

SPECIAL PROGRAMME IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR) APPLICATION GUIDE

Prepared by: Undergraduate Education (Research) Team, Office of the Provost

What is SPUR?

The Special Programme in Undergraduate Research (SPUR) is a Special Honours programme, starting in the first or third semester of study for a selected group of high-performing students who show early promise in undergraduate research. SPUR aggregates existing undergraduate research activities, including the UROP and REx programmes, as well as FYP/HT.

Who can apply?

All NUS undergraduates in the AY26/27 Year 1 and Year 2 cohorts and future cohorts (other than Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Law and SCALE BTech/BIT) are eligible.

Students from AY26/27 Year 3 and above are not eligible even if they had completed some research courses, because early mentoring is a key feature of SPUR.

When to apply?

Entry into SPUR is at the beginning of Year 1 or Year 2 of study.

The application window for SPUR is ONLY once a year, at the beginning of each AY in August

How to apply?

Students are to access the [SPUR Application form](#) and submit a research portfolio. The research portfolio is a demonstration of research aptitude (eg; internships, research work in JC/Poly courses) and may consist of text, images and links to videos of research engagement such as (but not limited to) fieldwork experience, presentations and personal websites. The research portfolio submission should be a pdf document that is no larger than 10MB.

What are the SPUR requirements?



Core Requirements

16-20 units

Research Methods course (**4 units**)

UROP enhanced with REx or UREx at CDE (**4 units**)

Research-based HT/FYP (**8-12 units**)



Elective Requirements*

12 units

Up to 2 Level 3000/4000 courses with
research focus

OR

Up to 2 Level 5000/6000 courses

1 additional UROP or Independent Study Course

OR

1 research internship course



SPUR Completion

28-32 units

Students will graduate from the SPUR
programme on the condition that their
overall GPA does not fall below 3.5

What is a SPUR journey like?

Scenario**	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Final Year
Student in SPUR and Special Programme in Science (FoS)	 SP2271/SP2274/SP2273 Research Methods course	 SP3176/SP3275/SP3172 (can be paired with REx) UROPs+REx (if did not do SP3172+REx)	 Research Internship	 12-units FYP Level 5000/6000 elective courses
Student in SPUR and Engineering Scholars Programme (CDE)	Research Methods course	UREx	Priority admission to SEP or NOC; Industrial Attachment (Research Internship)	16-units E-Scholars project; Level 5000/6000 elective courses
Student participating in SPUR and Turing Programme (SOC)	CS2309; Research Methods course	CS3209	UROP+REx	12-units CP4101 BComp Dissertation with research content to meet the Industrial Experience Requirement (Research Internship); Level 5000/6000 elective courses
Student participating in SPUR and NUS College (NUSC)	Foundational and Common Courses; Research Methods course	Impact Experience Team Project; UROP+REx	Global Exchange Course; Making Connections Elective Courses	HT/FYP; Level 5000/6000 elective courses
Student participating in SPUR and DDP	Singapore Studies/General Education courses	Research Methods course	Faculty/Major requirements; UROP+REx Student will continue completing Faculty/Major requirements in Year 4	HT/FYP; Level 5000/6000 elective courses
Student participating in SPUR and FASS	Exposure and Common Curriculum courses	Research Methods course; Faculty/Major requirements	UROP+REx; Level 2000/3000 elective research courses	HT; Level 5000/6000 elective courses

*Level 3000/4000 courses with research focus here refer to courses offered by departments in their home faculty/school/college. Level 5000/6000 courses here refer to those offered either by home department/major or NUS Graduate School, subject to prevailing course pre-requisites. These can include NG5001 Academic Communication for Graduate Researchers or NG5002 Research Ethics for Graduate Researchers. These scenarios are just examples, and we welcome all eligible students to apply.

**Scenarios are non exhaustive, The PVO team will work with Dean's Offices to coordinate students' SPUR journeys in the context of their individual academic plans.

Mentorship, Resources and Opportunities



Upon admission into SPUR, students will be assigned two mentors from the Undergraduate Research Academy (UR Academy) which will be established in partnership with the NUS Graduate School



On top of having access to the existing REx research grant, students in SPUR also have access to an additional SPUR grant of up to \$1,500.

The SPUR grant can be used for expenses related to their projects or internships. It is accessible throughout the duration of SPUR participation; all claims should be made by the student's graduating semester.



Students in SPUR will have access to new SPUR Bases at the Central and Medicine & Science Libraries (CLB and MSL) as well as the former Yale-NUS carpentry studio in UTown, which are spaces with dedicated resources where they can carry out their research work



SPUR students will also have access to leadership opportunities for research promotional initiatives such REx Conference, Roadshows and REx Connect Cafe. There are also NSWS opportunities which include RPC Media Assistant and Website Assistant roles.

For general queries about SPUR, UREx or UROP+REx, please contact the Undergraduate Research Team, Office of the Provost (PVO) at pvobox66@nus.edu.sg

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