

A UROP perspective by Charlie Brook

Summer 2023 (undertaken in the Department of Bioengineering)

Charlie was a year 2 undergraduate at Imperial College London in 2022-2023: MEng Biomedical Engineering, Department of Bioengineering.

UROP title: A Study of Activation Time in Muscles

My main motivation for a UROP was to get a better understanding for how research works on a day-to-day basis mostly in terms of PhD students. I think it is a great alternative to an industry internship which I found difficult to secure with my limited experience at the point of applications.

I secured a UROP in my second year by contacting the module leader from my favourite module in my first year. Luckily for me, he remembered me from his class and offered me a project which he believed would suit my skills and interest me.

During my UROP I gained the insight which I sought into the research structure and the many pathways which are available. I felt extremely welcomed by the group that I worked with and felt that I got a unique inside look at their projects and expertise. They helped me develop not only my technical skills but my ability to communicate what I had learned with them. The technical skills in question ranged from Maths, Physics and Programming to Literature Research which I was able to apply to a novel problem. Applying these skills from theory in class to application was extremely satisfying..

I have also gained invaluable contacts through my UROP with lecturers, post docs and PhD students. Following from it I have been offered projects to continue working with the group in the coming year and I have no doubt this will create even more opportunities for me. My desire to pursue research as a career has been enhanced massively by my UROP as I now feel it is something that I can achieve. Research now seems more than ever to be a career that will be rewarding.