Summer/Winter Research Program
Guidelines for Students
About

The Summer/Winter Research Program is coordinated by the Student Employability Centre in conjunction with UQ research units, and provides an opportunity for you to gain research experience working alongside some of the university’s leading academics and researchers.

By participating in the program you will gain

- an opportunity to develop new academic and professional skills to enhance employability;
- experience in research as a ‘test-drive’ before embarking on future research studies;
- access to research networks and connections with staff and postgraduate students;
- supervision by world-class UQ researchers;
- access to world-class facilities; and
- the possibility of obtaining credit towards your degree or the Employability Award.

Summer placements are available for 6-10 weeks over the Summer vacation period (November - February).

Winter placements are available for four weeks over the Winter vacation period (June - July).

Eligibility requirements

The Summer/Winter Research Program is open to undergraduate, honours, and masters by coursework students, who

- are currently enrolled at UQ at the time of application;
- will remain an enrolled full-time student for the entirety of the Summer/Winter Research Program (i.e. not graduating in Semester One for entry into the Winter program and/or not graduating in Semester Two for entry into the Summer program);
- are studying for a degree relevant to the research discipline; and
- have a high level of academic achievement during their undergraduate degree.

International Students

To be considered, students must meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria and, continue to be enrolled at UQ in the following semester. i.e. not returning to their home institution at the end of the semester.

International students studying at UQ must ensure that they continue to meet their visa requirements while participating in the program.

Available project placements

The Summer/Winter Research Program is offered by a number of UQ schools, research centres and institutes during the Summer/Winter vacation period. Links to participating units, available projects and research unit coordinator contacts are available at employability.uq.edu.au/research

If you would like to undertake a project that is not listed, you may approach a researcher directly to create a new project. New projects must be approved by the research unit coordinator and submitted to the Student Employability Centre by the due date. Applications for these projects will be competitive and it is not guaranteed that you will be offered the placement.

You can submit only one application per Summer/Winter Research Program, but if you desire, you can specify a second preference project that must be within the same research unit.

Please note that new projects may become available throughout the ‘Applications Open’ period.

Time commitment and obligations

You are expected to participate in an ongoing research project or to undertake a substantial piece of supervised research activity.

You will be required to undertake research activities between 20 and 36 hours per week throughout your engagement with the program. Please note that the expected hours of engagement are set by each research unit and advertised in the project placement description.

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, you will be provided with details of the starting dates and expected hours of engagement. These can be negotiated with your supervisor and research unit coordinator. You should only commence your placement after the conclusion of your exams and placements must not extend into University teaching weeks.

Scholarship amount

All selected Winter Research Scholars will receive a lump sum scholarship valued at $1500.

All selected Summer Research Scholars will receive a scholarship equivalent to $360 per week.

The scholarship payment represents a reasonable estimate of the living costs associated with a student undertaking the program and will be paid by your research unit.

To be eligible for the scholarship, you will also need to meet the following conditions

Key Dates

Visit the website for information on the following key dates:

- Applications open and close
- Offer outcomes & finalisation
- Official program commencement and conclusion
- Key events
• participate in the program for a minimum of six (6) weeks if completing the Summer Program or a minimum of four (4) weeks if completing the Winter Program
• complete your placement within the official start and end dates of the program (as outlined on the website)
• undertake research activities on your project for between 20 and 36 hours per week.

If a scholarship recipient is no longer eligible to receive the scholarship due to a change in enrollment status, withdraws from the program, or is terminated, their scholarship will need to be returned for the equivalent full-weeks remaining un-worked.

You are eligible for a tax-free scholarship if you meet the aforementioned Eligibility Requirements (see page 1).

Scholarships are generally paid in two lump sums for the Summer Research Program (December & January) and as one lump sum in week two of the Winter Research Program.

Application procedure

To apply, you need to
1. Research available projects on the Summer/Winter Research Program website.
2. Contact your preferred supervisor and/or research unit coordinator for more information about project details and suitability.
3. Submit one application only. In your application you may nominate a second preference project which must be within the same research unit.

You will be notified of your application outcome by the Offers Made date.

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
• student eligibility
• 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;
• available funding; and
• skills and attributes of applicants to meet project requirements.

You may be eligible to receive a placement in more than one round of the Summer/Winter research programs during your studies. However, if the number of applications exceeds available placements, preference will be given to those who have not undertaken a previous placement.

Conditions of participation

If successful in receiving a placement, you must read and agree to the Summer/Winter Research Program Conditions of Participation before accepting your offer. These conditions can be found on the application page of the Summer/Winter Research website.

Skills Training Workshops

Throughout the Summer/Winter Research Program, UQ offers a number of services and events to help scholars make the most of their experience.

Once you have accepted your offer you can register your attendance at the Skills Training Workshops and social events which have been specifically designed for program participants. To book your sport, visit StudentHub.

Recognition towards degree requirements

Some research units may offer their research project for credit. Please contact the specific research unit for further information.

Recognition towards degree requirements is subject to the degree rules and structure of your program. You should seek academic advice from your faculty regarding recognition for participation in the Winter Research Program.

Where credit is available, you may be required to enrol in a course for credit before the commencement of your research placement.

Shuttle bus

Scholars who are based at campuses other than St Lucia can use the complimentary intercampus bus service to attend the Summer/Winter Research Program Welcome and skills training events. Further information about this service is available on the UQ website.

Employability Award

Participation in the Summer/Winter Research Program can be counted as a Supplementary Activity toward attainment of the Employability Award so long as you aren't receiving credit for your involvement. Further information about the award is available at employability.uq.edu.au/award

Contacts for more information

Each research unit has a nominated research unit coordinator. You are encouraged to liaise with your coordinator for questions related to payment, induction or terms of offer.

Research unit coordinator contacts are available via the website. For general enquiries, contact the Student Employability Centre

For further details, please contact:
Student Employability Centre
employability@uq.edu.au
employability.uq.edu.au/research