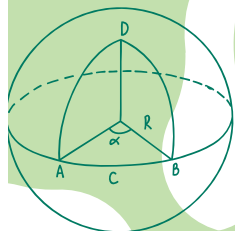
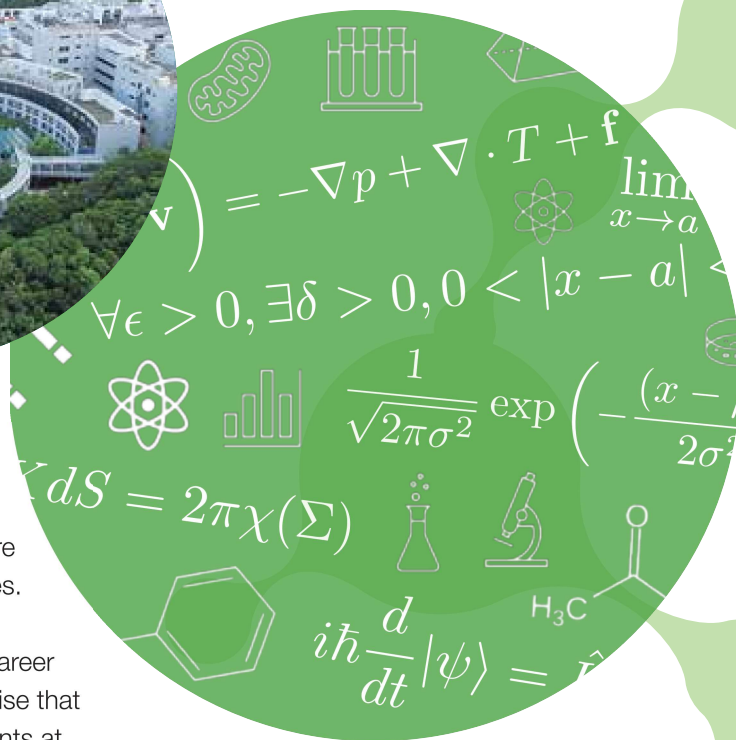


International Research Enrichment (IRE) Program



The International Research Enrichment (IRE) program is designed for those students who are interested in either pursuing a research career in science or broadening their exposure to research during their undergraduate studies. It emphasizes curiosity and grit, which are essential attributes that define 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.



Curriculum Highlights

The curriculum structure of the IRE program is similar to that of the Science (Group A) and Science (Group B) programs. However, the IRE program distinguishes itself from these regular science programs by providing students with the following:

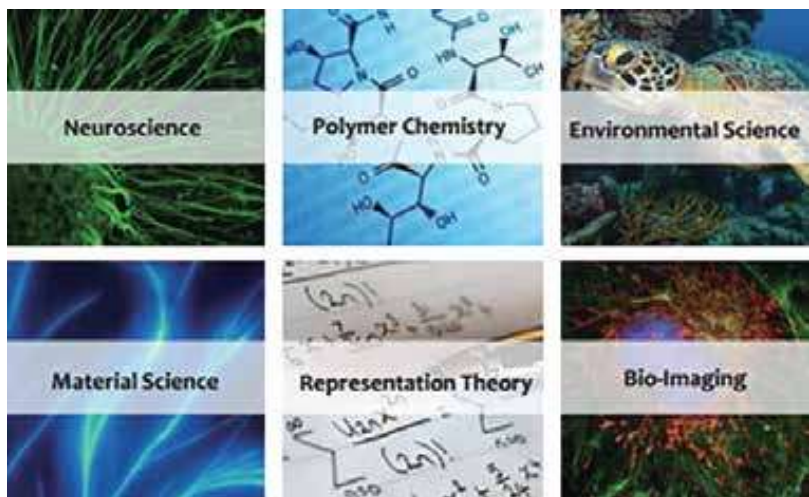
- Free choice of major programs among Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Ocean Science and Technology, and Physics
- Participation in advanced research projects under the supervision of world-class professors
- Opportunities to meet Nobel Laureates and renowned scientists
- Individualized research guidance and mentoring from experienced faculty
- Participation in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) to gain hands-on research experience
- Exchange and internship opportunities in renowned foreign universities/research institutes
 - Summer research internship opportunities in foreign universities and institutions
 - Scholarship support for overseas learning trips

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



Top-notch fundamental science research gearing towards paradigm shift

An IRE student went on an overseas research internship at ETH Zurich in Switzerland



An IRE graduate pursues postgraduate studies at University of Pennsylvania in the US

Overseas Summer Research Internship

Program	2025 Summer Research Internship Host Institution	
LIFS	University of Cambridge, UK	National University, of Singapore, Singapore
	University of British Columbia, Canada	Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
CHEM	Brown University, USA	Northeastern University, USA
	University of Chicago, USA	Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland
MATH	University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia	University of Toronto, Canada
PHYS	Cornell University, USA	Stony Brook University, USA
	Technical University of Munich, Germany	CERN, Switzerland

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.

Selected PhD Offers of the Class 2025

Institution	Research Area
Harvard University	Life Science
Stanford University	Life Science, Physics
University of Toronto	Life Science, Physics
Northwestern University	Physics
Cornell University	Physics
University of California, Irvine	Chemistry
University of California, Davis	Mathematics

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





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 CHOY

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

Admissions Requirements

Students can apply for the IRE program through direct choice in the 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) program (JS5103)* in their JUPAS / Non-JUPAS program choices.

JUPAS

Program-based Entry (JS5101)

HKDSE applicants with one of: M1 / M2 / Biology / Chemistry / Physics

Non-JUPAS

Applicants with international qualifications (**IBDP, GCEAL, SAT**, etc.) with one senior level subject from: **Biology / Chemistry / Mathematics / Physics**

School-based Admissions

Students admitted into the Science (Group A) program / Science (Group B) program can apply for transfer into the IRE program after completing the first year of study.

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

IRE website



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