

*Undergraduate
Research
Experience
Placements as a
Window into
Postgraduate
Study*

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PG WP Workshop,
Durham 31.03.26 – 01.04.26*

Widening Participation UG Research Experience Placement (REP): Aims



Participants more likely to apply to Cambridge or other research-intensive Universities



More applicants from non-traditional backgrounds



Greater diversity in our research student population

Widening Participation UG Research Experience Placement (REP): Opportunities



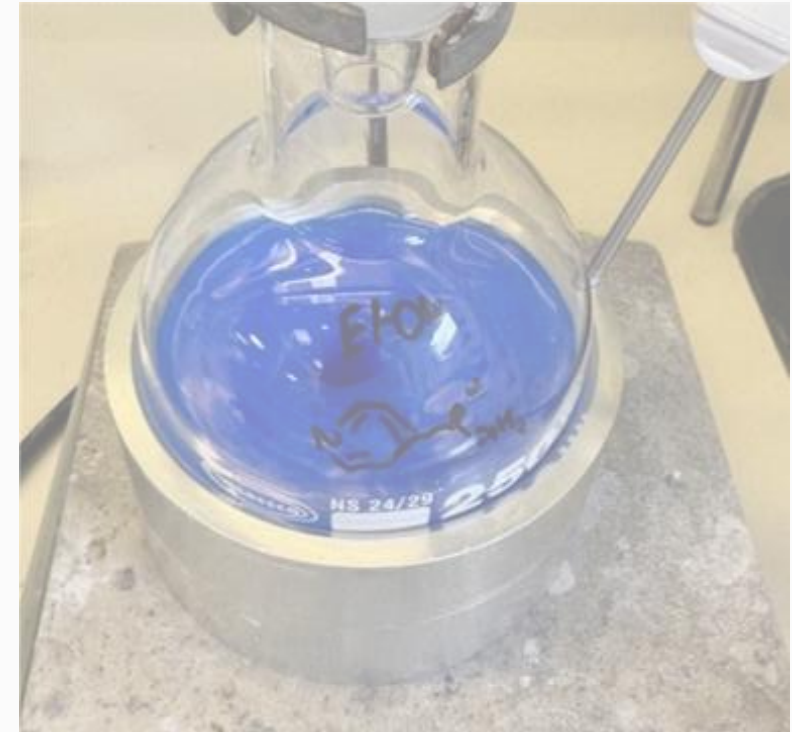
Chemistry



Schools of the Physical
Sciences and Technology



Programmes across Cambridge



Programmes Across Cambridge: Six Schemes Covering all Schools

Aspiring Researchers (Arts and Humanities)	8 participants 4 Departments
Social Science and Humanities Access to Research Experience (SHARE) (Humanities and Social Sciences)	10 participants 5 Departments
Experience Postgrad Life Sciences (Biological Sciences/Clinical Medicine)	15 participants 11 Departments
Leverhulme Centre for Life in the Universe (Physical Sciences)	3 participants 3 Departments
Google DeepMind Research Ready (Computer Science and Technology)	10 participants 1 Department
STEM Summer Research Internship Scheme (Physical Sciences/Technology)	17 participants 6 Departments

Programmes Across Cambridge: Nuts and Bolts



4- or 8-week duration



Average cost £675p/w



Accommodation provided



Additional components/training



Outputs varied

Programmes Across Cambridge: Application and Participant Statistics

- **931 applications for 69 places across the 6 programmes**
- **All participants met at least one of the WP eligibility criteria**
- **Participants came from a total of 46 institutions**
- **68% participants did not come from a Russell Group Institution**
- **70% participants met PUF (potential undermatcher flag) criteria**
- **50% participants were from under-represented ethnicities**

**Potential Undermatcher Flag (PUF): helps to identify applicants who have not previously studied at Oxford or Cambridge and meet at least one of the WP criteria.

Programmes Across Cambridge: Participant Survey Statistics

- **100% received support to develop the skills they need for applying to postgraduate study.**
- **90% received access to resources and research skills training that they would not have otherwise had.**
- **86% had better understanding on how to write an application, personal statement and research proposal.**
- **97% knew what studying at postgraduate level would be like.**
- **75% expressed increased confidence about applying to postgraduate study at Cambridge or another research-intensive University.**
- **79% were considering applying to a postgraduate taught course.**
- **90% were considering applying to a postgraduate research course.**

Programmes Across Cambridge: Partial Impact Picture

Total number of REP participants that applied to Cambridge: 33/101

(16 MPhil; 10 PhD; 7 both)

Offers made: 18/33

(10 MPhil; 8 PhD)

Applications and success rate at other research-intensive Universities: currently unknown

Average Offer Rates

	All applicants	In receipt of PUF flag**
REP participants	55%	47%
All applicants*	40%	28%

*UK-schooled applicants, doctoral and non-doctoral, courses administered by PAO;

**Potential Undermatcher Flag (PUF): helps to identify applicants who have not previously studied at Oxford or Cambridge and meet WP criteria.

Participating in the programme really developed my understanding of postgraduate study and demystified all of the intimidating ideas I had surrounding Cambridge. I feel like I could be welcomed here and I would be much more likely to apply.

I honestly just want to say thank you, schemes like this really make a difference. We all loved the experience and couldn't be more grateful.

Honestly I can't really choose anything I didn't like as I thought it was a great experience and loved it all equally.

I have become more confident, have gained so much knowledge in my field and was pushed to meet high standards which was really good!

I have developed both personally and professionally and the experience was far better than I had ever imagined. I have gained a level of professional research experience and independence as well as team work in a research environment which will benefit me very much moving forward in my career.

The internship has shown me how much scope there is for growth — both technically and personally. I have learned the importance of mindset: being willing to pivot when things don't work, adapting to setbacks, and approaching problems systematically. These are lessons I will carry forward into both research and future opportunities. (SPS)

It was all truly amazing and I could not talk more highly of the internship. Thank you to everyone involved.