Overseas Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) at St John's College, University of Cambridge

Programme Overview

The University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest universities and leading academic centres, with more than 18,000 students from all walks of life and all corners of the world, over 11,000 staff members and 31 Colleges. Its reputation for outstanding academic achievement is known worldwide and reflects the intellectual achievement of its students, as well as the world-class original research carried out by the staff of the University and the Colleges.

Founded in 1511, St John's College is one largest colleges in Cambridge. Colleges are where students live, eat and socialise, and where they receive small group teaching sessions called supervisions. Former students include famous business and political leaders, as well as renowned scientists and artists.

There are 2 projects available:

1. **Eric Miska Lab**, Gurdon Institute, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute led by Prof Eric Miska. Prof Miska is the Director of Studies in Molecular Biology at St John's College, University of Cambridge. The group will be offering the following topics for the placement: Epigenetic inheritance, Non-coding RNA, RNA modification, RNA structure, Environment interactions and RNA viruses. Refer to [http://ericmiskalab.org/](http://ericmiskalab.org/) for more information.

2. **Knowles Lab**, Department of Chemistry led by Prof Tuomas Knowles. The research group led by Prof Knowles is an interdisciplinary and interactive group based in the Department of Chemistry, the Cambridge Centre for Protein Misfolding Diseases and the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. They bring together ideas and tools from Chemistry and Physics to develop new approaches to probe the behaviour of biological molecules and are particularly interested in protein self-assembly, the processes by which proteins come together to form the nanoscale machinery of life. Refer to [https://www-knowles.ch.cam.ac.uk/](https://www-knowles.ch.cam.ac.uk/) for more information.

Please do not contact the research supervisor at St John's College for a placement before receiving an offer from NUS.

Location

The programme takes place in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Dates

The programme takes place from 11 May 2020 to 31 July 2020.

Credits

Students will be assessed according to the assessment criteria of their home department at NUS, and obtain credits and grades for a Level 2000/3000 UROPS.

With effect from AY2018/2019, students may transfer up to a maximum of 10 Modular Credits (MCs) for each summer programme (takes place between May and July) and up to a maximum of 5 MCs for each winter programme (takes place in December).
Students can transfer a total of 12 MCs from a maximum of 2 overseas summer/winter programmes without having to pay tuition at NUS. Any additional MCs transferred will be subjected to NUS Special Term fees.

**Eligibility Criteria**

NUS students must:

- Be a full-time Faculty of Science student.
- Obtain a minimum of Grade C in the Singapore-Cambridge GCE ‘A’ Level [H1 General Paper], or a Band 3 in QET.
- Have a clean disciplinary record.
- All Year 2 and Year 3 students may apply
- Not intending to graduate at the end of Semester 2.
- Not be National Servicemen who are called up for In-Camp Training (ICT). Deferment letter will not be provided.

Shortlisted candidates may be required to attend an interview at the Science Dean’s Office. Interview details will be provided at a later date. After accepting the internal offer, you will be informed further on subsequent steps and project requirements. An internal offer does not guarantee your placement in the programme. Your admission outcome is up to the discretion of the partner institution.

**Number of Places**

There are 2 places available.

**Programme Cost**

Students do not need to pay NUS Special Term fees or tuition fees to St John’s College if they do not exceed the credits transfer limit stated under the section "Credits" above. However, students are responsible for their own airfare, accommodation, meals, bench fees, personal expenses, etc.

Estimated cost *(Please note that the figures provided are only estimates)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return Airfare</td>
<td>SGD1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>SGD2,000/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Transport</td>
<td>SGD1,500/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory Bench Fees</td>
<td>SGD800 (to be confirmed)</td>
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</tbody>
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**Financial Assistance**

Click [here](#) to find out more about the various financial assistance schemes offered by NUS.
Programme Application Procedure and Deadline

To apply, login to Education Records System (EduRec) and submit your application under External Study Type “Research Attachment/Internship/Industrial Attachment”. Please also submit the following documents to scisap@nus.edu.sg with the subject, “Overseas Summer Research 2019 – [Name of Partner University]”. The deadline for application and documents submission deadline is 17 January 2020.

1. Copy of GCE ‘A’ Level Certificate or Qualifying English Test (QET) result.
2. Curriculum Vitae. Highlight any prior research experience that you may have to support your application.
3. Personal statement, including your area of research interest/project, why you are interested in the mentioned area/project, etc. Please indicate clearly the project you are interested in. Please do not contact the research supervisor at St John’s College for a placement before receiving an internal offer from NUS.
4. One recommendation letter from a faculty member in the field/s related to your major. Please ask your recommender to send the recommendation letter, either via hardcopy or softcopy, directly to the Science Dean’s Office (Attn: Miss Lorraine Kwan) or to scisap@nus.edu.sg with the subject ‘Summer UROPS Application_Name_Partner University” for the Partner University you are applying for.

Please refer to Guide for Student Programme Application BEFORE your application. You will need to log on to NUS WebVPN before accessing the Guide and EduRec.

Insurance

All students travelling overseas for activities or purposes approved, endorsed, organised, sponsored or authorised by NUS will be covered by the NUS Student Travel Insurance Policy. Click here (under Insurance Cover for Official NUS Trips) for more information.

Exclusions to the NUS Student Travel Insurance may apply. Students are to ensure that they have sufficient travel insurance coverage, and may consider purchasing additional travel insurance if required.

Contact Details

If you have any questions, please contact us at scisap@nus.edu.sg.