

The background of the slide is a scenic photograph of a large, calm lake, likely Banff Lake Louise, surrounded by steep, forested mountains under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. A yellow rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the text for the session.

ORF Sharing Session

18th January, 2024

Chan, Chung Sang Morris

Participant of ORF 2023

Major: Geology (Intensive)

Outline



01 Preparation



02 Personal Experience



03 Takeaways

The background is a teal gradient with a subtle pattern of diagonal lines. On the left, there are four vertical lines of varying heights, each topped with a light orange paper airplane. A white rectangular box is positioned in the upper-middle section of the slide. A red paper airplane is shown in flight, moving from the left towards the text. A thin yellow line starts from the bottom left, goes up, then right, and then diagonally up towards the red paper airplane.

01 Preparation

How to find potential supervisors?

1. Overseas undergraduate summer research programmes

Examples:

- HKU-ICL joint programme
- Caltech's SURF programme

2. Prospective exchange students – Your host institution

3. Contact potential supervisors directly (via emails)

I. Overseas Undergraduate Research Programmes

- Approach the potential supervisor (who shares similar research interests as you do) individually
- Specify your interest in the programme and his/ her research area(s)
- Complete the online application and prepare recommendation letters

Recommendation letters: From professors who 'knows you well' – i.e. they know you (at least) by previous research projects/ classes that they teach

Caltech

Student-Faculty Programs

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Application Information

SURF

Eligibility

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Application Information

FAQs

Please read this entire page before beginning the application process!

Students must identify and contact a research mentor in advance of submitting an application. A mentor must agree to support your application, help you to develop and define a research project, and assist you in the writing of the research proposal.

This early interaction is a very important part of the application process. Visiting (non-Caltech) students usually have to accomplish this discussion via e-mail, phone, or Zoom. If a student is in the area, we encourage them to visit the campus and meet the mentor. Please refer to the [Finding a Mentor](#) page and [Tips for Meeting with a Potential Mentor](#) for additional information.

All application documents must be submitted directly to the SFP Online system. SURF applications are due on **February 22**. We will contact the applicant's mentor for a confidential evaluation after the application is submitted. The application contains:

- An online application
- A research proposal written by the student and uploaded to the application
- An unofficial transcript for visiting (non-Caltech) applicants
- Two confidential letters of recommendation (at least one from a faculty member)

The Research Project

The most important factor in selecting a project is your enthusiasm for the project itself and for working with the mentor. Although most students seek projects in their options, SURF provides an opportunity to explore other fields. SURF is not "just a summer job"; a project should have significant intellectual and creative content. The benchmark for a suitable project is the potential for publication in the refereed literature.

The Proposal

The proposal should be as technical and specific as you can make it as it will be read by people in the field. It must outline what you plan to do, and why it will be useful. The outline consists of theoretical background and experimental techniques, how the work fits into the flow of the research in the field, and a work plan for the project. Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by the mentor and by a member of the faculty in the project field. If you are a 2nd or 3rd time SURFer, your proposal should show a higher level of depth that would be expected of an experienced researcher. For further guidelines on writing an excellent proposal, access the [Proposal/Project Plans](#).

Statement on the Use of Generative AI:

The Student-Faculty Programs office believes that the effective communication of one's interests and research is a critical skill for undergraduates to develop. As you prepare your SFP application, research proposal or project plan, interim reports, and final report, you should consult with your mentor(s), or the SFP office, about policies related to the use of generative AI tools. **Any usage that is not specifically permitted is not allowed.**

Recommendations

Recommendations are completed online with the application form. The online application will request recommender contact information from the student. The recommender will then be emailed directly and asked to submit their recommendation into the online system. If you have done a previous research project with a different mentor, that mentor should write one of your recommendations. Recommendations are also due on February 22 so submit your recommender information well in advance. **Your prospective Caltech mentor will complete a separate evaluation and should not write a letter of recommendation.**

Transcript

Visiting (non-Caltech) students need to submit an unofficial transcript at time of application. If an award is offered, you will be asked to have an official transcript mailed in a sealed envelope from the records office at your college or university.

Applications are judged on the following criteria:

- Research proposal is a clear description of the proposed project. It demonstrates the applicant's understanding of the nature and purpose of the project, how it relates to other work in the field, and it includes a work plan for accomplishing project goals.
- Proposed project allows student to take intellectual ownership and has potential for publication in refereed journal. Proposed project can be reasonably done in a 10-week period.
- Student is prepared for the project (coursework, experience, etc).
- Mentor and faculty have submitted supportive recommendations and evaluations.
- Returning SURF students are expected to have stronger applications reflective of their prior experience.

Awards will be announced on April 1. Students will receive e-mail notification of the outcome of their applications and instructions and forms required to accept the award.

Click [here](#) to start an application starting November 1st.

I. Overseas Undergraduate Research Programmes

Pros:

- These programmes are often more official and solid
- Hence, easier to find supervisors (more likely to reply to your emails)

Summer Research Opportunities at Imperial College London—**Summer 2024**, London UK



Exciting news for Year 3 students! This summer, four spots will be available for research in the Department of Chemistry at Imperial College London from June to August 2024 for 8 weeks.

As one of the leading chemistry departments in the UK, Imperial College London is ranked 9th and 13th globally in the QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings, respectively. They have state-of-the-art facilities in South Kensington and at the Molecular Sciences Research Hub at White City Campus, London.

To be eligible for this international research experience, students must be proficient in chemistry, be in their third year of undergraduate studies, have a minimum overall cGPA of >3.0, and an excellent GPA in chemistry courses. At Imperial College, we aim to match students' research interests and abilities with a suitable supervising professor. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain valuable research experience and enhance their knowledge of chemistry.

If selected, students will apply for the Overseas Research Fellowship from the Faculty of Science for financial support. Plus, this experience can be credited for the capstone requirement, CHEM4966 Chemistry Internship course (subjected to the approval from CHEM4966 course coordinator).

Interested students who want to pursue summer research at Imperial College should send an application email to emilyleung@hku.hk by November 24, 2023, with the subject line “#Imperial2024”. Please include a copy of your latest transcript, which includes the courses taken in the 2023-2024 Semester 1, a CV that includes basic personal data and any prior activities or research work conducted by you, and a list of 5 potential supervisor at ICL. We encourage all eligible students to apply and take advantage of this incredible opportunity!

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview in late November to early December.

Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact Dr. Angela Yuen at maiyan@hku.hk.

Cons:

- Topics are often fixed, i.e. lower flexibility
- *Note: Many applications are due soon (Jan/Feb)!*

Important Things to Note – **TIME**

- **Deadlines for programme applications**

(There might be multiple rounds of applications/ interviews/ submission of documents – check clearly)

- **ORF deadlines**

- 1st round: February 16th, 2024 (Friday)
- 2nd round: April 12th, 2024 (Friday)

- **Visa duration** (Consider the duration of your project; and if you conduct the ORF at the same country after exchange study)



Important Things to Note – **FUNDING**

Students awarded with ORF are expected to conduct research projects under supervision by faculty members of overseas universities or institutions and an internal supervisor in HKU for **at least 2 months** during summer 2024. Successful applicants will be awarded a stipend of **HK\$16,000***, **plus airfare on a reimbursement basis (80% of the actual airfare and capped at HK\$12,000 in maximum)**.

* For students who will depart from Hong Kong, airfare refers to the cheapest round-trip Economy Class air ticket at the most direct route to the place of the host university/institution (including airport taxes; excluding other domestic travelling expenses in HK and the place of the host university/institution).



For prospective exchange students:

For students who are now or will be on exchange/visiting study overseas, only **ADDITIONAL** travel cost incurred for participation in the ORF will be reimbursed, such as **additional flight between their exchange/visiting host university/institution and the research host university/institution** (if they will conduct research in a different institution), and the surcharge or difference in airfare due to change of original departure date.

Remarks:

** Successful applicants are NOT allowed to receive sponsorship from other funding sources for the same research project.*

Important – TRAVELLING DOCUMENTS

- Prepare copies of your passport, visa, ORF/ research programme offer letters
- Ensure the validity of your passport
- Present your return flight ticket and the documents to the border force officers

➤ Prevent you from being a suspect of illegal immigrant

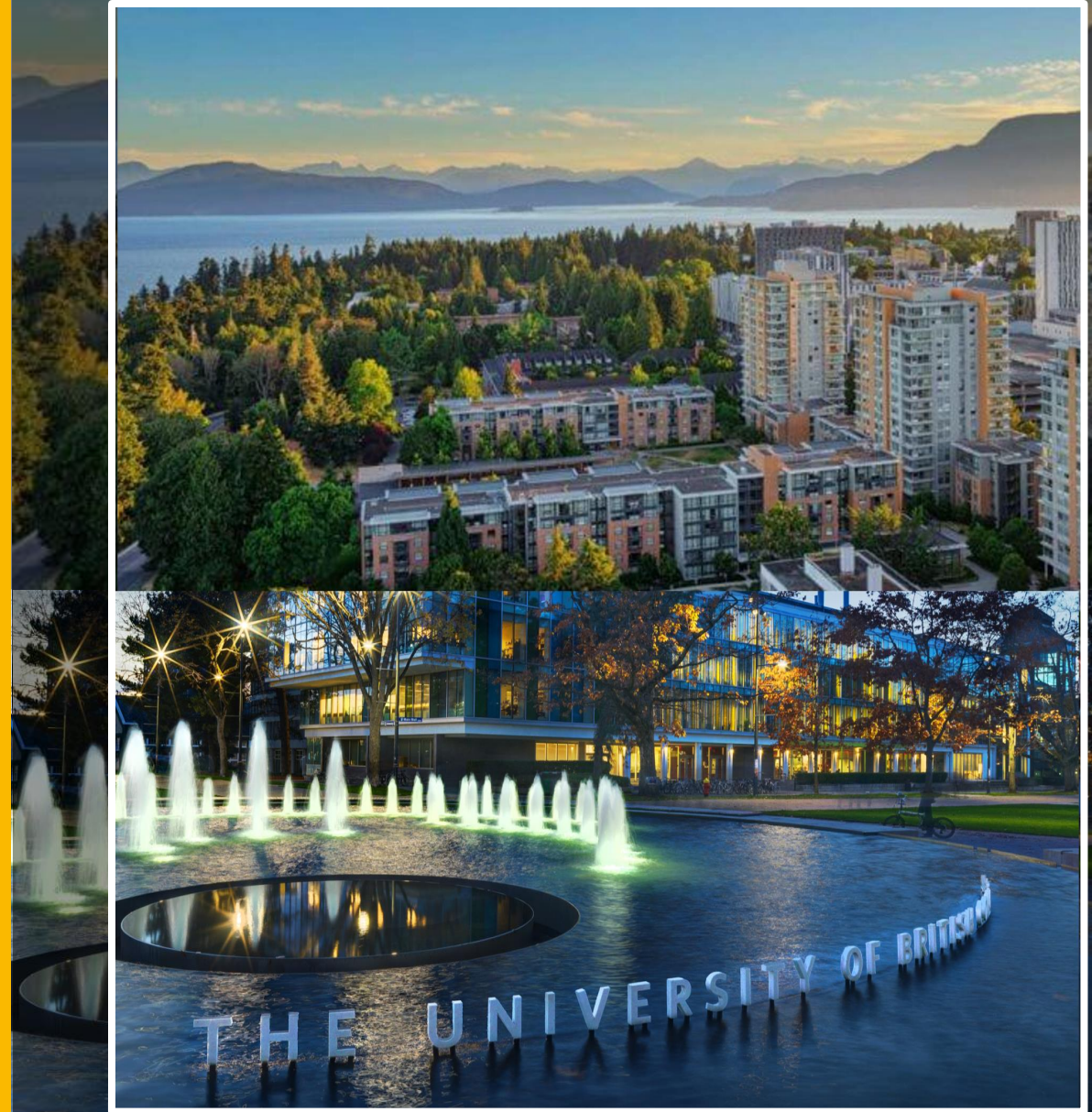


A scenic landscape photograph of a mountain lake. The foreground shows the calm, blue-green water of the lake. The middle ground features a rocky shoreline with a mix of grey rocks and patches of green grass. Behind the shore, steep, forested slopes rise, covered in dense evergreen trees. In the background, rugged, rocky mountain peaks are visible under a sky filled with soft, grey clouds. A white rectangular box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "02 Personal Experience".

02 Personal Experience

My Research Experience

- UBC Visiting International Research Student programme (VIRS)
- Campus location: Vancouver, BC
- Supervisors: Dr. Mitch D'Arcy (UBC); Dr. Su-Chin Chang (HKU)
- Department: UBC Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences



The Project

Topic: *Spectral characterization of Holocene volcanic ash and aeolian deposits in the North American Cordillera, Canada*

Specializations: **Geology**, **Remote sensing**, **Tephrochronology**

Remote sensing of sediments with a portable spectroradiometer:

- Spectral range: 350 – 2500 nm
- Spectral resolution: 2.8nm @ 700nm, 8nm @ 1500nm, 6nm @ 2100nm





Life as a Visiting Research Student

- Flexible working time – but requires good time management
- Self-directed learning and research
- Progress report – schedule meetings with supervisors
- Project could go differently than expected
- Work-life balance (?)



03 Major Takeaways



Some major takeaways...

- International experiences are valuable
- Good research is highly collaborative
- Actively communicate with your supervisor(s)
- Don't be afraid to reach out and seek help!
- Keeping yourself in the loop is important
- Your INTEREST matters!!





Thank You!

Good luck with your applications~

Any questions:

u3579040@connect.hku.hk