

Engaging Undergraduates in RESEARCH and INQUIRY: A Scholarly Dialogue

Summer Research Fellowship (SRF) & Overseas Research Fellowship (ORF) Schemes

Course Instructor/Project Leader

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Project/Course Objectives

- Gain research experience by conducting research in topics related to students' majored science disciplines under the guidance of professors, either within HKU or in overseas institutions.
- Integrate theory and practice, and to understand limitations of their current knowledge.
- Communicate to fellow students about their research experience and findings in a professional setting.

Inquiry Based Learning Activities

- Wrote up a research proposal
- Conducted scientific research for a period of at least 8 weeks in the summer
- Participated in the SRF & ORF Poster Presentation and Research Colloquium

How did you assess the effectiveness of students' learning?

Evaluation questionnaire surveys of participating students and their supervisors were conducted after completion of the schemes.

Also, participating students were required to write passages on their experience of joining the SRF/ORF schemes. These passages indirectly reflected the effectiveness of the schemes.

What were the major outcomes of this project/course? Do they match with your objectives?

Over the past three summers (2007 – 2010), a total of 66 and 18 students have successfully completed the SRF and ORF schemes, respectively. Feedback from students and their supervisors were very positive. In particular they mostly agreed or strongly agreed that the schemes have (i) enhanced students' interest, knowledge and skills in science research, (ii) inspired the students and widened their horizons, (iii) enhanced their analytical ability and problem-solving skills, (iv) helped students to understand their strengths and weaknesses, and (v) facilitated students' daily classroom learning in science subjects.

