

# UROP at the University of

Reading

CETL in Applied Undergraduate Research Skills



### CETL-Applied Undergraduate Research Skills

### Scope

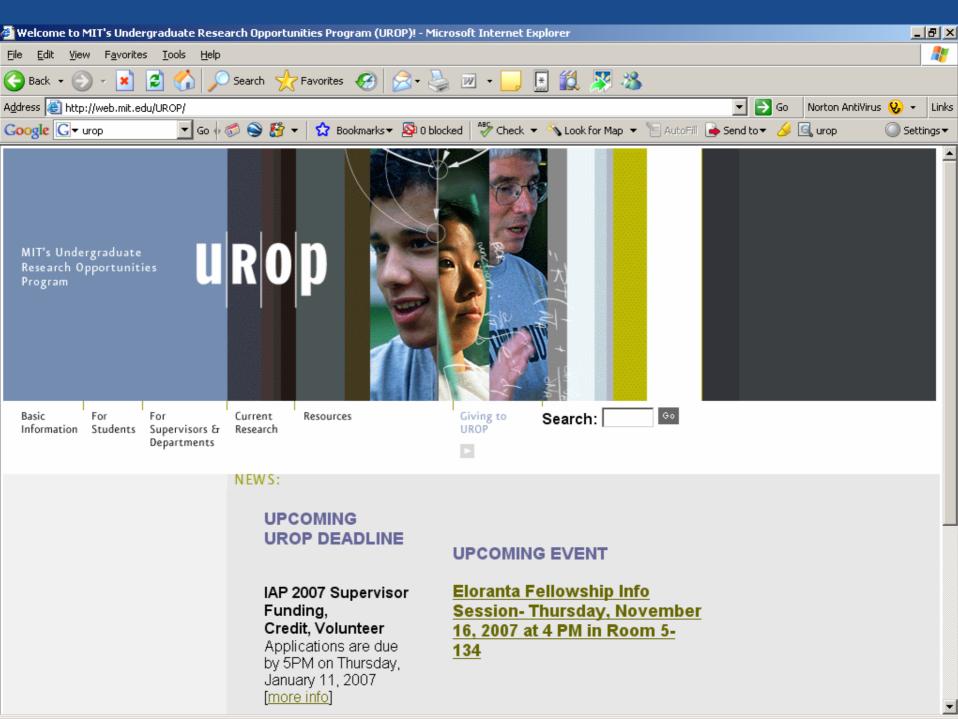
- The CETL focuses on undergraduates' research skills, as developed within research-intensive humanities and science departments, through students' active engagement in fieldwork and use of University museums and collections.
- Involves Agriculture, Archaeology, Zoology, Typography,
  Museum of English Rural Life



### CETL-Applied Undergraduate Research Skills

#### CETL funds

- A range of discipline-specific projects developing research skills and enquiry-based learning within the curriculum
- A series of generic projects across the University including:
  - Mapping the development of research skills within the curriculum
  - Fostering the development of Undergraduate Journals
  - Developing a UROP scheme







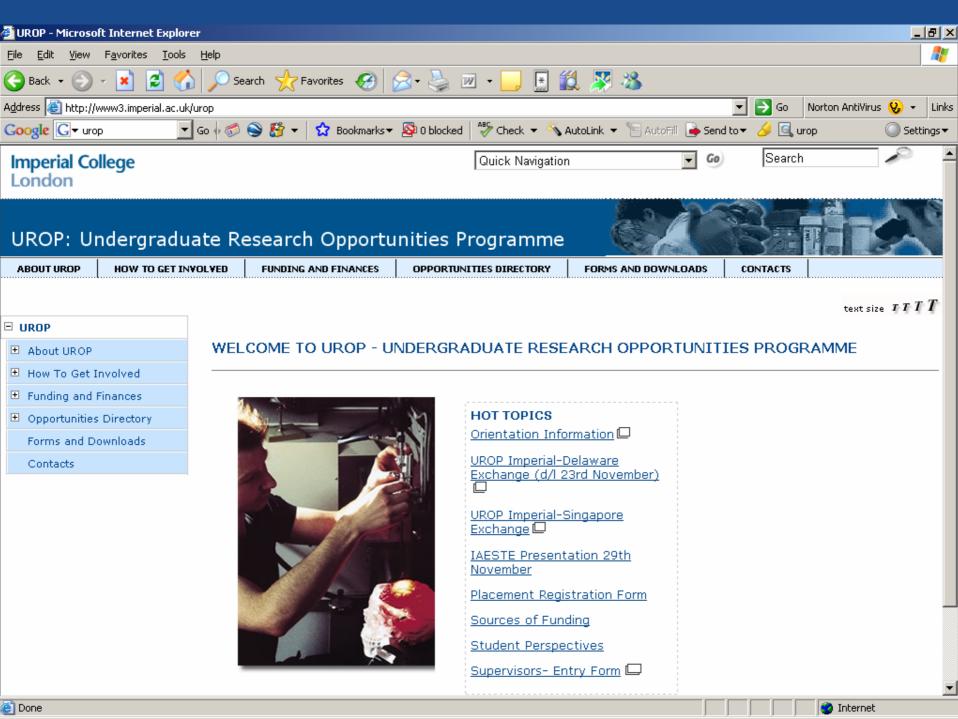
## UROP in the UK

#### Institutions with UROP schemes:

- Imperial College (since 1980)
- Warwick
- Cambridge (Engineering)
- Edinburgh Royal School of Veterinary Studies
- Reading
- Oxford Brookes

#### Also

- Nuffield
- Welcome Trust





although each Department involved will have it's own 'UROP Administrator' to handle the related paperwork (eg funding, student payments, safety forms etc).

Vicki Gerrard (valg2@eng), in the Teaching Office, will handle the administration for CUED-based projects. The CUED academic co-ordinators this year are Dr Hugh Shercliff (hrs@eng) and Dr Keith Seffen (kas14@eng). Staff and students are welcome to get in touch with any questions.

Co-ordinators in the other Departments currently participating are:

- Computer Laboratory: Dr Alan Blackwell (Alan.Blackwell@cl.cam.ac.uk)
- Genetics: Dr John Archer (j.archer@gen.cam.ac.uk)
- Plant Sciences: Prof Keith Johnstone (keith.johnstone@plantsci.cam.ac.uk)

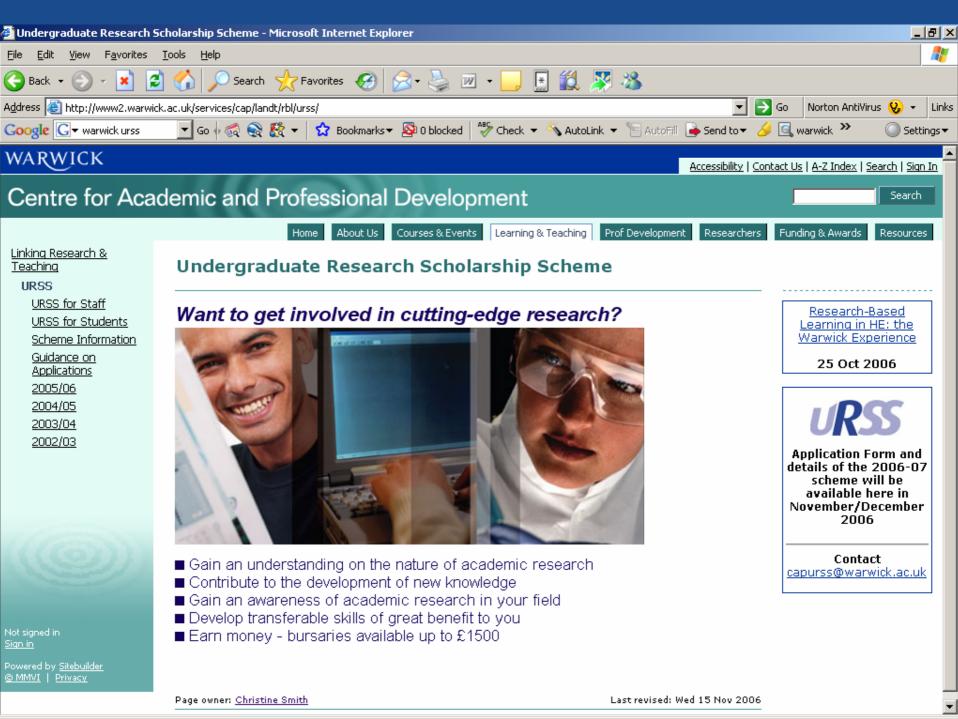
It is hoped that the scheme will extend to other Departments - watch this space! (And in the meantime, feel free to ask staff working in areas of interest to you.)

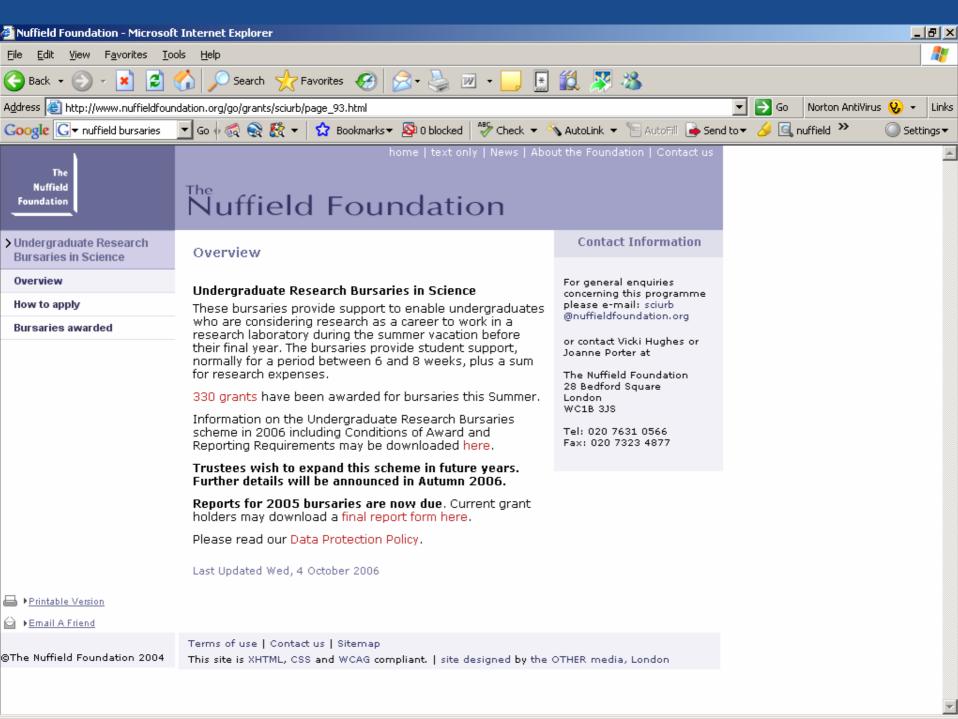
Last updated: 2 October 2006 Vicki Gerrard, Teaching Office

» UROP - A Student

Perspective

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## **UROP**

#### Student benefits:

- Thinking and working like a scientist
- Becoming a scientist
- Skills transferable and discipline-specific
- Preparation for final year project
- Payment or academic credit (MIT)
- Career clarification
- Enhanced career preparation



## **UROP**

#### Staff benefits:

- Helps 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.
- With the right student, it increases staff research output.
- Provides young academic staff with an opportunity to gain experience of supervising.
- Provide research money to investigate in a small way something which can turn into a larger application.



## **Initial Success**

## Uptake

- 2006/2007, piloted in core CETL disciplines
- Involved 15 students and 14 staff

## Unforseen Consequences

- 2 papers presented at international conferences
- Strengthened links with local conservation groups
- Part-time work during studies



## **UROP** at Reading

#### The Future

- 2007/2008 applications open to whole University
- Renewed interest from the pilot departments
- Word is spreading fast in other departments
- Website will aid advertising and applications