Upgrading UROP to UROP+REx

Briefing for SoC Students
29 July 2024
4pm

Undergraduate Research Team
Office of the Provost

Briefing Agenda

- Overview of UROP+REx

- Eligibility and Application matters

- Assessment Matters

- Differences between UROP and UROP+REx

- Useful contacts

What is REx?

Research Experience (REx) programme was launched in January 2023 at CHS and has now expanded to other faculties including SoC.

It's main objective is to encourage more undergraduate students in NUS to partake in research through **UROP** by providing **grants**, **workshops** and opportunities for students to **take ownership and showcase their work** through conferences and networking opportunities.

UROP REx+
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE+

Why should students consider taking UROP?

Benefits of undergraduate research

- Helps students put their theory into practice

- Develop highly useful transferrable skills such as problem-solving, critical thinking skills, resourcefulness and effective communication

- Early training in research for those keen to take up FYP, pursue graduate studies or a career in research and innovation

Overview of UROP+REx

Four components of UROP+REx:

REx Grant of up to $2500	**Research Themed Workshops**	**Research Showcase**	**Certificate of Completion**

REx Grant

All REx Fellows have access to a **$2500 grant** which can be used to support expenses related to their research project.

REx Fellows have **until their final semester in NUS** to access the grant.

The **default** process of accessing the grant is by **reimbursement** whereby students make any necessary purchases and claim the amount by submitting reimbursement form(s) attached with receipts.

How do REx Fellows claim from the grant?

1) Fill up reimbursement form and attach all relevant receipts into a single PDF file.

2) Email completed reimbursement form to NUS REx at pvobox66@nus.edu.sg. More than one form can be submitted if needed.

REx Workshops

REx Fellows are to attend a **minimum of 5 REx workshops** over 12 months.

This should comprise of **two core workshops** (Ethics in Research and Research Methodologies) and **three elective** workshops of choice.

All REx workshops are conducted in person at either Central Library or Medicine+Science Library, unless otherwise stated.

Workshops are scheduled between **Week 6 to Week 13** of Semesters 1 and 2.
Schedule will be announced by Week -1 of each semester.

Current suite of REx workshops

Core
Ethics in Research
Research Methodologies

Elective
Data Storytelling
Poster Presentation
Research Communications
Storytelling for Impactful Communication
Sharing Your Research: Making the Pitch work for you
Artificial Intelligence in Research
Careers in Research
Writing Scientific Reports
Preparing Research Portfolio

REx Workshops

REx Workshop Schedule (Semester 2 AY23/24)					
REx Workshop	Instructor(s)	Date(s)	Time	Location	Remarks
Core (Mandatory for all REx Fellows)					
Ethics in Research	Dr Rafi Rashid	**Part 1: 13 March 2024** **Part 2: 27 March 2024**	5.30-7.30pm	DS Lab @ Central Library	REx Fellows are required to attend **both Part 1 and Part 2** of Ethics in Research workshop.
Research Methodologies	Dr Magdeline Ng Mr Richard Ho A/P Natalie Pang	**Option 1: 21 February 2024 (STEM)** **Option 2: 4 March 2024 (HSS)**			REx Fellows are required to attend **only one** Research Methodologies workshop (Option 1 – STEM or Option 2 – HSS)
Elective (REx Fellows are to attend a minimum of 3 elective REx workshops)					
Research Communications	Ms Brenda Yuen Dr Lee Ming Cherk	**19 February 2024**	4-6pm	DS Lab @ Central Library	
Data Storytelling	Darrel (Kontinentalist) Gwyneth (Kontinentalist)	**5 March 2024**	2-4pm		
Poster Presentation	Dr Siti Nur Fairuz Sheikh Ismail	**20 March 2024**	12-2pm		
Research Oriented Writing	Dr Tait Bergstrom	**26 March 2024**	10am-12pm		
Panel Discussion	Ms Priyam Sinha	**6 March 2024**	4-6pm		
Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Research	A/P Tan Wee Kek Dr Lek Hsiang Hui	**2 April 2024**	6-8pm		
Careers in Research	Dr Benjamin Tan (CFG) Dr Lakshmi Ramachandran (CFG)	**5 April 2024**	4-6pm		

Example of workshop schedule in Semester 2 AY2324

Research Showcase

As part of our objective to encourage UROP students to showcase their work beyond graded presentations and to take ownership of their projects, REx Fellows are required to **showcase their research** via either one of the following options:

Present their research at the annual UROP+REx Conference

Participating in Researcher Unbound Plus hosted by PVO-UGRC and NUS Libraries

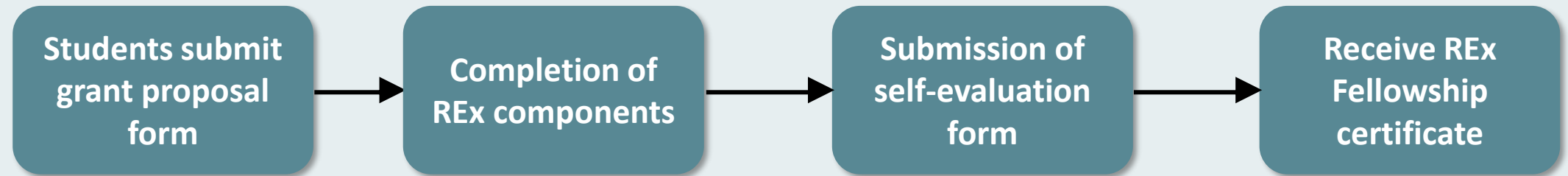**Submission of a research deliverable in relation to research project**

** UROP report submitted to supervisors for grading **cannot** be double counted as research deliverable.*

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Completion of Fellowship

■ Students should complete the following components within **12 months** upon onboarded as a REx Fellow:

1. Attend **at least five REx workshops** (including Research Methodologies and Ethics in Research)

2. Either one of the following **research showcase** options:

   a) Presentation of research work during annual UROP+REx Conference

   b) Participation in RU+ workshops hosted in collaboration with NUS Libraries

   c) Submission of a deliverable of chosen format in relation to UROP project (e.g. research poster, slide deck presented at a local or international conference or executive summary)

■ **Self-Evaluation forms** are to be submitted to PVO upon completion of all REx components.

Official e-Certificate of Completion will be issued via Accredible when REx Fellows complete all components of the course upgrade.

Journey of a REx Fellow

| Students submit grant proposal form | → | Completion of REx components | → | Submission of self-evaluation form | → | Receive REx Fellowship certificate |

Completion Checklist (for students)
- ✓ Grant Proposal form
- ✓ Attendance of five REx workshops
- ✓ Research Showcase
- ✓ Reimbursement form (if applicable)
- ✓ Self-evaluation form

All forms relevant to REx can be downloaded from NUS Undergraduate Research website

Eligibility and Application Matters

- **Eligibility**

  - Currently applying for CP3209 in upcoming semester <u>or</u> Have completed 1 semester of CP3209

  - Have at least 60 units at the point of applying (including units enrolled during the project selection semester)

- **Timeline (for Semesters 1 and 2)**

  - Week 3: Deadline for SOC students to upgrade to UROP+REx

    (Sem 1 AY2425: **30 August 2024**)

  - Week 5: Students, Supervisors and Course Admins will be informed of application outcome. REx Fellows onboarded to REx CANVAS page REX1000.

Eligibility and Application Matters

- **Application procedure**
  - Download REx Fellows' Grant Proposal Form from NUS Undergraduate Research website
  - Email completed form to NUS REx at pvobox66@nus.edu.sg
  - Students, supervisors and course admins will be informed of application outcome latest by Week 5

Administrative Matters

Upon upgrading to UROP+REx:

- Allocation of 0 Unit rider course code **CP3209R** on EduREc
  - REx Fellows will have 2 course codes (CP3209 and CP3209R) reflected on EduREc
- Onboarding to **REX1000 CANVAS** page (accessible to REx Fellows until graduation unless withdraws from programme)
- Allocation of UROP CANVAS page (if any)

Does my UROP Supervisor need to take note of additional roles?

- No additional roles for supervisors if students decide to upgrade to UROP+REx
- Supervisors are only required to endorse application and reimbursement forms, and provide guidance of relevant matters where needed (proposed budget breakdown, suggested formats for research showcase)

Assessment Matters for Students

By SOC

- Grading of UROP report and presentation as per department guidelines

By PVO

- Completion of REx components (workshops and research showcase)
    - *No affect to final grade of UROP*
    - *e-Certificate of Completion*

*As part of the programme's objective to encourage students to explore further scope of their research, REx Fellows are **not allowed** to double count their UROP report/presentation to fulfill research showcase component.*

Difference between UROP and UROP+REx

	UROP	UROP+REx
Course units	8 units	8 Units

Format	Students carry out UROP project and complete report and presentation.	- UROP project and report
		- REx components
		    - Attending 5 REx workshops
		    - Completion of Research Showcase

Assessment	UROP report and presentation to examiners.	**No additional assessments** in addition to UROP report and presentation. E-Certificate of Completion will be issued via Accredible upon completion of REx components
Supervisor's role	Supervision of student's UROP project and grading of assessment.	No additional role by UROP/ISC supervisors if students choose to upgrade their course with REx. Supervisors will be required to **endorse student's grant application forms** and **reimbursement claims and provide guidance** on relevant matters such as their research showcase, usage of grant monies ect.
Grant monies	N.A.	Up to **$2,500 per REx Fellow**. Accessible until graduation.

Contacts

NUS REx

pvobox66@nus.edu.sg

REx Coordinators

John Caines (Manager)	Losheini Ravindran (Assistant Manager)	Dr Siti Nur Fairuz Sheikh Ismail (Instructor)	Siti Fathima D/O Rasali (Executive)
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NUS REx website

NUS Undergraduate Research