



SUBJECT	PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (PURE) UPDATE
MEETING DATE	SEPTEMBER 12, 2019

Forwarded on the Recommendation of the President

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION

Santa J. Ono, President and Vice-Chancellor

FOR INFORMATION

Report Date	August 9, 2019
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) supports innovative pilot projects that will broaden access to, and enhance, undergraduate research experiences, which is a key priority (Strategy 8) in UBC's new strategic plan, *Shaping UBC's Next Century*.

Attachments

1. Report on UBC's Program for Undergraduate Research Experience

STRATEGIC CORE AREAS SUPPORTED

- People and Places Research Excellence Transformative Learning Local / Global Engagement



Report on UBC’s Program for Undergraduate Research Experience

Overview of Program

There is broad agreement across the UBC community that engagement in research provides students with the opportunity to apply their learning, enhances their critical thinking, problem solving and communication skill, and contributes to the creation of new knowledge. As such, broadening access to, and enhancing, undergraduate research experiences is a key priority in UBC’s new strategic plan (Strategy 8 in Shaping UBC’s Next Century). The **Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE)** supports innovative pilot projects that will advance this priority. PURE was designed and developed by a Steering Committee (see below) using background material from the report of the UBC Vancouver Senate Undergraduate Working Group.

A Steering Committee across both campuses, composed of students, staff and faculty members and representatives of the Vice-President Students, Vice-President Academic and Vice-President Research and Innovation offices developed the 2019 PURE competition call which was open to faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate and undergraduate students from both UBC campuses. PURE Information Sessions were held on both campuses immediately following the program launch. Applications were adjudicated in-person by a multidisciplinary panel composed of faculty, students, staff and external reviewers. 66 applications were submitted at UBC-Vancouver and 29 were submitted at UBC-Okanagan. Across the two campuses, 17 projects were funded, representing a 17.9% success rate and a total funding allocation of \$1.3 million from Academic Excellence Funds over 2 years.

The principal applicants of the funded projects included twelve faculty members, three staff members and two undergraduate students. Eight projects were led by women and nine led by men.

The projects were sponsored by a range of faculties, units and portfolios including Applied Science, Arts, Education, Forestry, Medicine, UBC Sauder, Science, Health and Social Development, CTLT, Materials and Manufacturing Research Institute, First Nations House of Learning, MOA, VP External and AVP International.

UBC Vancouver Funded PURE Projects (n=15)			
Project Title	PI Is	Sponsoring Faculty	Duration Year(s)
Advanced Research Cohort (ARC) Program for Undergraduates in Sociology	Faculty	Arts	2
Climate Justice Research Collective	Student - Undergraduate	Arts, Applied Sciences, Education, Forestry, Land and Food Systems, Sauder School of Business	2
Combining Research Experience and Technical Electives for Undergraduates (CREATE-U)	Faculty	Applied Science	2
Decolonizing the African Collections and Displays at the UBC Museum of Anthropology	Staff	Arts	2
Experiential human rights research: Expanding embedding undergrad research opportunities in partnership with Scholars at Risk	Faculty	Arts and Office of the VP, International	2



Report on UBC's Program for Undergraduate Research Experience

UBC Vancouver Funded PURE Projects (n=15)			
Indigenous Undergraduate Research Experience at x ^w cičəsəm	Faculty	Land and Food Systems, Education, First Nations House of Learning, CTLT	2
INtegrated undergraduate Student Program in Research Education (INSPIRE)	Faculty	Faculty of Medicine	2
Interdisciplinary Applied Research Initiative: Enhancing Urban Biodiversity in a Changing Climate	Staff	VP External Relations, Forestry, Arts, Science	2
Multidisciplinary Undergraduate 3 Minute Thesis (3MT)	Student - Undergraduate	Science	1
Participant Research on Videogame Environments (PROVE)	Faculty	Arts, Education	1
Punjabi Studies Oral History Research Project and Program Development	Faculty	Arts	2
PUREs for CUREs: Development of a Suite of Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experiences	Faculty	Science	2
Sustainability Science: An immersive research training experience in socio-ecological systems	Faculty	Science	2
Undergraduate Research Rotation in Balance Assessment and Rehabilitation	Faculty	Education (Kinesiology) and Medicine	2
Understanding and Strengthening Indigenous Student Engagement in Psychology	Faculty	Arts	2

UBC Okanagan Funded PURE Projects (n=2)			
Project Title	PI Is	Sponsoring Faculty	Duration Year(s)
Engaging Osoyoos' Past and Present: Land, People, Industry	Faculty	Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, UBC Okanagan	2
Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Research Projects in Health (MURPH)	Staff	Materials and Manufacturing Research Institute; Institute for Healthy Living & Chronic Disease Prevention; Centre for Heart, Lung & Vascular Health; Southern Medical Program; Faculty of Health and Social Development; School of Engineering	2

Summaries of the funded projects can be found here: <https://research.ubc.ca/about-vpri/program-undergraduate-research-experience-call-proposals/pure-funding-recipients>



Report on UBC's Program for Undergraduate Research Experience

Anticipated Impact:

Funding decisions were announced in March 2019 and the start date for PURE projects was April 23, 2019. Two of the 15 PURE projects have a 1-year term and the remaining 13 received two years of funding. While it is too early to report on the achieved outcomes and impacts of this initiative, all of the funded projects are expected to positively influence the undergraduate research experience at UBC and in doing so, to not only impact undergraduate students from a diverse range of disciplines and faculties but also graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty and staff. Some of the proposed project outcomes for undergraduate students include new opportunities to engage in community-based research on climate change; the development of a 3M thesis event for undergraduate researchers; and rare opportunities to work alongside museum professionals to catalogue MOA's African collections. The diverse range of impacts and outcomes of the PURE projects will be fully captured in the final project reports that will be submitted in August 2020 (1-year projects) and October 2021 (2-year projects).

Future Plans:

PURE was designed to fund innovative pilot projects. Future plans will be informed by the outcomes and impacts of the currently funded projects. Particularly impactful PURE projects/initiatives may inform subsequent programs to further expand access to and enhance undergraduate research experiences across UBC.