award should be directed to centenary_award@nfumutual.co.uk.

* British Islands: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Bailiwick of Jersey, the Bailiwick of Guernsey (inc Alderney, Herm and Sark), and the Isle of Man.

** 75% will be paid except in cases where the student will also receive funding from other sources which will result in more than 100% of course fees being funded, or if 75% will breach the terms of the other funders. All such cases will be agreed individually.

*** For cases where students are awarded less than 75%, the course fees will be paid directly to the college/university upon confirmation that the remainder of the course fees have been paid to the awarded student's college/university.

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