

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programmes (UROP) in the UK

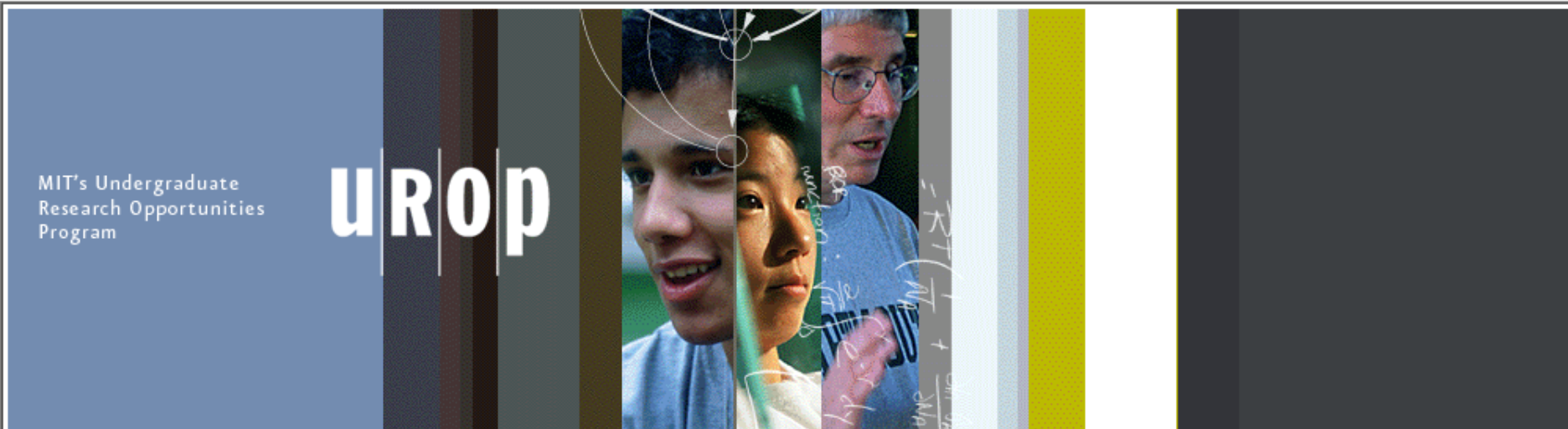
CETL in Undergraduate Research Skills

UROP in the UK

1. What is it
2. Origins in the US
3. Scale of UROP already in the UK
4. Resourcing & Managing UROP schemes
5. Measuring the benefit to students and PIs

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Programmes

- 6-10 week summer placements
- Sometimes for a bursary, sometimes for credits
- A high impact experience of real research prior to students doing their final year project
- An educational experience gaining generic skills : problem-solving, independent working, time-management, teamwork etc.
- Reading funding criteria have hinged on the degree to which the placement will develop students' skills, not on research quality *alone*. PIs must outline a sufficiently challenging programme of work for the student in order to have a placement funded. Stretching students is our baseline expectation.



Basic Information For Students For Supervisors & Departments

Current Research Resources

Giving to UROP

Search: Go

NEWS:

UPCOMING UROP DEADLINE

IAP 2007 Supervisor Funding, Credit, Volunteer
Applications are due by 5PM on Thursday, January 11, 2007
[\[more info\]](#)

UPCOMING EVENT

Eloranta Fellowship Info Session- Thursday, November 16, 2007 at 4 PM in Room 5-134



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

[Students](#) [Faculty](#) [Admissions](#) [Summer Fellowships](#) [Symposium](#) [Alumni](#) [About UROP](#) [News & Events](#)

UROP

Discovering
the World of Research

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) creates research partnerships between first and second year students and University of Michigan faculty. All schools and colleges of the University of Michigan are active participants in UROP, thereby providing a wealth of research topics from which a student can



Lots of enthusiasm for sharing research results!

< [previous](#)

UROP in the US

- In the US this is seen as helping sustain the world position in scientific research. Academics see this as part of the sustainability agenda, bringing on the next generation of researchers by reinforcing research at the undergraduate level.
- Well crafted, with the right student, it increases staff research output.
- UROP provides young academic staff with an opportunity to gain experience of supervising.
- UROP can provide seed-corn research moneys to investigate in a small way something which can turn into a larger application.



Staff | Student

Search University site [◀ UoR Home](#)[◀ UROP Home](#)[For Staff](#)[For Students](#)[Placements](#)

2009 Funding Call

Staff applications for UROP funding in 2009 are invited by Friday 20 February. See [Applying](#).

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme (UROP)

UROP

Welcome to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

UROP placements provide exciting opportunities for undergraduates to work with academic staff on University research projects, contributing directly to the creation of knowledge and strengthening the link between teaching and research. Placements last six weeks over the summer break, or can be part-time into the autumn term.

As a student, a UROP placement makes a significant contribution to your transferable skills, employability and understanding of the research environment and you will also receive a bursary of £1,260. UROPs may encourage you to pursue a research career, but also provide skills and experience for other employment. Placements are undertaken in the summer before final year projects, boosting research skills and subject knowledge prior to dissertation writing.



As a member of academic staff, a UROP placement could make a significant contribution to your research and help develop your undergraduate students. **Staff applications for 2009 UROP funding are invited by 20 February.**

UROP is run by Reading University's Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Applied Undergraduate Research Skills ([CETL-AURS](#)).

Internal

Contact Us:

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

CETL-AURS

Archaeology Building

University of Reading

Whiteknights

PO Box 217

Reading RG6 6AH

Tel: 0118 378 4452

Email:

cetl-aurs@reading.ac.uk

UROP: Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

[Home](#) | [About UROP](#) | [How To Get Involved](#) | [Funding and Finances](#) | [Opportunities Directory](#) | [Forms and Downloads](#)
[Contacts](#)

Welcome to UROP

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme

Welcome to the UROP website

Students should start [here](#).

Academic Staff at Imperial should start [here](#).

Please note that the [Opportunities Directory](#) is subject to continual updating at this time of year. However, your search does not need to limit itself to those staff who advertise opportunities (see [How to Get Involved](#))

If you experience any difficulties with this site or are unable to view a particular piece of information, please [contact the UROP Administrator](#) for help.

UROP

- [+ About UROP](#)
- [+ How To Get Involved](#)
- [+ Funding and Finances](#)
- [+ Opportunities Directory](#)
- [→ Forms and Downloads](#)
- [→ Contacts](#)

What's new

- [→ UROP/SIROP at IDEA partners](#)
- [→ Eligibility Criteria](#)





Learning and Development Centre

Undergraduate Research Scholarship Scheme (URSS)

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN-DEADLINE WED 4TH FEBRUARY 2009

Staff are invited to nominate a project that will benefit both students and research work. A number of bursaries are available up to a maximum of £1000 for students to carry out these projects.

There are 15 EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) bursaries of £2200 available for students undertaking [EPSRC funded projects](#).

[Information for Staff](#) and [Information for Students](#)

GET PUBLISHED - Optional training for students on [writing for publication](#).

GET ACCREDITED - Sign up for the optional [research as learning module](#) from WSC



In October 2008 the **URSS Award Ceremony** took place which showcased the work of the 2007-08 URSS student researchers. Some quotes from the Vice Chancellor's speech:

“ URSS is part of Warwick's commitment to enriching the learning experience of all its students,

“ As part of Warwick's commitment to enriching the learning experience of all students, the URSS scheme enables academics and students to work together in the advancement of knowledge.



more photos from the URSS event in the [image gallery](#)

2008/09
Applications
now open

**FIND OUT ABOUT
STUDENT EXPERIENCES**

[Talk to Student Mentors](#)



[Read about Student Experiences](#)



- Home
- Annual Review
- Planning Your Development
- Your Staff Category
- Course Directory
- Course Calendar
- Coaching & Mentoring
- Bespoke for Departments
- Funding & Awards
 - Warwick Staff Development Fund
 - Erasmus Staff Training
 - URSS
 - About the Scheme
 - Information for Staff
 - Information for Students
 - Guidance on Applications
 - EPSRC funded projects
 - Documents & Contacts
 - Previous URSS Projects
 - FAQs
- Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence



- Home
- Our organisation
- Our science
- Funding research**
- Working with business
- Science in society
- Publications
- Media, news & events

Home > Funding research > Studentships > Undergraduate vacation bursaries

Funding research:

- Funding news
- Strategic priorities
- Research grant areas
- Special opportunities
- Studentships**
 - Overview
 - Training e-mail bulletin
 - Quota studentships
 - CASE studentships
 - Targeted priority studentships
 - Industrial CASE awards
 - Master's training grants
 - Dorothy Hodgkin postgraduate awards
 - Undergraduate vacation bursaries**
 - Research studentship allocations

Undergraduate vacation bursaries

Enable leading bioscience departments to offer undergraduate vacation bursary placements to promising undergraduates, so they can experience work in a research laboratory.

Awards are for stipends of £200 per week, plus research expenses, up to a total of £2,500. Awards are made for up to 10 weeks during the summer vacation, and must support a research project that has a clearly defined objective, within BBSRC's remit.

The project should not be part of the normal degree course or involve the student working outside the UK. The student should have scope for thought and initiative, and not be used as a general assistant.

Allocation and responsibility of Departments

The majority of bursaries are allocated to departments holding a BBSRC Doctoral Training Grant based on the number of studentships awarded. Mathematical Biology Vacation Bursaries are allocated to maths departments holding BBSRC research funding.

Related links

- Apply for funding

Downloads

- You may need to [download additional plug-ins](#) to view the downloads
- Vacation bursary awards 2008 (PDF 22KB)
- Vacation bursary evaluation 2007 (PDF 44KB)

- [Research support](#)
- [Equipment and resources](#)
- [Fellowships and personal awards](#)
- [PhD programmes and studentships](#)
- ▼ **Undergraduate support**
 - [Veterinary research](#)
 - [Other initiatives](#)

Biomedical Vacation Scholarships

Purpose

[What's included](#)
[Eligibility](#)
[Application process](#)
[Deadlines](#)
[Contacts](#)

These awards provide promising undergraduates with hands-on experience of research during the summer vacation with the aim of encouraging them to consider a career in research.

A [report](#) [Word 107KB] is available containing information about the history of the Biomedical Vacation Scholarship scheme and examples of awards from 2002 to 2008.

UROP in the UK

| Type | Scheme | No. of Bursaries |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Universities | Imperial College (c.1980) | (c. 400 placements) 28 |
| | Warwick (URSS) (c.2004) | 87 |
| | Cambridge Engineering (c.2004) | 28 |
| | Reading (2006) | 60 |
| | Cardiff (c.2008) | 8 |
| | Oxford Brooks (c.2008) | 15 |
| Foundations | Nuffield Foundation | 450 |
| | Wellcome Trust (1959) | 235 |
| Research Councils | EPSRC | 353 |
| | BBSRC | 72 |
| | | 1708 |

Issues - Management

Reasons for co-ordination across an institution

- Intellectual Property
- Placements are 'educational', not 'work' (taxation implications)
- Clear statements on risk assessments and H&S
- Funding sources

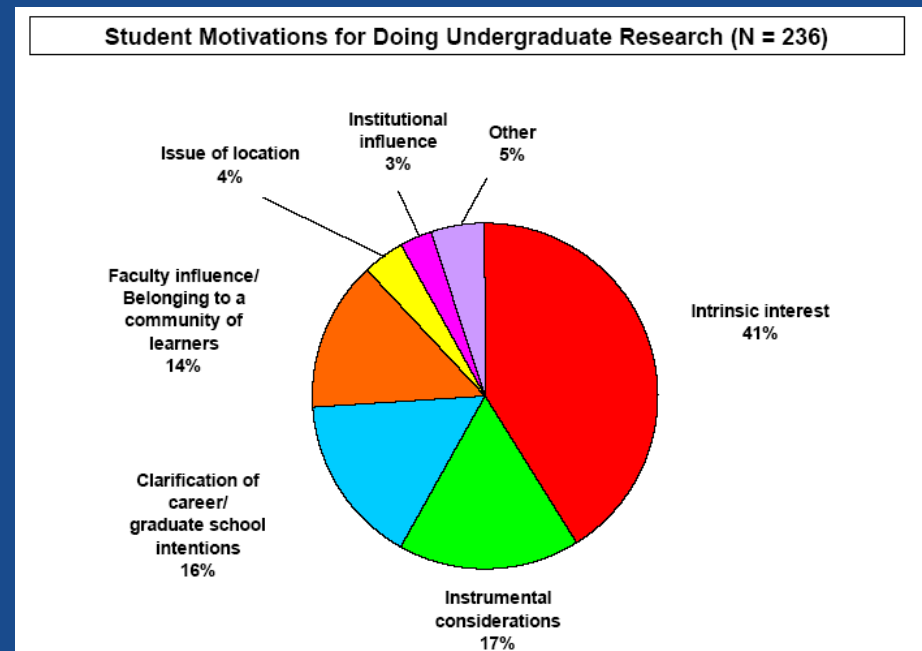
Issues - Funding

Channelling existing and potential sources:

- EPSRC / BBSRC Research Council Funds
- Wellcome Trust / Nuffield Foundation Placements
- ? University Scholarships from fee income (problematic)
- ? Alumni fund-raising
- ? Fund some from FEC 'overheads'
- ? Build in UROP scholarships to RC-UK applications (requires lobbying)

Evaluating UROP

- Seymour, E., Hunter, A-B, Laursen, S., and DeAntoni, T. (2004) *Establishing the benefits of research experiences for undergraduates in the sciences: First findings from a three-year study*, Science Education, 88(4), 493–534



Benefits gained by Students

- Thinking and working ‘like a scientist’
- Becoming a scientist
- Enhancing research skills (prior to final year projects)
- Career clarification
- Enhanced career preparation
- Earn money doing something ‘relevant’

Benefits gained by Staff

- Academic's career gains attributed to their UR work (43%)
- Pleasures of working side-by-side with students as research colleagues (26%)
- Intellectual and professional growth (as a researcher or teacher) from UR engagement (13%)
- Satisfaction in signs that some students are “becoming scientists” (10%)
- Satisfaction of seeing the students develop intellectually, in maturity, and skills, and in helping them find their place in the world (8%)
- *DATA from Seymoure et al (2006) based on US experience*

Pedagogic Research on UROP-UK

Two-tier survey on the impact of UROP on Students and PIs

- Tier 1: Qualitative Ethnographic Interviews with Students & PIs (sample drawn from the University of Reading and Nuffield Foundation placements)
- Tier 2: Quantitative online survey of UROP students on all schemes (except Imperial) about their learning gains.

Research Team: Joanna John & John Creighton