

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme: **UROP**

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

New case studies from December

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

Please note that the UROP website will subject to a refresh by 1 January 2026 (which will also detail any further changes to the running of the scheme). All would-be participants (student and staff) are advised to refer to the UROP website in January. **This is because** the UROP scheme has been subject to a review by the University and while that review has not resulted in any major change as to how the scheme operates, there are currently details (eligibility of students; guidance for departments on eligibility of staff to supervise UROPs and lots of other house-keeping matters) which require confirmation and will not be posted on the UROP website until January. **The position regarding the provision of financial support (a bursary) is made clear in the final section of this information sheet.**

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 2026](#).
- If you have a query about the UROP process please email: urop@imperial.ac.uk

The Imperial UROP Bursary Scheme for Summer 2026 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 depts 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/>

Important: 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 Imperial undergraduates for a term-time UROP*) **within** Imperial College London.

- Most UROPs involve second and penultimate year students. First year students can get involved at the discretion of academic staff. **NEW:** Final year students will no longer be able to participate in the summer after completing their undergraduate enrolment.
- 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 over 4 to 5 weeks, 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 the University's summer term at the discretion of your home dept (so discuss with your personal tutor).
- **A UROP is considered to be an extra-curricular educational activity at Imperial, and it is not work nor employment. **NEW: For any UROP undertaken from 1 January 2026, a supervisor (and therefore the host dept) must provide or facilitate a bursary (financial support) for the student.** Proposed supervisors who are unable to provide a bursary from funds they have access to ought to be willing to support a bursary application to a third party, including Imperial's scheme, any dept-level scheme or an external scheme where they exist. **Please note that family and personal resources are not valid sources of a bursary.** The host dept must identify the bursary when completing the registration procedure (form).** Further guidance will be published on 1 January 2026.
- 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, nor to occasional (visiting) or intercalated students.
- 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? how to manage the process; the rules etc) 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/>

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