Overseas Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill)

Programme Overview

Each year, scientists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill oversee more than $1 billion worth of research activity, solidifying Carolina’s prominence as one of the top research universities in the nation.

Research conducted at UNC provides teaching and training opportunities to nearly 30,000 students and fosters a creative environment where the world’s top scientists collaborate to solve problems, discover new technologies, and save lives.

The secret to UNC’s success is its ability to build interdisciplinary teams that utilise diverse perspectives to collaborate on challenges attractive to research sponsors. Carolina’s network of centres and institutes plays a crucial role in this process, providing convening points for scholars of different disciplines to move discoveries into practice and technologies into the marketplace.

For the list of potential placement, please refer to the websites of Department of Biology, Department of Chemistry, and Department of Physics & Astronomy.

Please do not contact the research supervisor at UNC-Chapel Hill for a placement before receiving an offer from NUS.

Location

The programme takes place in North Carolina, USA.

Dates

The programme takes place from 13 May 2020 to 28 July 2020 (UNC-Chapel Hill Summer Session 1 & 2).

Credits

Students may work half-time in a lab for the whole summer (3 UNC credits each summer term, totalling 6 UNC credits) to transfer back 4 NUS Modular Credits (MCs) Level 2000/3000 UROPS, as well as take one course with between 1 and 3 UNC credits each summer term. The UNC-Chapel Hill academic credits : NUS modular credits conversion ratio is 15 credits : 20 MCs.

Students will be assessed according to UNC-Chapel Hill assessment criteria and receive a transcript issued by the institution.

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). Please note that when you submit a request for Credits Transfer via Education Records System (EduRec), you must ensure that the correct number of MCs to be transferred is accurate. For instance, if you would like to transfer 10 MCs for a summer school, please request for Credits Transfer for 10 MCs. Please see table below for an illustration:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>UNC-Chapel Hill Credits</th>
<th>NUS Modular Credits (MCs)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.5 UNC Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 NUS MCs</strong></td>
<td>With effect from AY2018/2019, students may transfer up to a maximum of 10 MCs for each summer programme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>6 UNC Credits</td>
<td>4 NUS MCs</td>
<td>Students are only allowed to transfer up to 4 MCs for one summer UROPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Coursework</td>
<td>4.5 UNC Credits</td>
<td>6 NUS MCs (10MCs - 4MCs = 6MCs)</td>
<td>Remaining NUS MCs after deducting MCs for research and its UNC credits equivalent</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students can map a total of 12 MCs from a maximum of 2 overseas summer/winter programmes without having to pay tuition at NUS. Any additional MCs mapped will be subjected to NUS Special Term fees.

**Eligibility Criteria**

NUS students must:

- Be a full-time Faculty of Science student.
- 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 4 places available.

**Programme Cost**

Students do not need to pay NUS Special Term fees or tuition fees to UNC-Chapel Hill 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, personal expenses, etc.
Estimated cost *(Please note that the figures provided are only estimates)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return Airfare</td>
<td>SGD2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>SGD3,000 for 2 summer sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Transport</td>
<td>SGD2,000/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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](mailto:scisap@nus.edu.sg) with the subject, "Overseas Summer Research 2019 - [Name of Partner University]". The deadline for application and documents submission is **17 January 2020**.

1. Curriculum Vitae. Highlight any prior research experience that you may have to support your application.

2. Personal statement, including your area of research interest/project, why you are interested in the mentioned area/project, name of supervisor you wish to work with, etc. Please do not contact the research supervisor at UNC-Chapel Hill for a placement before receiving an internal offer from NUS.

3. 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](mailto: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](mailto:scisap@nus.edu.sg).