About the scheme

We are implementing a program to improve the pipeline of quality undergraduate students undertaking higher degree research study at QUT. The program will provide the opportunity for motivated and interested undergraduate students to engage in a structured program of research experiences in science, mathematics, or information technology throughout their undergraduate degree, providing excellent development opportunities to transition to HDR study.

The Faculty of Science Mid-Year Research Experience Scheme (MY-RES) aims to:

- Allow students to gain additional research experiences first-hand, early in their degree
- Enable students to undertake research in a variety of specialised disciplines throughout their degree
- Provide students with additional skills in research, increasing their real-world experiences and showcasing Faculty research in University and Faculty Centres and Groups
- Create a community of students to build collegiality, cohesion, shared aspiration, and research passion
- Improve the satisfaction and success of our graduates by giving them a competitive advantage
- Increase the number of students educated at QUT that continue on to HDR studies
- complement the existing Vacation Research Experience Scheme (VRES) by offering additional flexible mid-year research experience options for undergraduate students within the Faculty of Science.

These aims align with the strategic priorities outlined in *Connections* – the QUT Strategy 2023-2027 and QUT's Research Quality Agenda 2022-2026.

Scheme details

Students accepted into the MY-RES program will:

- Undertake a research project (60-75 hours) in Science, Maths or Information Technology under the supervision of a researcher from the Faculty of Science.
- Be paid a $1250 scholarship at the conclusion of the program.
- Attend an induction session on 3 June 2024 at 10am
- Complete their research project within the period 3 June – 30 August 2024 (the timing of project work is flexible within this period and will be determined on an individual basis between student and supervisor).
- Attend the MYRES Showcase event in August 2024.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for the MY-RES program, students are required to be:

- Enrolled in and currently studying a Faculty of Science undergraduate degree.
- Have successfully completed 96 CP of their Faculty of Science undergraduate degree.
- Have a minimum GPA of 5.0 in their Faculty of Science undergraduate degree. There is no minimum GPA requirement for indigenous students. Indigenous students are also eligible to participate in the Faculty of Science Indigenous Australian Research Training Scheme (IARTS).

Students can undertake the MY-RES and VRES programs within the same year and can apply to participate in the MY-RES program each year provided they satisfy the eligibility criteria listed above.

Supervision and Mentorship

To be eligible to participate in the MY-RES program as a supervisor, researchers must

- Provide adequate resources for the student to complete the research project.
- Be available to provide guidance for the entire project duration or ensure an appropriate alternative supervision arrangement is in place for any period of absence.

Supervisors cannot supervise more than one MY-RES student per year.

MY-RES Learning Contract

- Both the MY-RES recipient and the supervisor must complete and sign the Learning Contract.
- This document outlines agreed project details including location, duration, activities, outcomes, deliverables and required resources. It should also include information on the MY-RES recipient and supervisor meeting schedule and any planned absences, including alternative supervision arrangements.

MY-RES Reporting

MY-RES students need to provide a summary of methods and a copy of the research data and analysis outputs to their MY-RES supervisor.

MY-RES students will also give a presentation about their research experience at the MY-RES showcase event held in late August (date TBA). The presentation will consist of a single static powerpoint slide and an associated 3-minute oral presentation. The presentation should convey a short outline of your experience and the slide should include:

- a meaningful title
- a short outline of the research question or problem and its importance
- the key results or findings of the MY-RES project and skill learnt.
- a summary of the conclusions and work still required or future directions.

It is important that the slide is eye catching, with judicious use of graphics and limited text. You do not need to present all your results/findings, rather focus on giving a summary of your research experience.

Implementation

- The MY-RES program will be administered and implemented through Schools within the Faculty of Science.
- An online application process will be used. As part of the application form, students will be asked to identify research areas of interest (within a particular School) and submit a research motivation statement.
- Schools will match students with supervisors.
- Schools will rank student applications and allocate MY-RES scholarships based on the student's research motivation statement and GPA with diversity, equity and inclusion considerations for both students and supervisors.
- Schools will inform all students of outcomes and provide relevant paperwork to successful MY-RES students (scholarship offer letter, terms and conditions of scholarship, MY-RES learning contract (including details of the work schedule - projects dates and roster of hours, meeting schedule, research activities and ethics approvals required), IP Deed Poll, general induction information slides.
- Supervisors to ensure Health, Safety and Environment obligations are met and risk assessment/s approved before students commences project work.
- Student scholarship payments will be organized through the student payment form by SSCs in the host school ($1250 payment at the conclusion of the program).
- The Faculty will organise a mid-point check-in with students and appoint a contact outside of the Schools to address any issues arising from the program.

Timeline

Applications open	8th April 2024
Applications close	30th April 2024
Schools to complete student/supervisor matching and application ranking	17th May 2024
Schools to advise all students of outcome and send required paperwork to successful students	17th May 2024
MY-RES students to return required paperwork (last day to accept offer)	31st May 2024
MY-RES students to attend induction	3rd June 2024
MY-RES students to complete project work	3rd June 2024 – 30th August 2024
MY-RES students to attend Showcase	TBA between 26th and 30th August 2024
Student payment to occur at completion of the program.	30th August 2024