

ICUR: THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

- A 48-hour conference of undergraduate research presentations
- Hundreds of student presenters and participants
- Universities linked via technology across five continents

Joining ICUR allows institutions to access a thriving network of internationally renowned universities and gives their students the unique opportunity to expand their research, cultural and international experience without leaving their university.



ICUR[®]

INTERNATIONALISATION

ICUR is an initiative that gives undergraduates a meaningful global experience without leaving their home campus. ICUR allows undergraduates to take the next step on their path to global citizenship, while keeping their carbon footprint low and side-stepping the often significant financial obstacle of travel.

The conference helps students to look beyond their own experience to see the complexities and interconnectedness of the wider world. Presenting their research to an international audience challenges participants to examine their work from an international perspective and to draw out those aspects that are of potential impact globally.

The conference provides all participating students with the opportunity to develop their collaboration skills and their capacity to communicate across cultures. Participants are exposed to new ideas, approaches, and solutions. Through the student presentations and, uniquely, through the Q&A panels within each international session, presenters and audience members are enabled to enter an interdisciplinary, international research conversation unlike any other they will have experienced.

"The opportunity to present to in a video conference setting was an invaluable learning experience."

"A uniquely interdisciplinary, intercontinental conference. Very ambitious, and run by an excellent team"

"The most memorable part of ICUR was how friendly everyone was to each other and how much we all had in common concerning our academic research and goals in life."



STUDENT-CENTRED AND STUDENT-LED

Student Directors at each participating institution form the core of the organising team, gaining vital experience in organisational and project management.

Students nominated as Directors by their home institution have the opportunity to develop innovative aspects of the conference on their own initiative and to connect with other ICUR Directors around the world via conferencing software and social media.

ICUR Directors are also tasked with organising a group of student volunteers to work at the conference itself. These students gain an insight into conference organization while also being exposed to the global research community of undergraduates.

Student presenters are introduced to video-conference technology and develop crucial skills in communicating their research to an intelligent lay audience.

Students are also encouraged to attend as audience members as an opportunity to participate in lively, extended Q&A panel sessions, learn more about global research priorities and gain useful insight into best practice in both research and presenting skills.



SUPPORTIVE, YET RIGOROUS

ICUR is many students' first experience of presenting their research. Our ethos is to provide a supportive, yet realistic environment for presenters and audience members. This means that students are equipped to attend future academic conferences with confidence and to enjoy their first experience of presenting.

ICUR provides undergraduate students with detailed advice on writing a conference abstract. They then receive feedback on their submissions and, where necessary, are given the opportunity and support to revise and resubmit their abstract to ensure that their research speaks to an international, multidisciplinary audience.

Presenters are given access to skills training materials via icurportal.com to help them to develop effective and engaging presentations and posters for the conference and many sessions are recorded so that spoken presentations can be reviewed by presenters. This enables them to think critically about their own presentation and delivery.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDISCIPLINARY

ICUR participants come from across the disciplines and faculties. Over 1000 undergraduates have so far participated and have represented a hugely diverse range of subjects.

Spoken presentation sessions are themed - but not by discipline. The ICUR team have developed unifying research streams that aim to reflect the interests and priorities of the sector.

- Health and Wellbeing
- Environment and Sustainability
- International Development
- Energy
- Understanding Cultures
- New Industries and 21st Century Technology
- Global Governance
- Peace, Security and Borders
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Social Inclusion and Engagement
- Innovation in Industry

Using these themed streams, students are encouraged to think about their research in terms of the challenges that face the world today. Constructing a conference in this way, around multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research streams, exposes students to ideas, approaches, and solutions from areas outside their discipline. Students are encouraged to approach research problems from an interdisciplinary perspective, a skill they take with them into the rest of their academic work and beyond.

"I really enjoyed the Q&A sessions because the students were fun to talk to, the discussions created a very comfortable atmosphere to participate in and overall the experience was very inspiring."

"My favourite part of the conference was being able to ask students on the other side of the world questions about their research. Through this technology, I have been exposed to research fields that would have otherwise been hidden from my knowledge."



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

ICUR allows for multiple modes of participation – suiting student levels of readiness and experience both in terms of presentation skills and involvement in research. Students can participate as presenters (both spoken and poster presentations), Directors, volunteers or audience members. Each type of participation allows for valuable interaction with this international experience.

Students who present work at the conference receive extensive feedback from other attendees. Our extended Q&A sessions allow for 30 minutes of interaction between international audiences and the four presenters in each themed panel session. These Q&A are lively and engaging, for both the audience and presenters, and expose all participants to ideas from around the world within a supportive academic space exclusively for undergraduates.

"ICUR has given me a flavour of what academic conferences might look like"

"ICUR has made me more likely to attempt to collaborate with researchers/academics in other disciplines."

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: SKILLS FOR WORK, SKILLS FOR LIFE

ICUR provides participating undergraduates with:

- A real-world experience of conference attendance and presenting
- The opportunity to network with peers around the world without leaving the home institution
- A unique and impressive addition to resumés and CVs - both for further academic study and for jobs outside the academy
- Help to develop key skills for prospering in the global jobs market

ABOUT

ICUR is supported by the Monash Warwick Alliance and is a project based at the University of Warwick in the UK and Monash University in Australia. For more information about the conference, our participating universities or to contact us please visit our website www.icurportal.com