The International Research Enrichment (IRE) program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing a research career in science or broadening their exposure to research during their undergraduate studies. It emphasizes curiosity and grit, which are the essential attributes to a successful career in scientific research. Building upon the premise that exposure to international research environments at an early stage is essential to a fruitful research career, the program offers outstanding science students an early opportunity to nurture their research abilities and solidify their discipline-specific knowledge in regular Science programs.
Program Curriculm

The IRE program has a similar curriculum structure to the Science (Group A) and Science (Group B) programs, but it distinguishes itself from the regular science program by providing students with the following:

- Free choice of major programs among Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Ocean Science and Technology, and Physics
- Admissions to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)
- Exchange and internship opportunities in renowned foreign universities/research institutes
  - Summer research internship opportunity in foreign universities and institutions
  - Scholarship support for overseas learning trips

Program Highlights

- Tailor-made team building activities and field trips
- Participation in advanced research projects under the supervision of world-class professors
- Opportunities to meet with Nobel Laureates and renowned scientists
- Individualized Research Guidance and Mentoring from experienced faculty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional requirement for IRE students</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCIE 1500 Guided Study on Research I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIE 2500 Guided Study on Research II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIE 3900 International Summer Research Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UROP 1000/1100 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Series</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Science 2000-level or above Electives</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of additional credits: 12
The IRE program provides a nurturing environment to encourage students to interact among themselves and to delve deep into the subject(s) of their interests without limitations.

Incorporation of a foreign research element broadens students’ horizon in research skill development and fosters understanding of the relation between different research areas. This is essential for Hong Kong students because of the limited scope of research topics available in Hong Kong universities. The title “International Research Enrichment” emphasizes this aspect of the program.

Further Studies Opportunities

Building upon the premise that exposure to international research environments at an early stage is essential to a fruitful research career, the program offers outstanding science students the opportunity to nurture their research abilities and solidify their discipline-specific knowledge in regular science programs. Most of the graduates will pursue further studies in renowned universities worldwide.

Research Support Scholarships

The following scholarships are available exclusively to support IRE students’ research activities:
1. Lee’s Pharmaceutical – Kanya Lee Scholarship
2. H S Chau Foundation Overseas Research Grant for Young Women Scientists
Admissions Requirements

Students can apply for the IRE program through direct choice in JUPAS / Non-JUPAS admissions scheme, or apply for transfer from the regular Science (Group A) program or Science (Group B) program of the School of Science into IRE program after their first year of study. Students interested in IRE program are encouraged to include both IRE program (JS5101) and either Science (Group A) program (JS5102) or Science (Group B) (JS5103) in their JUPAS / Non-JUPAS program choices.

JOIN IRE PROGRAM

GO BEYOND YOUR LIMITS
FIND TRANSFORMATION HERE

School of Science – Undergraduate Admissions
Tel : (852) 2358 5065
Email : ugscience@ust.hk
Website : science.hkust.edu.hk
Facebook : @hkust.science
Instagram : @hkust.ug.science

IRE Program
Website : science.hkust.edu.hk/programs/ire_program

Words from IRE Graduate

The International Research Enrichment program at HKUST gave me the chance to do hands-on research from the first year of my studies, and the flexibility to explore different areas of science before making a decision on which subject to pursue. The close-knit IRE community has also given me a circle of good friends who are pursuing the same goal. Also, the School of Science’s exchange program and the IRE program overseas research internship has given me the opportunity to study and do full-time research in the United States, which proved to be an unforgettable experience and valuable learning opportunity.

Sonia CHOI
BSc in Mathematics (International Research Enrichment Track), Class of 2023