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## **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (UROP)**

UROP is a scheme designed to give undergraduate students at the University of Tasmania an early opportunity to experience real life in a research laboratory and gain insight into careers in biomedical research.

### ***How does UROP work?***

Students undertake a project that is part of a research program at the Menzie's Research Institute. They are supervised by a research scientist in a mentoring role, and usually work alongside other research staff and students in the team. The project may be experimental and based in a laboratory, it may involve an epidemiological investigation of the causes of disease or the evaluation of a population health intervention, or it may be statistical in nature.

The scheme is not a formal part of undergraduate coursework, but is supported by the University because it aims to provide an opportunity for students to undertake practical research during the undergraduate years. Additionally, students may be able to practise the knowledge and skills obtained in their undergraduate courses in this program.

### ***What are the benefits of participating in UROP?***

There are many benefits to participating in UROP. As a student, you will:

- Participate as a researcher in an internationally competitive research institute.
- Experience being part of a research team.
- Develop expertise in laboratory techniques and experimental design, or in epidemiological fieldwork and study design, or in statistical methods used in biomedical research.
- Potentially contribute to scientific publications, patents and presentations.
- Create future job and post-graduate opportunities through networking.
- Benefit from workshops in scientific and career development.

### ***How much time does participation require?***

Students are expected to participate full-time at the Institute for a total of 8 weeks. The majority of this time should be spent on the project during the summer recess. The times are arranged between supervisors and students to fit in with commitments of the student and supervisor. It is desirable that students commence their project during the vacation period, so they can become familiar with the project and integrate into the research team before the academic year commences.

### ***Who can apply?***

The scheme is open to any undergraduate at the University of Tasmania. Students can join the Program at any time after the first full year of undergraduate study and prior to the completion of their undergraduate course. The scheme appeals particularly to those studying the biomedical sciences, genetics, molecular biology, bioinformatics and statistics, but students

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from other disciplines are encouraged to apply. Those from non-scientific courses will need to demonstrate a particular interest in biomedical research.

***When are applications open?***

The UROP intake each year is timed to coincide with the summer vacation. Applications closing dates will appear on the Menzies website.

***How can students apply?***

Students should submit a letter of application (see Instructions), a curriculum vitae including the name of one academic referee, and a copy of their academic transcript, to the Menzies Research Institute, University of Tasmania.

To learn more, see the application instructions.

***How are students selected?***

The selection process involves 3 stages:

1. Based on an assessment of their entire application, the most outstanding applicants will short listed for an interview.
2. Once short listed, the student must contact one or more of the research scientists involved in the UROP scheme to discuss potential projects and placements. Details of this process will be outlined by letter to those applicants granted an interview.
3. After the interview, the successful applicant(s) will be notified by letter. The letter will contain an outline of the work to be performed.

Please note: All applications will be acknowledged in writing within a week of the closing date.

***Are UROP students paid?***

Students will receive a scholarship of up to \$5000.00 p.a. to be paid at intervals throughout the term of the placement.

***What conditions apply to UROP projects?***

Students receive full safety training upon induction into the Institute. In the time that they are present in the Institute, they are covered by all regulations and conditions governing the organisation, including occupational health and safety, good scientific practice, ethics, intellectual property and confidentiality.

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***What are the students' responsibilities?***

Students are required to:

- Work in a manner that complies with codes of good scientific practice, animal and human ethics regulations and occupational health and safety procedures.
- Sign the Menzies Research Institute Privacy Policy.
- Work in a cooperative manner with other members of the research team, sharing results and meeting regularly with their supervisor.
- Keep to the hours of work agreed to between the student and supervisor and give reasonable notice if they need to suspend work on their project in order to concentrate on their studies. Note that the student's performance in their undergraduate course must come first and academic performance will be monitored to ensure it is not detrimentally affected by participation in UROP.
- Students will be requested to submit a report and short oral presentation at the end of their placement summarising their experiences during the UROP programme and highlighting the results of their project.

***Further Information***

For further information, please contact:

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