Overseas Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme in Science (UROPS) at Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica (IoP-AS)

Programme Overview

Academia Sinica was founded in 1928 to promote and undertake scholarly research in sciences and humanities. It was then re-established in Taipei in 1949. Today, it is a modern research institution with a worldwide reputation and a proud tradition headed with 24 research institutes and seven research centres headed by world-renowned scholars and staffed by highly trained, motivated and creative young investigators.

Academia Sinica is presently positioning itself to move its research activities to the international level. Aside from placing greater emphasis on opening up new areas of intellectual endeavour, Academia Sinica is also taking a leadership role in launching new initiatives in applied areas to meet a broad spectrum of social needs in Taiwan. It aims to promote international cooperation and scholarly exchanges that will accelerate the overall development of academic research in Academia Sinica and the Republic of China.

The Institute of Physics, under the Division of Mathematics and Physical Science at Academia Sinica, is made up of three main areas: Quantum Materials Physics, Physics of Active Biological Systems, and Medium and High Energy Physics. The Institute of Physics is expected to play an increasingly important role in the development of physics and technology in Taiwan.

Please refer to the list of projects for possible placements. Do log on to NUS WebVPN before accessing the list. Students may also contact supervisors directly to secure a project. For more information, please click here.

Location

The programme takes place in Taipei, Taiwan.

Dates

The programme takes place from 13 May 2019 to 3 Aug 2019.

Credits

Students will undertake these projects at the partner university and will be assessed according to NUS Department of Physics’ assessment criteria and obtain credits and grades for a Level 2000/3000 UROPS.

Assessments include research reports and oral presentations at IoP-AS and NUS.

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 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, majoring in Physics.
- 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 in the week of 21 January 2019. 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

The number of places is decided by IoP-AS.

Programme Cost

Students do not need to pay NUS Special Term fees or tuition fees to IoP-AS 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, and exclude the accommodation subsidy provided by IoP-AS))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return Airfare</td>
<td>SGD500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>SGD400/month (sharing basis, excludes subsidy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food and Transport</td>
<td>SGD500/month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial Assistance
IoP-AS will cover the cost of accommodation of up to TWD20,000 (approximately SGD850) per month for each student. Students will be put up at IoP-AS shared accommodation during the 12 weeks of research.

Click here to find out more about the various financial assistance schemes offered by NUS.

**Programme Application Procedure and Deadline**

Students are to contact the faculty members at IoP-AS to secure a placement and submit a proof of acceptance by the supervisor in a form of letter or email.

Next, 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, “Summer Research 2019 – [Name of Partner University]”. The application deadline and documents submission deadline is 16 January 2019.

1. Proof of acceptance by the faculty member/supervisor at IoP-AS in the form of a letter or email. If you are unable to secure a placement by the application deadline, please shortlist up to 3 supervisors and list them down in your personal statement.

2. Latest NUS unofficial transcript (downloadable from EduRec).

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

4. Personal statement, including your area of research interest/project, why you are interested in the mentioned area/project, etc.

5. 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: Ms Ong Kai Yi) or to scisap@nus.edu.sg with your name and the name of 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.