

School of Computer Science

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Scheme (UROS) 2017

Guidance Notes for Students

June 2017

***What is UROS?***

The School of Computer Science **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Scheme** (UROS) at Lincoln is designed to encourage undergraduates to become involved in the research work of the University, thereby contributing to that work, and developing their own research and transferable skills. UROS is a key component of our research-engaged approach teaching and learning.

***What will be expected of me?***

You will be expected to:

 Commit yourself to understanding fully the nature of the research work required prior to accepting a bursary, thereby minimizing potential mismatch between project requirements and student expectations.

 Work professionally with others, developing skills and applying them to deliver reliable project outcomes

 Work within the appropriate health and safety guidelines

 Produce a poster display showing the results of the completed research project.

 Be willing to assist with publicity for UROS events

***What will I gain?***

Participation in UROS should help you to gain:

 Transferable skills that will benefit you in your studies and employability

 Insight into and experience of academic research

 Opportunities to contribute to the development of new knowledge

 Earn while you learn - bursaries available of £1000

***How can I get involved?***

Projects will be advertised via email. You will need to read through projects and make an application using the form provided. Once completed, these should be sent by email to the nominated UROS coordinator for your school.

***Timetable***

The list of available project titles will be finalized by Tuesday 13 June 2017. Students should return electronic copies of their completed application form by email to the address on the application form **by midday on Friday 23rd June 2017**

All applications will then be reviewed by a panel and successful applicants informed on Wednesday 28th June 2017. If selected, you must confirm your acceptance by Friday 30th June 2017 and you must be available to start work on Monday 3 July 2017.

UROS projects will be completed during the month of July (to be completed by the end of July). You must be available throughout the whole of July to work on the project without exception.

***UROS FAQ’s for students***

**Who is on the selection panel?**

The panel will include the Head of School, the Programme Leaders and two other academics from the School.

**Who is eligible?**

SoCS UROS is only available for continuing students i.e. those moving from their second year to third year or from their third year to the MComp fourth year. Due to the skills requirement, it is only in exceptional cases that a student will be considered for a project when moving from first year to second year. Unfortunate it is not available for any graduating students.

**I’m going on holiday for part of July. Can I still apply?**

No – you must be available throughout the whole of July to work on the project.

**Should a record of the research be kept?**

The UROS is an ideal opportunity for Personal Development Planning (PDP) and keeping a progress record is not only good research practice but will help in the construction of your poster.

**Should projects be directly related to the curriculum?**

Projects should be extra curricula and not part of your assessed coursework. Students are not allowed to rewrite a UROS report and present it as a final year project. The main reason for this is that UROS is an opportunity to contribute to the research work of the university and needs to be seen as quite separate from the taught curriculum. For reasons of fairness, it would not be right if students were perceived as being funded to do work which was part of their assessed programme of study.

However, it is reasonable for a student to build upon the UROS experience and expand on the topic for their final year project. One of the identified benefits from UROS is that students become involved in a particular area of research and see their project as an opportunity to expand this and take it further. However, in all cases the project must represent a genuine extension of the UROS work, with a revised focus of inquiry and further data collection and analysis or implementation of systems.

Ultimately, the responsibility lies with the School and the Project supervisor to determine what constitutes a significant extension of the UROS work.

**How much is the bursary?**

Bursaries of £1000 will be made available per project.

**How will the money be paid?**

A one-off payment will be made towards the end of the project in July depending on the successful achievement of the aims of the project. Your supervisor will keep you updated on your progress so you will know if you are working to the right standard.

**Will I have to pay tax?**

No.

**How often should I see my supervisor?**

Students should expect an adequate induction and regular contact with their supervisor, seeing them at least once per week. If supervisors need be away from campus during a placement it is requested they limit their absence to a fortnight and make arrangements for alternative supervision.

**Do I have to be on campus every day?**

Depending on the nature of the project you might be able to undertake some aspects remotely. It is likely that you will need to meet your supervisor at the start to fully understand the nature of the work. After that it might be possible to have a daily Skye update to discuss progress with occasional attendance as required.

**What happens after the research is completed?**

All UROS students are expected to produce a research poster. In addition they may be invited to present their work at events such as the September Welcome Week for new and returning students or at Open Days for new applicants.

Participants will also be invited to write up their research findings for submission to external publications. Supervisors will be able to assist students in this regard.