The UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (UROP) is a scheme designed to give undergraduate students a real-life opportunity to experience working in a research laboratory and gain insight into career paths in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medical (STEMM) research.

UROP scholars are employed by a research team for at least 8 hours each week with greater participation during semester recesses, UROP placements usually run for 6-12 months. Students are paid to work on a research projects that have been specifically tailored for UROP by the research supervisors in participating research organisations.

**Benefits of being a UROP Scholar**

- The excitement of being a researcher in an internationally competitive laboratory
- The experience of being part of a research team
- Development of expertise in research techniques and experimental design
- Potential to contribute to scientific publications, patents and presentations

**Benefits of employing a UROP Scholar**

- Future job and post-graduate opportunities through networking
- Participation in professional development workshops
- Invaluable experience through presenting at the UROP Conference Day
- Access to exceptional and highly capable undergraduate students
- The BioMedVic UROP team custom matches the student that best fits with your research project and team
- Supporting workforce development with many UROP alumni pursuing research careers in industry or academia via pathways such as Honours, Masters and PhD’s.
- Potential to connect and collaborate within the UROP community
- Contribution to the continued success of UROP which has now placed over 560 scholars
FROM MELBOURNE TO BOSTON VIA UROP

DR DAVID RIGLAR

There’s a vast gap between studying for a science degree in Australia and working as a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, but Dr David Riglar is certain that his UROP placement, which he undertook at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) played an important role in helping him make that leap.

UROP not only introduced him to medical research, but it also provided him with useful skills, led him to his PhD project, and gave him his first publication – in a highly respected US journal.

Commended in the 2014 Victorian Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research and the recipient of a 2015 Victorian Young Achiever Award for his work on human malaria parasite infection at WEHI, David is now working on using synthetic biology techniques in medical research, and hopes to establish his own laboratory in that area.

“These first experiences [through UROP] showed me how exciting scientific research can be, and the creativity and dedication needed to succeed as a scientist. It was during this time that I decided I wanted to become a researcher.”

Who can apply?
UROP is open to all undergraduate students currently enrolled at a Victorian tertiary institution. Students can join the scheme from the second year onwards of their undergraduate course. Students in the first year or honours year of their course are not eligible to apply.

Positions are available within specialist research laboratories for students interested in a diverse range of disciplines including cell biology, biochemistry, chemistry, genetics, molecular biology, immunology, microbiology, bioinformatics, computer science, nanotechnology, maths, statistics, physics and engineering.

When to apply?
There are two rounds of UROP intakes per year– that roughly coincide with the winter and summer semester recesses.

Applications for the winter round usually open in March while applications for the summer round usually open in August.

How to apply
Applications are accepted online. The selection process includes a written application and may progress to one or more interviews for successful candidates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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