UQ SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE UQ SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM?
The UQ Summer Research Program is coordinated by the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) in conjunction with UQ research units, and provides an opportunity for scholars to work with a researcher in a formal research environment in their area of interest at UQ.

By participating in the program scholars will gain valuable academic and professional skills, have an opportunity to develop links with industry and academic contacts, and can test drive research before embarking on further research studies or higher degree research projects.

Projects are available for between 6-10 weeks over the summer break (from mid-November to mid-February).

WHY PARTICIPATE?
Undergraduate research at UQ provides a range of benefits including:

• an opportunity to develop new skills and enhance employability;
• access to research networks and connections with other staff and postgraduate students;
• supervision by outstanding researchers;
• access to world class facilities and experiences that you may not have otherwise been exposed to; and
• the possibility of obtaining credit towards your degree.

AM I ELIGIBLE?
The UQ Summer Research Program is open to undergraduate or masters by coursework students, who:

• are currently enrolled at UQ, another Australian, or an international university;
• have completed at least one year of study;
• are studying for a degree relevant to the research discipline;
• have a high level of academic achievement during their undergraduate degree;
• have the potential to and an interest in undertaking postgraduate study (masters or PhD);
• are able to demonstrate a high level of English language proficiency; and
• are eligible for a visa to visit Australia from an international university.

WHERE CAN I UNDERTAKE MY RESEARCH?
The UQ Summer Research Program is offered by the majority of UQ schools, research centres and institutes during the summer vacation period. Links to participating units and contact details for team members are available at: http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/summer-research

* Not all areas will offer placements to non-UQ enrolled students, refer to specific research unit for further information.

HOW MUCH WILL I BE PAID?
All applicants will be automatically considered for Summer Research Scholarships and Summer Research Travel Grants.

Summer Research Scholarship
Scholars who qualify for a Summer Research Scholarship will receive funding equivalent to $300 per week, paid jointly by the Office of Undergraduate Education and the participating faculty, school, centre or institute. The funding is not normally paid during periods away from the University, such as during the Christmas break. This allowance may be paid fortnightly, or as one or more lump sums, as determined by your research unit.

Summer Research Travel Grant
Non-UQ enrolled (international and domestic) scholars, who are required to relocate to Brisbane to participate in the program, will automatically be considered for a Summer Research Travel Grant to assist with travel costs. Grants are valued at up to $1000 for international students, and up to $500 for domestic students, and will be paid as a one-off payment fully funded by the OUE. The OUE will determine whether students receive this additional grant. To be eligible for the grant scholars will need to meet the following conditions:

• are non-UQ enrolled students;
• are required to relocate to Brisbane to participate in the program;
• participate in the program for a minimum of eight weeks between mid-November to mid-February; and
• work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

If a scholarship recipient withdraws from the program, their scholarship and travel grant (if applicable) will need to be returned in full.

WHAT WILL BE MY TIME COMMITMENT?
Scholars are expected to participate in an ongoing research project or to undertake a substantial piece of supervised research work.

The period of eligibility for scholarship payments is up to 10 weeks, generally commencing in mid-November and concluding in mid-February. The research period is normally broken into two parts to allow for the Christmas break when the University is closed.

It is expected that scholars will work a minimum of 20 hours per week for at least six weeks. Please note, that some positions require scholars to work on a full-time basis (up to 36 hours per week).

Where appropriate to the project, additional discipline/project specific obligations may also be required, such as training in research safety and ethics. Please refer to specific research unit for further details.

When offers are made, the contact officers will provide scholars with details of the starting dates and expected workload. The scholar and the supervisor are able to negotiate the duration of the project and the workload requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY?
To apply, applicants need to:

1. Choose a project from the list of available projects.
2. If required, liaise with the contact officer and/or supervisor in the relevant research unit to obtain more information about project availability and suitability.
3. Submit the completed application form and supporting documentation to the participating research unit by 5pm on Friday 30 August, 2013.
4. All applicants will be notified if they will be invited to participate in the program by Friday 28 September, 2013.
WHAT ARE THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR APPLICATIONS?
Applications will be assessed by individual faculties, schools, institutes or centres. Placements will be awarded on a competitive basis taking into account:
- the availability of projects and supervisors;
- the academic merit of the applicant;
- reasons provided for wanting to participate in the program;
- the quality of the project; and funding

WILL I RECEIVE RECOGNITION TOWARDS MY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS?
Not all study areas will offer their summer program for credit, so please contact the specific research unit for further information.
Recognition towards degree requirements is also subject to the degree rules and structure of your program. Recognition available will depend on the program offered by the research unit, as well as the undergraduate degree program being undertaken by the student and its program rules and structure. Applicants should seek academic advice from their faculty or home institution regarding recognition for participation in a summer research activity.
Where credit is available, students may be required to be enrolled in course for credit before the commencement of their research internship.

WHAT IF THE RESEARCH PROJECT/PERIOD IS TERMINATED EARLY?
The University reserves the right to terminate a scholarship at any time and at the University’s sole discretion if the conduct of the summer research scholar is deemed to be unsatisfactory, or if ill-health seriously interferes with the research. If a scholarship is terminated for any reason prior to commencement of the scholarship period, the University will not be liable for any costs, and if terminated during the scholarship period, the University will at its sole discretion determine if any reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

ARE THE TAXATION AND AUSTUDY IMPLICATIONS?
It is the responsibility of all scholarship recipients to make their own enquiries and seek independent advice regarding tax liability or impact on Austudy payments arising from receipt of this scholarship. Educational scholarship benefits are not usually regarded as income in determining the level of Austudy benefits. If you receive Austudy or Centrelink payments, we recommend that you contact Centrelink to advise them that you will be receiving a scholarship.

DO I NEED INSURANCE?
All UQ Summer Research scholars should note that they will only be covered by the University’s public liability insurance to the extent that an accident occurs at the University for which the University is at fault. Scholars who are required to travel to Brisbane to participate in the program are advised to take out an appropriate travel insurance policy to be covered against any travel risks. Please refer to information about UQ’s insurance at: http://www.fbs.uq.edu.au/?page=159459&s=d2646629ba07135781948b4b516d176

INFORMATION FOR VISITING STUDENTS

**Visa information**
The most suitable visa for you will depend on factors including (but not limited to):
- your study/research activities in Australia;
- how long your intend to undertake these study activities and stay in Australia;
- your country of origin;
- where you are when you apply for the visa;
- your access to “sufficient funds”;
- whether you intend to bring dependents with you; and
- your experience/qualifications.

The University of Queensland cannot provide personalised migration advice as it is unlawful to give immigration assistance in Australia if you are not a registered migration agent. If you require immigration assistance, we recommend that you contact:
- The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC): www.immi.gov.au; or

The following visas may permit you to enter Australia and study or undertake research:
- Subclass 600 Visitor: Lets you travel to Australia and study for up to 3 months. You are not permitted to work on a subclass 600 visa.
- Subclass 417 Working Holiday: This visa is for people aged 18 to 30 years of age, who are interested in a working holiday of up to 12 months in Australia. If you are granted this visa you can study for up to 4 months. You must hold a passport from an eligible country to apply for this visa.
- Subclass 462 Work and Holiday: This visa is for people aged 18 to 30 years of age, who are interested in a working holiday of up to 12 months in Australia. If you are granted this visa you can study for up to 4 months. You must hold a passport from an eligible country to apply for this visa.
- Subclass 402 Training and Research Visa: This visa allows you to enter Australia for a prescribed period of research/training. You must be sponsored by the University to apply for this visa. This visa has 2 relevant streams:
  - Occupational Trainee stream – is for people who require structured training to either enhance their skills in their current occupation, area of tertiary study or field of expertise; and
  - Research stream – enables professional academics to visit Australia on a temporary basis, to observe or participate in an Australian research project.
- Subclass 601 Electronic Travel Authority: An ETA lets you enter Australia for up to 3 months at a time as a tourist or for business purposes. You can study for up to 3 months. You must hold a passport
from an eligible country to apply for this visa.

• Subclass 651 eVisitor: You may stay for up to 3 months during each visit during the 12 months from the date the eVisitor is granted. You can study for up to 3 months. You must hold a passport from an eligible country to apply for this visa.

Bank accounts
Scholars should strongly consider opening an Australian bank account for ease and reliability of payments being made each fortnight. Scholars should provide their 6-digit BSB number and a bank account number of maximum 9 digits to their supporting unit administrator.

Scholars can be paid by overseas bank draft, but the payments would probably be more irregular and may involve international bank and transfer fees, and may cause significant delays as it could take some time to be processed by the bank. Scholars should discuss with their home bank about how they can set up their home account and be able to access those funds from Australia.

Insurance
International and New Zealand citizens in visiting Australia, are encouraged to have a travel insurance policy before they arrive. Medical and hospital insurance associated with travel insurance can be arranged before leaving home, or obtained from Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) after arrival in Brisbane. Proof of cover may be required. For more information: http://www.uq.edu.au/international/get-health-cover

Travel
Scholars must arrange and pay for their own travel. Eligible students may receive a travel grant to assist with travel costs.

Student cards
Non-UQ students or graduating UQ students who participate in the UQ Summer Research Program will not be eligible to receive a UQ Student Card. As such, unless scholars have a full-time Queensland Student Card rom another institution, they will not be eligible or student discounts on public transport.

Free airport reception service
If you are an international student who will be studying at UQ for the first time, you may be eligible to arrange a free airport transfer from Brisbane Airport. Bookings need to be made in advance. Further information is available at: http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/plan-your-arrival

Accommodation
Scholars must arrange their own accommodation and it is recommended that they secure accommodation prior to their arrival. You may wish to contact students in your unit to assist them to find accommodation available over the summer semester period. Accommodation can be found on the UQ website:


WHAT IF THE RESEARCH PROJECT/PERIOD IS TERMINATED EARLY?
The University reserves the right to terminate a scholarship at any time and at the University’s sole discretion if the conduct of the summer research scholar is deemed to be unsatisfactory, or if ill-health seriously interferes with the research. If a scholarship is terminated for any reason prior to commencement of the scholarship period, the University will not be liable for any costs, and if terminated during the scholarship period, the University will at its sole discretion determine if any reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?
Each research area has a designated contact officer who can provide applicants with further information on specific projects available. Applicants are encouraged to liaise with the contact officer before applying for an internship, to discuss the suitability and availability of projects and to obtain specific advice. Information about participating units and contact officers can be found at: http://www.uq.edu.au/undergraduate/summer-research

For general enquiries, contact the Student Engagement Team in the Office of Undergraduate Education at:
Email: undergrad@uq.edu.au
Phone: 3365 2929

KEY DATES
1 July Applications open
30 Aug Applications close
28 Sep Offers made
18 Nov UQ Summer Research Program officially commences
25 Nov UQ Summer Research Welcome event
14 Feb UQ Summer Research Program officially concludes

UQ Summer Research Program Student Guidelines. Last updated 29 May 2013. Subject to change