

Guidance on how to get involved in UROP can be found at: www.imperial.ac.uk/urop

UROP is a flexible environment aimed at maximising the ability of staff and students to collaborate in a way that suits both parties.

- There is no standard or template UROP. **Most UROPs are obtained through individual contact with academic staff, because until staff and student discuss the potential to create a UROP the opportunity does not normally exist (and is why many UROPs are not advertised).** Be prepared for polite refusals, to persevere (to politely chase up), to perhaps wait a year for that ideal UROP (develop your research network and opportunities may follow!!!) Good luck in finding that research opportunity.
- While UROP has reverted to a mostly on campus activity supervisors can integrate periods of remote interaction as they please: [plans for the summer of 2024](#).
- If you have a query about the UROP process please email: urop@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College’s 2024 Summer UROP Bursary Scheme will open in early January: eligibility criteria apply. Imperial undergraduates ONLY.

- **DEADLINE** for bursary applications to the College scheme will be **mid-Feb**: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/undergraduate-funding/loans-and-grants/funding-for-placements/urop/>
- **The department supervising a UROP does not need to have registered the UROP (with College) for a student to apply to the College bursary scheme.**
- Some departments will expect their undergraduates to have applied to the College bursary scheme before they will be considered for any subsequent dept-level bursary scheme (check your VLE/Blackboard for details, or contact your Student Office).
- **Suggestions of other sources of funding (not exhaustive):** <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/urop/how-to-get-involved/funding/sources-of-funding/>.
- Supervisors may also be a source of information on possible bursaries other than the College scheme. See the quick points below.

Quick points to note about UROP: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/urop/how-to-get-involved/>

Eligibility: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/urop/what-is-urop/> (scroll)

If you are new to the idea of pursuing some undergraduate research **perhaps start with a chat with your personal tutor**. Review [motivations for doing a UROP](#).

- UROP is an extra-curricula activity normally undertaken during the summer vacation (*some staff might consider a term-time UROP*) **within** Imperial College London.
- Most UROPs involve second and penultimate year students. First and final year students can get involved at the discretion of academic staff.
- UROPs are either advertised (*UROP website or more often locally in depts*) or are personally negotiated by a student with a member of staff. The vast majority are not advertised on the UROP website, although some interesting stuff does appear. **IMPORTANT:** be led by your research interests or by skills you wish to develop.
- Local selection procedures apply if more than one student expresses an interest in devising a UROP with any one academic member of staff (whether advertised or not).
- You are not confined to your own department. ➤ The usual duration (excluding gaps) is 6-10 weeks full or near to full-time. ➤ however, a viable UROP can also be delivered in a shorter period, and indeed a longer period (*longer periods may also be part-time during term-time*).
- The duration (*and the inclusion of breaks/holidays within a summer UROP*) and hours of attendance are matters for negotiation with the supervisor.
- Vacation UROPs ought to take place between 1 July and 30 Sept. They can start in June at the discretion of your home dept (so discuss with your personal tutor).
- A supervisor or the host Dept may decide to provide a bursary to support a student with their living costs, but it is not a requirement as UROP is not employment. However, supervisors who are unable to provide a bursary ought to be willing to support a bursary application to a third party, including the College’s scheme, and dept-level schemes where they exist. **The College strongly supports the provision of financial support** and if a student is reliant on it to participate they must engage with their supervisor/dept to seek a resolution. See above concerning the College’s UROP bursary scheme. **NEWS:** The following depts within FoE and FoNS have made it known to the UROP Manager that they will no longer allow UROPs to take place (to be registered) without financial support having been agreed: Chemistry, Life Sciences, Chemical Eng, Computing and Earth Science and Eng. The following depts within FoE and FoNS are very likely to take the same stance by spring 2024: Civil Eng, Design Eng, Materials, Mechanical Eng. [Queries to the Dept \(Student Office\)](#).
- Bursary schemes have eligibility criteria (*maybe year of study; nationality; minimum/maximum length*) so check carefully. Imperial’s bursary scheme is for Imperial undergraduates only.
- Secure funding first – if that is your plan – before worrying about having the host department register the UROP (*the aim of the “registration” is to ensure appropriate management of the confirmed **extra-curricular** research experience.*) If a host group/lab has queries about UROP (what is it?) they can email urop@imperial.ac.uk
- For when you are preparing to start your UROP there is guidance for students and staff on the UROP website: <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/urop/managing-your-urop/>