

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF
UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH 2015

ICUR.®





University of Washington,
Washington,
USA

Baruch College,
City University
of New York,
New York, USA

**University
of Warwick,**
Coventry, UK

**Nanyang
Technological
University,**
Singapore

**Singapore
Management
University,**
Singapore

**Kyushu
University,**
Fukuoka,
Japan

**University of
Tennessee,**
Knoxville, USA

**University of
North Carolina,**
Greensboro, USA

**Monash
University,**
Johannesburg,
South Africa

**Monash
University,**
Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia

**University
of Western
Australia,**
Perth, Australia

**Monash
University,**
Melbourne,
Australia

WELCOME TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH 2015

Welcome to an exciting event where research is shared on a global platform by undergraduates involved in a hugely diverse range of projects. This unique experience brings together a large supportive community of motivated students - just like you!

Being a part of this conference as a presenter or attendee is a great thing but becoming a truly engaged delegate is even better. We want to encourage you to think about how you can make the most of your experience today by making connections with other delegates and by reflecting on what you've done, seen and heard.

There is plenty of space in the following pages for you to jot down notes. Think about the presentations as you listen to them: What is particularly interesting to you? What follow up questions do you have for the Q&A sessions? What links and intersections do you see between different presentations on different topics? What would you like to investigate further? What aspects of other's presentations do you think work particularly well, or not? Reflect on your own presentation or contribution: What would you do the same or differently next time? What was the audience response? How will you take your research forward now?

We also encourage you to interact with your fellow presenters and delegates, exchange ideas, and make connections for the future. See or hear something interesting that you'd like to share with those who aren't here for the event? Share your thoughts and photos of the event on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram using #ICUR2015 to interact with your new-found colleagues - locally and across the globe.

Through ICUR we enable students located in the UK, Australia, the USA, Malaysia, Japan, Singapore and South Africa to communicate with each other in real-time, without having to leave your home institution - making the conference unique in concept and design. Using the latest in high-definition video conferencing technology, it connects students from universities across the world in a single 48-hour forum. ICUR is a platform that showcases the work of some of the world's best undergraduate researchers from all disciplines. Students present their research in joint sessions alongside peers on the other side of the world, interacting with fellow presenters and audiences through video-links and social media. We hope you enjoy this unique opportunity!



Now let's get started....

A STUDENT-CENTRED APPROACH

Every year students across the globe act as volunteers, directors, hosts and presenters – joining together as a community to support the conference in various ways.

An ICUR Student Volunteer receives training prior to the event and is placed in one of four essential roles depending on their interest and expertise. These are: delegate registration assistant, room steward, session chair, or information assistant. The registration desk is where those arriving over the course of the conference receive their information packs, schedules, name badges and bags. The room steward ensures the smooth running of each session, including acting as a time keeper for the presenters. The session chair introduces the topic and the presenters in that session and facilitates the Q&A at the end, encouraging discussion and interaction between the different topics. Finally, our information assistants are there to provide general assistance and to guide people to rooms and events throughout the day.

An ICUR Student Director provides the 'student voice' within in the ICUR organising committee. The role may vary in each institution but includes: writing the ICUR newsletter, promoting ICUR to the students and staff at each university, serving on the committees that review all submitted abstracts, and shortlisting applicants for the Monash-Warwick Alliance Travel Fellowship.

Meet some of our Student Directors:



Solene van Der Wielen, University of Warwick

"Reviewing abstracts for the upcoming conference was exciting as it gave me a glimpse of the impact undergraduate researchers may have on their own fields. It's easy for students to be intimidated by academics and assume that they shouldn't speak up but we think it's essential to show that thanks to growing networks and conferences such as ICUR, that isn't necessarily true anymore. We look forward to sharing this enthusiasm for new discoveries and new possibilities at ICUR this September."

Laura Riccardi and Alexis Tan, Monash University

"Some of the main tasks we've overseen include editing, formatting and disseminating the monthly newsletter to ICUR participants. The newsletter has been a major avenue of communication with applicants and later the selected presenters, allowing us as directors to inform students of impending deadlines, information pertaining to training and workshops and helpful tips on public speaking, writing a presentation for an academic conference and networking."



Monash-Warwick Alliance Travel Fellowship

Students who submitted an abstract to ICUR from Monash University and the University of Warwick were invited to apply for one of five available travel fellowships to present their research at the opposite institution.

In order to understand how global students plan to communicate their research in different countries and contexts, applicants were asked to answer the question: "How can your research be relevant to global societies?"

We received an overwhelming response! Applications came in the form of short films, Prezi presentations or slideshows with recorded voiceovers and soundtracks, written statements, and interactive PowerPoints. All of the applications were impressive and demonstrated sound thinking and creativity, making the selection process extremely competitive and difficult for the reviewing committee. We'd like to thank all of the committee members for their contribution and time devoted to the selection process.

Congratulations to the following travel fellowship recipients and welcome to Australia and the UK!

From Monash University (presenting at Warwick):

Hannah Carle, Helen Jambunathan, Erin McKernan, Lara Howden and Annemieke Thorbecke (joint application)

From the University of Warwick (presenting at Monash):

Alex Clark, Bethany Dean, Elizabeth Denny, Johnny Lam, Claire Saunders

ICUR: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE...

ICUR first emerged as a grassroots initiative by students and staff at Monash University and the University of Warwick who, funded and facilitated by the Monash-Warwick Alliance, sought to design a multi-disciplinary programme that would internationalise the student experience and enhance students' intercultural communication skills without being prohibitively expensive for them. The result was ICUR. At ICUR's core is a simple motto and design philosophy: student-led, student-centred. Students are at the centre of the leadership and planning of ICUR, guided and mentored by staff. And while ICUR provides a platform to showcase the finest undergraduate researchers at the participating institutions, it is also at its core a learning event for students.

After two previous successful conferences, ICUR 2015 represents a developed and expanded version of that first experiment between Monash and Warwick. The event is now held over two days and includes partners located across five continents. We have continued to grow and nurture these international partnerships and we look forward to more exciting developments in the coming years.



MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

At both Monash and Warwick universities our ground breaking and world-leading research is at the centre of everything we do. It is only natural therefore that we encourage and value research at all stages of our student and staff members' time with us. As an undergraduate you have a unique opportunity to look at academic research with a fresh perspective and at a time when you have resources, teachers and time on your side. At both Warwick and Monash research at the undergraduate level, and it's dissemination through academic journals and national and international conferences, is a high priority, with opportunities open to all students at all levels.

This year ICUR welcomes two exciting keynote speakers representing the Monash-Warwick Alliance: Professor Darrell Evans, Vice-provost (Learning and Teaching) from Monash University and Professor Christina Hughes, pro-Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) from the University of Warwick. Having had successful academic and research orientated careers, they are now responsible for academic leadership in areas relating to strategic teaching and learning activities. Darrell and Christina will share with you their first experiences of research - the impact of those experiences and where they led. They will also talk about leadership and the importance of taking the lead in your own learning and research.



My interest in research has been shaped by the wonderment I have had for biology since I was a young teenager. In particular I have been fascinated by the way things form and function and therefore specialised as a developmental biologist for my PhD focussing on the musculoskeletal system. I have loved the opportunity of discovering new things, creating new experiments to test ideas and learning from the great people around me. As I became more interested in teaching and learning, I developed a further research theme all around communicating with different audiences. I have become eager to ensure all our students have the opportunity to develop their communication skills whilst at university - what better way than for our students to be involved in ICUR! - Darrell Evans



My first introduction to Undergraduate Research was a research methods course I took in the second year of my Sociology degree. I then had the chance to practice what I had learnt through my final year dissertation. My dissertation was focused on gender and sexuality. Inspired by anthropological research, particularly that undertaken by the Chicago School, the methodology drew on a life history approach. How much I loved this – so much so that it inspired me to continue into a PhD where I carried on my anthropological approach, this time with stepfamilies. It is through these experiences of how powerful undergraduate research is as a strongly formative learning experience that I care so much about it. Research, for me, is always about the passionate engagement that comes from hoping you can change the world through better knowledge. This is not to deny the importance of rigour, validity and reliability in the production of that knowledge. But well-designed research needs to be combined with a commitment to trying to resolve some of the large, and small, issues that confound us. I am so glad that you have the opportunity to experience the thrill, and the challenges, of doing research and I'm looking forward to hearing more during the conference. - Christina Hughes

We look forward to hearing more during the keynote on September 30th.

YOUR RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Use this
space to
reflect on your
own research
project and
experiences

As presenters at ICUR 2015, you are given an opportunity to seek critical yet supportive feedback on your own research project. As members of the audience, you join a global community of undergraduate researchers united by common excellence and a passion for critical inquiry, engaging in dialogue over ideas produced by currents on the other side of the world. We want ICUR to allow you to combine the benefits of a broad, global lens with your own awareness of local issues and to communicate your research to a multi-disciplinary, international audience.

IT'S ALL ABOUT MAKING CONNECTIONS!

There is no time like the present to practice your networking skills. Getting to know your fellow delegates provides you with the opportunity to exchange and share information, discuss common interests or differing opinions, provide advice and support to each other and even work together on projects in the future. It's also not just about building these relationships now during your undergraduate studies, but maintaining ongoing connections in the future as well.... who knows when and where your paths may cross again.

Use this space to collect email addresses, Facebook contacts, LinkedIn profiles or even create a WhatsApp group to connect:

Francesca Gino, a professor at Harvard Business School explains "Today, probably even more than ever before, networks are a key form of social capital for achieving goals in both your professional and personal lives." And meeting people at conferences "who likely have the same interests as you and are highly relevant to your work" is a good way to nurture and expand your network, says Dorie Clark, author of *Stand Out Networking*. "The fact that technology has made it easier to interact with people across great distances and time zones actually makes face-to-face interaction even more valuable" (*Harvard Business Review*, 2015).

What have you learnt from areas outside of your own discipline? Have you come across any ideas or techniques that you could apply to our own work in the future?

Did you hear any great questions or answers during the Q&As? What were they? Why did they interest you?

Most areas of academic learning and research are improved if they are approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. Stepping outside the usual disciplinary silos gives the opportunity to learn about an area holistically, approaching complex ideas from a range of perspectives and exploiting the symbiotic potential of traditionally distinct disciplines. ICUR gives you the opportunity to think again about your research and consider it from an interdisciplinary standpoint, the opportunity to present alongside students researching the same area as you, but from a different discipline. Make the most of this opportunity to broaden your research mind!

THE SCHEDULE

Melbourne, Australia	8.30-9.00	9.00-9.15	9.15-10.45	10.45-12.15	12.15-13.00	13.00-14.30	14.30-16.00	16.00-16.30
Japan	7.30-8.00	8.00-8.15	8.15-9.45	9.45-11.15	11.15-12.00	12.00-13.30	13.30-15.00	15.00-15.30
Western Australia, Malaysia and Singapore	06.30-07.00	07.00-07.15	7.15-8.45	8.45-10.15	10.15-11.00	11.00-12.30	12.30-14.00	14.00-14.30
United Kingdom	23.30-00.00	00.00-00.15	00.15-01.45	01.45-03.15	03.15-04.00	04.00-05.30	05.30-07.00	07.00-07.30
South Africa	00.30-01.00	01.00-01.15	01.15-02.45	02.45-04.15	04.15-05.00	05.00-06.30	06.30-08.00	08.00-08.30
Eastern Time, USA	(Sept 28) 18.30-19.00	(Sept 28) 19.00-19.15	(Sept 28) 19.15-20.45	(Sept 28) 20.45-22.15	(Sept 28) 22.15-23.00	(Sept 28) 23.00-00.30	00.30-02.00	02.00-02.30
Western Time, USA	(Sept 28) 15.30-16.00	(Sept 28) 16.00-16.15	(Sept 28) 16.15-17.45	(Sept 28) 17.45-19.15	(Sept 28) 19.15-20.00	(Sept 28) 20.00-21.30	(Sept 28) 21.30-23.00	(Sept 28) 23.00-23.30
Monash, Australia	Registration	Introduction	Session 1A with Kyushu Session 1B with University of Washington	Session 2A with Monash-Malaysia Session 2B with UWA Session 2C with SMU Session 2D with NTU	Lunch	Session 3A with Monash-Malaysia Session 3B with UWA Session 3C with SMU	Session 4A with NTU Session 4B with UWA Session 4C with Kyushu and Monash-Malaysia	Tea Break
Kyushu University, Japan	Registration	Introduction	Session 1A with Monash-Australia	Session 2E with University of Washington	Lunch	Session 3D with UWA	Session 4C with Monash-Australia and Monash-Malaysia	Tea Break
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore			Registration and Introduction	Session 2D with Monash-Australia	Tea Break	Session 3E with University of Washington	Session 4A with Monash-Australia	Lunch
Singapore Management University, Singapore			Registration and Introduction	Session 2C with Monash-Australia	Tea Break	Session 3C with Monash-Australia	Session 4D with UWA	Lunch
University of Western Australia			Registration and Introduction	Session 2B with Monash-Australia	Tea Break	Session 3B with Monash-Australia Session 3D with Kyushu	Session 4B with Monash-Australia Session 4D with SMU	Lunch
Monash, Malaysia			Registration and Introduction	Session 2A with Monash-Australia	Tea Break	Session 3A with Monash-Australia	Session 4C with Monash-Australia and Kyushu	Lunch
University of Warwick, UK								
Monash, South Africa								
Baruch College, City University of New York, USA								
University of North Carolina, Greensboro, USA								
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA								
University of Washington, USA	Registration	Introduction	Session 1B with Monash Australia	Session 2E with Kyushu	Dinner	Session 3E with NTU		

September 28th (University of Washington, USA) September 29th (all other institutions)

16.30-18.00	18.00-19.30	19.30-21.00	21.00-22.00	22.00-23.30	23.30-01.00	01.00-01:30	01:30-03:00	03:00-04:30	04:30-05:00
15.30-17.00	17.00-18.30	18.30-20.00	20.00-21.00	21.00-22.30	22.30-00.00	00.00-00.30	00:30-02:00	02:00-03:30	03:30-04:00
14.30-16.00	16.00-17.30	17.30-19.00	19.00-20.00	20.00-21.30	21.30-23.00	23.00-23.30	23.30-01.00	01:00-02:30	02:30-03:00
07.30- 9.00	9.00-10.30	10.30-12.00	12.00-13.00	13.00-14.30	14.30-16.00	16.00-16:30	16.30-18.00	18.00-19.30	19.30-20.00
08.30-10.00	10.00-11.30	11.30-13.00	13.00-14.00	14.00-15.30	15.30-17.00	17.00-17.30	17.30- 19.00	19.00-20.30	20:30-21:00
02.30-04.00	04.00-05.30	05.30-07.00	07.00-08.00	0800-09:30	9.30-11.00	11.00-11.30	11.30- 13.00	13.00-14.30	14:30-15:00
(Sept 28) 23.30-01.00	01.00-02.30	02.30-04.00	04.00-05.00	05:00-06:30	06.30-08.00	08.00-08.30	08.30-10.00	10.00- 11:30	11:30-12:00
Session 5A with Monash-Malaysia Session 5C with Kyushu	Session 6A with Monash-Malaysia Session 6B with Monash-South Africa Session 6C with Warwick								
Session 5C with Monash-Australia	Session 6D with Warwick and NTU	Session 7B with Warwick and NTU							
Session 5B with UWA	Session 6D with Warwick and Kyushu	Session 7B with Warwick and Kyushu							
Session 5B with NTU	Session 6E with Warwick	Session 7C with Warwick							
Session 5A with Monash-Australia	Session 6A with Monash-Australia								
Registration and Introduction	Session 6C with Monash-Australia Session 6D with Kyushu and NTU Session 6E with UWA	Session 7A with Monash-South Africa Session 7B with Kyushu and NTU Session 7C with UWA	Lunch	Session 8A with Monash-South Africa and Baruch Session 8B with University of Tennessee Session 8C with UNCG	Session 9A with Monash-South Africa Session 9B with UNCG and Baruch Session 9C with University of Tennessee	Afternoon Tea and Poster Session	Session 10A with University of Washington Session 10B with Baruch Session 10C with University of Tennessee and UNCG	Session 11A with University of Washington Session 11B with Baruch Session 11C with University of Tennessee	
Registration and Introduction	Session 6B with Monash-Australia	Session 7A with Warwick	Lunch	Session 8A with Warwick and Baruch	Session 9A with Warwick				
			Registration and Introduction	Session 8A with Warwick and Monash-South Africa	Session 9B with UNCG and Warwick	Tea Break	Session 10B with Warwick	Session 11B with Warwick	
			Registration and Introduction	Session 8C with Warwick	Session 9B with Baruch and Warwick	Tea Break	Session 10C with Warwick and University of Tennessee		
			Registration and Introduction	Session 8B with Warwick	Session 9C with Warwick	Tea Break	Session 10C with Warwick and UNCG	Session 11C with Warwick	
						Registration	Session 10A with Warwick	Session 11A with Warwick	

THE SCHEDULE

Melbourne, Australia	8.00-9.30	9.30-11.00	11.00-12.30	12.30-14.00	14.00-15.30	15.30-17.00	17.00-17.30
Japan	07.00-08.30	08.30-10.00	10.00-11.30	11.30-13.00	13.00-14.30	14.30-16.00	16.00-16.30
Western Australia, Malaysia and Singapore	06.00-07.30	07.30-09.00	9.00-10.30	10.30-12.00	12.00-13.30	13.30-15.00	15.00-15.30
United Kingdom	23.00-00.30	00.30-02.00	02.00-03.30	03.30-05.00	05.00-06.30	06.30-08.00	8.00-8.30
South Africa	00.00-01.30	01.30-03.00	03.00-04.30	04.30-06.00	06.00-07.30	07.30-09.00	09.00-09.30
Eastern Time, USA	(Sept 29) 18.00-19.30	(Sept 29) 19.30-21.00	(Sept 29) 21.00-22.30	(Sept 29) 22.30-00.00	00.00-01.30	01.30-03.00	03.00-03.30
Western Time, USA	(Sept 29) 15:00-16.30	(Sept 29) 16.30-18.00	(Sept 29) 18.00-19.30	(Sept 29) 19.30-21.00	(Sept 29) 21.00-22.30	22.30-00.00	00.00-00.30
Monash, Australia	Session 12A with University of Washington	Session 13A with University of Washington	Session 14A with Kyushu Session 14B with UWA Session 14C with Monash-Malaysia Session 14D with SMU	Lunch	Session 15B with UWA Session 15C with Monash-Malaysia	Session 16A with Kyushu Session 16B with NTU Session 16C with Monash-Malaysia	Tea Break
Kyushu University, Japan			Session 14A with Monash-Australia	Session 15A with University of Washington	Lunch	Session 16A with Monash-Australia	Tea Break
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore			Session 14E with University of Washington	Lunch	Session 15D with UWA	Session 16B with Monash-Australia	Tea Break
Singapore Management University, Singapore			Session 14D with Monash-Australia		Lunch	Session 16D with UWA	Tea Break
University of Western Australia			Session 14B with Monash-Australia	Lunch	Session 15B with Monash-Australia Session 15D with NTU	Session 16D with SMU	Tea Break
Monash, Malaysia			Session 14C with Monash-Australia	Lunch	Session 15C with Monash-Australia	Session 16C with Monash-Australia	Tea Break
University of Warwick, UK							Registration and Introduction
Monash, South Africa							Registration and Introduction
Baruch College, City University of New York, USA							
University of North Carolina, Greensboro, USA							
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA							
University of Washington, USA	Session 12A with Monash-Australia	Session 13A with Monash-Australia	Session 14E with NTU	Session 15A with Kyushu			

September 29th (University of Washington, USA) September 30th (all other institutions)

17.30-18.30	18.30-19.00	19.00-20.30	20.30-22.00	22.00-23.00	23.00-00.30	00.30-2.00	2.00-02.30
16.30-17.30	17.30-18.00	18.00-19.30	19.30-21.00	21.00-22.00	22.00-23.30	23.30-01.00	01.00-01.30
15.30-16.30	16.30- 17.00	17.00-18.30	18.30-20.00	20.00-21.00	21.00-22.30	22.30-00.00	00.00-00.30
8.30-09.30	9.30-10.00	10.00-11.30	11.30-13.00	13.00-14.00	14.00-15.30	15.30-17.00	17.00-17.30
9.30-10.30	10.30-11.00	11.00-12.30	12.30-14.00	14.00-15.00	15.00-16.30	16.30-18.00	18.00-18.30
03.30-04.30	04.30-05.00	05.00-6.30	6.30-8.00	8.00-9.00	09.00-10.30	10.30-12.00	12.00-12.30
00.30-01.30	01.30-02.00	02.00-03.30	03.30-05.00	05.00-06.00	06.00-07.30	07.30-09.00	09.00-09.30
Joint Keynote	Dinner	Session 17A with Warwick Session 17C with Monash- Malaysia					
Joint Keynote	Dinner	Session 17B with Warwick					
Joint Keynote	Dinner	Session 17D with Warwick	Session 18A with Warwick				
Joint Keynote							
Joint Keynote	Dinner	Session 17E with Monash- South Africa					
Joint Keynote	Dinner	Session 17C with Monash- Australia					
Joint Keynote	Morning Tea and Poster Session	Session 17A with Monash-Australia Session 17B with Kyushu Session 17D with NTU	Session 18A with NTU Session 18B with Monash- South Africa Session 18C with UNCG	Lunch	Session 19A with Monash- South Africa Session 19B with Baruch Session 19C with UNCG	Session 20A with Baruch Session 20B with UNCG and University of Tennessee	Prize Giving and Closing Remarks
Joint Keynote	Morning Tea	Session 17E with UWA	Session 18B with Warwick	Lunch	Session 19A with Warwick		
1				Registration	Session 19B with Warwick	Session 20A with Warwick	
		Registration	Session 18C with Warwick	Breakfast	Session 19C with Warwick	Session 20B with Warwick and University of Tennessee	
					Registration	Session 20B with UNCG and Warwick	

PRESENTATION AND COMMUNICATION

We hope that during ICUR 2015 you will acquire important skills in communication and leadership. For many of you this will be your first experience of presenting your research at an academic conference. ICUR provides a supported yet realistic experience for undergraduates in presenting their academic research. We'd like you to use these pages to reflect on presentations you have seen and heard today as well as your own presentation.

Think about what you've heard and seen today – which presentations and posters worked well and which didn't? Why or why not?

What presenters/ ideas were most memorable to you?

"To learn through listening, practice it naively and actively. Naively means that you listen openly, ready to learn something, as opposed to listening defensively, ready to rebut. Listening actively means you acknowledge what you heard and act accordingly."
– Betsy Sanders, former Senior Vice President and General Manager, Nordstrom

If you were a presenter – how do you feel about your own presentation? What feedback did you receive? Where do you think you could improve?

How did other presentations effectively communicate to the global audiences?

Which poster design grabbed your attention first? Why?

NOW YOU'VE DONE YOUR RESEARCH... HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HAVING IT PUBLISHED?

As a participant at ICUR, you have worked hard to develop a presentation of your research to this international audience. The next natural step is to write a paper for publication! *Reinvention: An International Journal of Undergraduate Research*, the research journal run by the Monash-Warwick Alliance, provides exactly that- a space for active undergraduate researchers, at universities around the world, to publish their work.

Think of all the benefits of publishing research with *Reinvention* will bring you: enhancing research and writing skills, working through the editing and journal publication process, collaborating with students and staff across your university and seeing your research efforts and hard work actually come to life and be accessible to others.

Meet one of *Reinvention's* Assistant Editors:

Joe Grimwade, University of Warwick

"Editing Reinvention has helped me learn what top-quality original work looks like, improving and honing my own approach to independent research and degree coursework. Whether you're intending to do a postgrad course or not, research experience as an undergraduate will equip you with skills different and beyond those of a standard degree."



We encourage all the participants in ICUR to further disseminate their research by writing a journal paper and submitting it to the *Reinvention* editorial board for review. We will publish a special issue featuring the work of ICUR presenters in early 2016.

If you visit us at warwick.ac.uk/reinventionjournal you can find publications in each journal issue printed online over the past 8 years and get more information about the development of the journal, the peer review process as well as guidance on writing and submitting a paper, among other useful 'top tips.'

You can also keep up to date by visiting and liking our Facebook page- *Reinvention: an International Journal of Undergraduate Research*



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Baruch College, City University of New York (USA)

Baruch College, part of the City University of New York, is a diverse urban campus in Manhattan with over 14,000 undergraduates speaking 120 languages. Many students are the first in their families to attend college and are immigrants or children of immigrants. We celebrate this wonderful diversity, which connects Baruch to the world through its students. While many students attend Baruch to pursue business degrees in the Zicklin School of Business, the college also has a strong Weissman School of Arts and Sciences, offering liberal arts majors and minors, and a School of Public Affairs. Baruch is committed to enhancing research opportunities for undergraduates and embraces the mission of deepening student engagement with the globe. Therefore, we are very excited about participating in this international conference so that our students can interact with contemporaries around the globe and gain pride in presenting their original work.

Katherine Pence, Chair and Associate Professor of History and Director of Women's and Gender Studies

Kyushu University (JAPAN)

Undergraduate research represents the first major opportunity for future researchers and professionals to take charge of a research project in all its aspects, from project design to communication. ICUR offers students a unique forum to gain experience in presenting their own research in front of an international audience of peers. It is both a form of training and an actual conference – the ideal step-up toward the more typical international conferences. Students can get a sense of – and may get inspired by – the quality and range of work being done by their peers in different corners of the globe.

Professor Jan Lauwereyns, Graduate School of Systems Life Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Science, Kyushu University

Monash University (AUSTRALIA, MALAYSIA, SOUTH AFRICA)

Welcome to ICUR 2015! We are very excited to be running this transformative event again this year. Monash University is proud to be a leader of this exciting new international initiative which is demonstrative of our commitment to delivering a global education to our students.

Monash is a university driven by innovation; the ability to identify urgent areas of intervention, coupled with a burning desire to make a difference, is woven into the intellectual fabric of our institution and enfolds our teaching, learning, and research. ICUR is an important part of the pioneering learning and teaching work done at Monash, both for the opportunity to enhance students' skills in articulating their ideas to a broader audience, and to develop and refine their competence in intercultural communication. Our students presenting today are the best and brightest of their cohort, and we are tremendously excited to hear their presentations after many months of preparation.

Ernest Koh, Senior Lecturer in History, and Kirra Minton, Academic Coordinator in the Office of the Vice-President, Monash-Warwick Alliance

Nanyang Technological University (SINGAPORE)

We are excited to be involved in this interactive global undergraduate research conference programme of ICUR once again. ICUR has virtually brought and connected NTU URECA undergraduate research students to the research minded undergraduates from some of the world's finest universities. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to coordinate an international academic conference as well as to present their research to international audience through the use of advance technology. The experience gained through ICUR is highly valuable for their future career where presentation and meeting via videoconference are becoming norms. We look forward to greater success of ICUR in the years to come.

Associate Professor Sivakumar AI, Siva, School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), Director of the Undergraduate Research Programme-URECA@NTU, Director of the Joint MSc Project Management programme at NTU

Singapore Management University (SINGAPORE)

As a school that focuses on undergraduates, SMU's School of Social Sciences has always been committed to undergraduate research. We have an ambitious senior thesis program, reserved for only a small handful of interested students who work one-on-one with faculty for one year. And we have a number of faculty who have published with their undergraduate students in top journals in their field. This has helped our students become accepted into the top international PhD programs.

Our commitment to undergraduate research is just one of many reasons we are excited about our participation with ICUR. This is another platform for students throughout the university to share their excellent research. This extends our reach to more students, getting them involved in research and imparting our passion for generating original knowledge. Our participation has already born tangible fruit, with publications and graduate school enrollments. But even beyond these, the excitement of discussing research with peers across the oceans is more than worthwhile for its own sake.

John Donaldson is Associate Professor of Political Science at Singapore Management University

University of North Carolina, Greensboro (USA)

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro is committed to cultivating a greater appreciation of knowledge and understanding through undergraduate research experiences. Our dedication to undergraduate research starts the development of research skills within our general education curriculum. Most degree programs include a capstone project that requires utilization of discipline-specific research tools to demonstrate curricular proficiency. Furthermore, we encourage students to get involved in faculty-mentored research/scholarly projects and to present the culmination of such work to a variety of audiences. The ICUR is a wonderful opportunity for select UNCG students to interact with others from around the globe.

Jan Rychtář, Professor, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and Lee Phillips, Ph.D., Director, Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creativity Office

University of Tennessee, Knoxville (USA)

Engaged student learning, of which undergraduate research is a key element, is a priority at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Undergraduate Research provides students with the opportunity to explore their passions. Through a process of applied knowledge, research reinforces lessons learned in the traditional classroom and prepares students for an immediate career or graduate school. Allowing students to present their research to and attend presentations of the broader international community is key to understanding that research is a global enterprise, is naturally diverse, and research problems we are seeking answers to are not unique to our own back yard. ICUR is a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience the global research enterprise and we are excited to participate in this year's event.

Marisa Moazen, Director of Undergraduate Research, Office of Research & Engagement, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

University of Warwick (UK)

The University of Warwick's commitment to undergraduate research and the dissemination of that research means that we are ideally placed to offer this opportunity to students at the undergraduate level, with the aim of giving all students a voice within the academic community. Our strategy at Warwick is structured to ensure that students are a part of a distinctive learning experience, characterised by research-led learning and teaching.

The Institute for Advanced Teaching and Learning (IATL), where ICUR at Warwick is based, was formed to take forward key aspects of the University's Teaching and Learning Strategy, particularly a commitment to innovation, interdisciplinarity, inclusiveness and internationalism. All of these strategic aims are embodied within ICUR. ICUR has the explicit aim of giving students a realistic, yet supported experience of presenting research at an academic conference and we also work with students after the conference to reflect on their experiences. As ICUR continues to grow we are very excited to work with new institutions, expanding the horizons of our students, welcoming others to the project and giving everyone involved a truly exciting, innovative and international experience.

Caroline Gibson, Academic Manager, and Emma Barker, Assistant Manager for ICUR and Reinvention, IATL, University of Warwick

University of Washington (USA)

Founded in 1861, the University of Washington (UW) is one of the oldest public universities on the West Coast of the United States. The UW includes three campuses and an academic medical center, which receive more than \$1 billion annually for research through competitive grants and contracts. UW undergraduates engage in research, scholarship, and creative activity guided by faculty in all academic disciplines. Participation in this International Virtual Student Research Conference resonates with the UW's mission of educating productive, global citizens, and offers students a vital opportunity to connect with their peers around issues important to society.

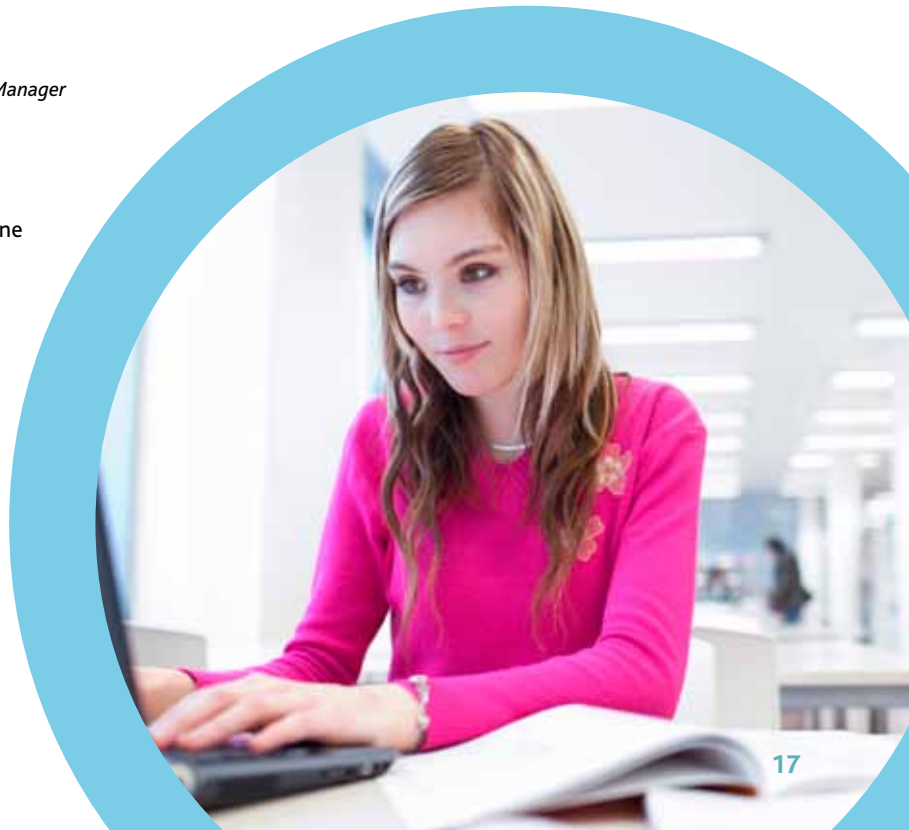
Janice DeCosmo, Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Research and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, University of Washington

University of Western Australia

Undergraduate Research is recognised and supported at UWA by its inclusion in its strategic priorities plan and new curriculum structure. UWA expects all undergraduate students to have an undergraduate research experience by the time they graduate. This is achieved at the Faculty level with many programs on offer, and at the institutional level, where students can apply for a co-curricular internship scheme. The highly acclaimed, awarding winning internship program gives students a nine month internship to develop skills in research while investigating an aspect of teaching and learning that is of strategic importance to the university.

In 2015, UWA is hosting a co-badged undergraduate conference (ICUR and ACUR) illustrating the high importance it places on undergraduate research.

Professor Sally Sandover, Academic Director of the Educational Strategies Office, University of Western Australia



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