

## Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme: UROP

!!! Read the [Case Studies “Student Perspectives”](#)!!!

Guidance on how to get involved in UROP can be found at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/urop](http://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 is mostly an on campus activity supervisors can integrate periods of remote interaction as they please: [plans for the summer of 2025](#).
- If you have a query about the UROP process please email: [urop@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:urop@imperial.ac.uk)

**The Imperial UROP Bursary Scheme for Summer 2025 will open in early January: eligibility criteria apply. The scheme is not open to students of other universities.**

- **DEADLINE** for bursary applications to this 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 Imperial) for a student to apply to this bursary scheme.**
- Some departments will expect their undergraduates to have applied to this 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).
- Supervisors may also be a source of information on possible bursaries other than Imperial’s scheme. See the quick points below.
- **Suggestions of other sources of funding (not exhaustive):** <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/urop/how-to-get-involved/funding/sources-of-funding/>.

**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 sometimes 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).
- The duration (*and the inclusion of breaks/holidays within a summer UROP*) and hours of attendance are matters for negotiation with the supervisor.
- 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*). ➤ Within term-time it is advised that a supervisor limits the UROP to no more than c.6 hours per week.
- 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).
- For a vacation UROP, a supervisor or the host Dept are strongly encouraged 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 Imperial’s scheme, and dept-level schemes where they exist. If a student is reliant on a bursary in order to participate they should engage with their supervisor/dept to seek a resolution. **NEWS: The following depts within the faculties of engineering, medicine and natural sciences 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: Aeronautics, Brain Sciences, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Computing, Design Engineering, Earth Science and Eng, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Immunology and Inflammation, Life Sciences, Materials, Mathematics and Physics.**
- Bursary schemes have eligibility criteria (*maybe year of study; nationality; minimum/maximum length*) so check carefully. Imperial’s bursary scheme is not open to students of other universities.
- 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](mailto: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/>