

V3 (JAN 2026)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme: **UROP**

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

New case studies have been added

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

Please note that the UROP website has now been subject to a refresh in time for 1 January 2026. All would-be participants (students and especially staff) are advised to refer to the UROP website afresh 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 were currently details (eligibility of students; guidance for departments on eligibility of staff to supervise UROPs and lots of other house-keeping matters) which required confirmation. **The position regarding the provision of financial support (a bursary) is made clear in the final section of this information sheet and throughout the UROP website**

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: [See our What is UROP? page](#) (in particular read the **What is a research experience?** TAB).
- **Most UROPs are obtained through individual contact with 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 mainly an on campus activity at Imperial supervisors can integrate periods of remote interaction as they consider appropriate. UROPs can therefore be wholly on-campus, be pursued in a hybrid manner (with some remote participation) or a wholly remote format.
- UROPs that are wholly remote would still need to provide the necessary integration into the host research environment.
- 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 on Tuesday 6 January: eligibility criteria apply.

The scheme is not open to students of other universities, nor intercalated or exchange students of Imperial.

- Please view: <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/students/fees-and-funding/undergraduate-funding/loans-and-grants/funding-for-placements/urop/>
- **Please note the DEADLINES** on the above webpage.
- **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 can often also be a source of information on possible bursaries other than Imperial's scheme, and any conversation about funding should start with your proposed supervisor. 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/>

Further 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 **Imperial undergraduates might decide to start the process by having a chat with their personal tutor** AND by reviewing their [motivations for doing a UROP](#) and consider the [reflections of past participants](#).

- 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 staff. **Final year undergraduates will continue to be eligible for UROP in 2026, but this may change for 2027.**
- UROPs are either advertised (occasionally on the *UROP website* or more often locally in depts) or (the norm) 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 and/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 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*) up to 12 weeks. ➤ Within a wholly term-time UROP 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. For Imperial undergraduates 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 in 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, and dept-level schemes or 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 UROP registration procedure (form).**
- 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 enrolled at Imperial.
- 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 or consult the information for staff only page on the UROP website.
- 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/>

Please note that the UROP website has now been subject to a refresh. All would-be participants (student and staff should refer to the UROP website). **This version of the UROP Information sheet (V3) has been issued in line with the refresh.**

Thank you for your patience as we keep you advised as to how the scheme will operate moving into 2026 and beyond.