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
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)
1. 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
Pros:

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

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**
  
  - 1\textsuperscript{st} round: *February 16\textsuperscript{th}, 2024 (Friday)*
  
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} round: *April 12\textsuperscript{th}, 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
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