RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

PREPARED BY BATCH OF 2023

This collection of write-ups provides an overview of individual research experiences by the batch of 2023, including our decision-making process, challenges, and successes. Given the wide array of research projects, this document aims to provide some guidance and insight to help you make a more informed decision. We hope you find this useful and we wish you all the best for your own research experience!

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* denotes that the project is a URECA project

CHIA TZE HAO

Prevalence and Patterns of Variant Reclassification in a Cancer Genetics Service

Project Timeline: August 2019 - August 2020
Professor and Faculty: Prof Joanne Ngeow (LKC, NCCS)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?

I had a general interest in research and wanted to pursue it again!

What is your project about?

In oncology, if you have a positive personal or family history of cancers (some can even have 6 different primary cancers!!), you are likely to be sent for genetic testing. This will tell you if you have mutations in those genes you learn about in M1 (APC, BRCA, MUTYH etc). However, not all mutations are pathogenic. There is a grading scale which goes from benign to uncertain to pathogenic. It is found that quite a few doctors do not know how to manage a variant of uncertain significance (VUS) which is problematic as you cant reverse a prophylactic bilateral mastectomy after its been done. To add to this problem, mutations can be reclassified - eg. from uncertain (VUS) to pathogenic. My job is to figure out how these reclassifications occur, and the impact on the patient, and further extrapolate the implications of clinical care in oncology.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?

- URECA: Offered structure, a definite end product
- Clinical experience: Talked to the mentor and liked the projects offered
- Some variety (I dabbled in other research projects concurrently under Prof Joanne as well)

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?

Long with short bursts of intensity: I dedicated one week to writing up the report in December. Had a bunch of meetings at the start (weekly for 3-4 weeks). Spent about a few days at a time for continuous revision of manuscript (for publication). Spent abit of time before summs too (but that was because of my poor time management)

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?

- General Pros: Research experience in itself, Getting a clinical perspective of things learnt (makes cancer genetics interesting, as you can see the impact on the patient), you also get a very indepth understanding on a particular medical topic

- Prof Joanne-specific pros: Clinic meetings (where oncologists and genetic counselors discuss patient management, you get exposure to syndromes like FAP, Lynch, Neurofibromatosis, Fanconi anaemia etc.), SOME patient interaction (if the project is right for it)

CHIA TZE HAO

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?

- Its a long-term, year long commitment. Think about whether that is what you want to spend your time doing.

- Good time management is important!!

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?

Be very clear of your own expectations in doing research:

- What degree of ownership is right for you? (Do you want a mentor/mentee r/s where you just follow the mentors instructions? Or do you want to have an active say in the project?)
- What type of project interests you? (Note that alot of clinical research is data crunching on excel, as was mine)
- Do you like the area of research that your mentor is pursuing?
- How much time are you willing to commit? (Note summs - let your mentor know when you intend to break for summs studying)
- What do you intend to achieve by the end of the academic year?
- Is clinic experience important for you?
- Is publication important to you?

Make your expectations clear to your mentor as well! Be realistic with your own expectations - if you never had any background in research, it is likely you will need alot of guidance in terms of lab skills, excel and academic writing.

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?

Honestly not much, it always ran in tandem with what I was doing with Prof Joanne. That being said, even if you are offered URECA, I would prioritise interest over the pros of URECA. Not all profs under URECA will offer clinical projects (most are wet lab), and imo if you are not fully interested in any project offered, there is really no point to it.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?

- Structure and assurance of an end-product: Because of the deadlines, you will finish by the end of the academic year

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?

- Sometimes the deliverables are abit ??? (eg. doing a poster in the middle of the research cycle when you have little results)
- Definite busy periods in Sept/October (3 compulsory workshops), December (poster), June (final report is due a month after summs).

Your contact details for juniors to learn more

91733833

HANNAH LIE

Surgical Outcomes of De Quervain's Tenosynovitis

Project Timeline: October 2019- present
Professor and Faculty: Dr Hannah Ng (TTSH)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?
Always been somewhat interested in ortho, and this project being a systematic review meant I could do it any time and not have to go to a lab or smth. Wanted to experience some research before clinical years started too.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?
The sch sent it out as a list of possible ortho research projects. I thought it looked somewhat interesting and the expected duration of commitment was relatively short. (although it ended up being longer than I expected)

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?
Own time own target. I reserved 1 weekend day for it and chionged more after summs. didn't affect me too much because I stopped work on it during the 2 months pre summs

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?
Getting a better understanding of the process. A chance to read articles about topics you wouldn't normally come across while studying normal sch stuff.

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Does take up some time. Duration is very flexible in a bad way, mine was expected to finish in Jan-Feb 2020, but because of covid and summs, both me and the doctor were too busy.

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?
Look out for emails from the sch! Not very common but there's some good opportunities. I've heard ppl suggest approaching one of the CEs that teach us and asking too

Any other tips/advice you wish you had known before starting your research project?
Make sure you can manage your time. Mine is fortunately one that doesn't require too many hours but others would. You don't need to be 100% interested in a particular topic, focus on learning the research process too!

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
96720530

LEE JUN YE

Possible Emotional Connectedness in Twins: an MRI study

Project Timeline: October 19 - June 20
Professor and Faculty: Prof Balazs Gulyas, CONIC lab, (LKC)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?
I had no prior actual experience with a research project and wanted a taster of how research would be like. In addition to that, the project sounded really interesting and I was curious to see how the results panned out.

What is your project about?
Anecdotally, it has been noted often that twins seem to have a "connection" where one twin would be able to feel what another twin is experiencing even when they are separated spatially at that point of time. The project aims to establish if this phenomenon exists and if it does, to understand the factors which may affect it. The main modality it uses is a functional MRI which allows you to note brain activation via changes in blood flow.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?
I think the main draw for the project was the uniqueness of it and also the "omg what if we find something" aspect was something that drew me to it.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?
The commitment level was honestly really low (which is not a good thing) so it was okay in the greater scheme of things. For context, I was busy like maybe a few hours every few weeks. So in contrast to the other projects, this was honestly quite lax.

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?
I think like if you want to understand the behind the scenes of what goes on in research, taking up a research project would be really good.

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
After taking up a research project, I think one thing that stood out to me was how slow research moved. Like for many steps of the project, there is a lot of waiting to be done as you need approval from many parties and this can be out of your control and hence, frustrating. So, not really a con of it per se but something to keep in mind to temper your expectations before doing it.

LEE JUN YE

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?
I think, you can either do it via URECA (for those who are eligible) or you can directly contact professors asking for possible projects.
But, when deciding whether to start the project, I think its important to consider whether the project is something which appeals to you and also as important to consider the professor you will be working with. If possible, you should contact seniors who have worked with the professor you are thinking of working with to get an idea of how it is working with them. That's also why some of us would leave our contact details further down for you to ask us questions if you need to!

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
Because of COVID, the project got delayed quite a bit and we weren't able to make much substantial progress before the deadline for the paper. So that can be an annoying part of it: that you have to submit a paper for the sake of it just to meet the deadline regardless of the progress of your project.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?
The main pro imo is just that the ease of finding a professor to work with which saves you a lot of time and courage needed otherwise.

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?
The cons like mentioned before is mostly on having to submit the deliverables by certain timelines which may not make sense in the context of your project progress. Like for e.g. having to submit a poster quite early in the year when most people haven't did much for their projects.

Any other tips/advice you wish you had known before starting your research project?
As mentioned before but repetition for emphasis, the professor you are going to work with is really really important. As students working under them for research, most of the time the real aim of you doing it is really for learning and exposure. And in this context, how nurturing the professor is really matters a lot. So if possible, talk to seniors who worked with the professor when deciding or look out when you are meeting the professor to see if he/ she is someone interested in spending the extra time and effort to guide you.

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
83221999

AMY

Glycogen staining methods in astrocytes

Project Timeline: October 19 - June 20
Professor and Faculty: AP Ch'ng Toh Hean (LKC)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?
Research is an inevitable part of our curriculum/career, so I thought I would explore some options while I still had the luxury of time to. URECA seemed like a good opportunity to do a research project (it's easier than initiating from scratch at any rate + no need to apply for additional funding)

What is your project about?
Glycogen staining methods in astrocytes haha. It really is just applying different methods quoted in past literature to astrocyte cultures to see what works in terms of picking up the presence of glycogen within the cells, and tweaking. Comparing and characterising the various techniques eg immunofluorescence, biochemical staining.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?
Wet lab is something I was relatively more familiar with so I wanted to start out with that. I wrote to several profs about their project listings and they/their students explained the expectations etc to me, and this was the only one where I was assured that I would be directly supervised by the PI. I think he offered me the chance to work independently on a mini project so there was that too. I ultimately picked this over something else because there were no human subjects, and so no red tape.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?
Commitment level was low-moderate I guess. My mentor was quite accommodating of my schedule so I just informed him before hand of the deadlines for the deliverables and the time that I was going to block out to study for summs, and we just worked around that. I tried to arrange my experiments so I could go to the lab (in CSB) on days I had classes/Malay/LCIP anyway, but I would say I did maybe 1-2 experiments per month so there were no particularly stressful periods.

AMY

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?
If you enjoy doing research, then that in itself. Otherwise it's a good learning opportunity because you have everyone else in the lab to learn from, whether it's the practical skills or just generic advice. Some of the stuff might be quite interesting, like when I got to watch the dissection of a mouse brain, but it may not be for everyone.

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Not much, honestly. It depends on your mentor and how you both communicate what you'd like to gain out of the experience.

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?
I guess just be passionate about what you want to do, and read up sufficiently because that gives you an idea of the level of commitment and feasibility, (also helps when you're trying to convince someone to mentor you). Alternatively, you could pick a mentor first and see which area of his/her research you might be interested.

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
It didn't really affect me because I wrote my report after summs (deadline is end June), and I had gathered sufficient data to write about when I was doing the poster. It is a bit strange that the poster is due well before the report but it was good to consolidate then and know the gaps to plug with subsequent data collection.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?
No applying for external grants. A list of available projects is provided to choose from, and projects are usually already in full swing when you start.

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?
Limited choice and rigid deadlines. Also I'm not sure but I think it's first come first served so you have to act quick.

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
82181581

BRANDEN CHUA

Investigating the Mycobiome of the human airway in COPD patients

Project Timeline: August 2019 - June 2020
Professor and Faculty: Prof Sanjay Chotirmall (LKC)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?
For me it was mainly about getting to experience working in a lab to see if its something I want to pursue in the future. I also felt that there basic lab skills that are good to know e.g. PCR, qPCR and running gels which I can pick up along the way

What is your project about?
I compared the mycobiome (fungi species) of COPD patients and healthy patients to identify differences and elicit clinically relevant correlations

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?
The premise (respi med) was appealed to me more as compared to other projects

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?
Difficulty of the experiments and how much time you want to put in weekly is something that can be discussed with your supervisor so don't worry too much about not enough time to study for exams etc. as it is really flexible as long as you establish it from the start. Personally spent about 1/2 full days each week but I feel like 1 full day a week is probably sufficient if you are diligent. Deliverables for URECA have datelines which are slightly out of sync with the LKC calendar so you might have to commit a bit more to get those out of the way

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?
Opportunity to learn about research if its something you may want to pursue in the future. You can also form connections with researchers and clinicians who are at the lab which can be nice if you need advice etc. in the future

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Time and effort

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
Timeline was quite manageable for me as I finished my lab work relatively early on so I had time to focus on the deliverables

BRANDEN CHUA

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?

It's in your school records and is more 'official' You can also participate in research symposiums for awards and stuff but it was cancelled for our year because of COVID

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?

Deliverables and timeline make for added stress

Any other tips/advice you wish you had known before starting your research project?

Set realistic expectations do something simple but still meaningful. Don't worry too much about getting life changing results, focus more on the process and learning from the pros

Your contact details for juniors to learn more

M180161@e.ntu.edu.sg

CHEN MINGWEI

Lipidomics of Methicillin-Resistant S. aureus

Project Timeline: August 2019 - June 2020
Professor and Faculty: Nanyang Asst Prof Guan Xueli (LKC)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?
Research is something that is exciting to me because it allows you to explore a topic of interest in much greater depth. I think understanding the processes that go behind an article or a piece of evidence is really important, and taking up a research opportunity in M2 provides you this experience without it being too stressful.

What is your project about?
The Guan Xueli lab uses lipidomics to explore the interface between human hosts and pathogens. Lipidomics is like genomics but for lipids, and is a fast-expanding and very interesting field. My research project primarily examined whether there are special characteristics about the lipid structures of MRSA, and whether these characteristics were common throughout the growth phases. There were also opportunities to compare to other strains of S. aureus, and other bacteria.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?
I've always been particularly interested in infectious disease and microbiology, and was keen to explore topics within this field at a deeper level. I also knew I wanted to get my hands dirty and learn wet lab skills. Developing wet lab skills takes more time because it requires repetition and precision, and this project provided me ample time to train. My mentor and research colleagues were also very supportive and friendly, and this helped to solidify my decision.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?
For my project, commitment level was consistent throughout with about half a day to full day of experiments or data analyses until I breaked for Summatives. We also had a weekly meeting every Monday, which kept me on track. My mentor and team were very supportive and understanding, which made everything smoother and much easier!

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?
I really learnt a lot during the research project that I would not have otherwise
-Hard skills: trained in laboratory skills (eg. handling large amounts of experimental data, carrying out experiments with lipids), programming, statistical analyses, reading scientific articles
-Soft skills: scientific report writing, communication of results, organisation and scheduling, working within a research team
Overall, it was a ery rich and fulfilling learning experience.

CHEN MINGWEI

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Not much; it took up some time and effort, but this is minimised with planning ahead and sticking to a schedule

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
I think the URECA timeline is well-planned and keeps you on track in terms of progress. I was able to finish my data collection fairly early on, which allowed me to make the Poster submission more meaningful. It is also suitable for medical students, as I was able to settle the experimental details before Summs, then write the Report and Reflection after Summs were over.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?
The timeline is helpful to keep you on track in terms of progress. URECA also offers you opportunities that are difficult otherwise and I took advantage of all of them: I've attended and will be presenting at a conference, attended compulsory classes on research and writing, and had a formalised structure to grading and assessments. I am proud of and happy with my URECA submissions.

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?
The deadlines worked out fine for me, but it's just the stress knowing that the work you produced will be graded and assessed.

Any other tips/advice you wish you had known before starting your research project?
Step out of your comfort zone and try the things you've never done before! My project was immensely rewarding because I was motivated and inspired to try new things, think deeper, and work harder!

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
mchen016@e.ntu.edu.sg

WAI JIA YAN

Diagnostics of Inborn error metabolisms

Project Timeline: October 2019- July 2020

Professor and Faculty: Prof Wang Yulan, LKC (Singapore Phenome Centre)

Why did you decide to take up a research project?

I wanted to have exposure and gain some understanding about research. Also I felt that Y2 was a relatively more free year and I had spare time too. So I thought it would be a good year to take up a research project for a good duration of about a year via URECA.

What is your project about?

Developing and improving current high performance column chromatography mass spectrometry (HPLC-MS) techniques used as a screening test for inborn error metabolisms (IEM). IEMs are a group of inherited conditions which result from a defect in a protein, enzyme or transport channel etc., leading to an accumulation or deficiency of certain metabolites. The levels of these metabolites may be detected or quantified via HPLC-MS and an abnormal level of a certain metabolite may indicate a pathology.

Currently hospitals in SG have a similar screening test for newborns, using neonatal dried blood spot and running it through the MS. The test currently screens for about 40 different IEMs.

My mentor hopes to develop a screening test which is able to detect a greater number of IEMs.

Eg. of IEM is PKU.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?

Since I felt that URECA was a good platform to start research, I picked a few projects that seemed interesting from the list of projects listed in the URECA portal. I also wanted to have some experience in wet lab so I shortlisted a few that involved wet lab. Afterwards I emailed a few profs and met with them face to face to find out more about their projects. After talking to my prof and reading up about IEM, I thought this project seemed interesting and quite manageble so I decided on this project.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?

Very OTOT, my Prof was very hands-off and I did not meet her very often. I only met her 3 or 4 times to discuss how I was doing in the lab and when she gave me certain tasks to do.

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?

I gained a better understanding of the basics of research. There were people I could ask help from in the lab if I needed help.

WAI JIA YAN

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Although I was interested in IEMs, a large part of the project focuses on the use of HPLC-MS and adjusting the settings of different components of the HPLC and MS to achieve better results (i.e cleaner peaks). I was not very familiar with the specifics of HPLC and MS. So it was a huge learning curve understanding the concepts of HPLC and MS, and also learning how to use the equipments (which was the bulk of the project). Since there were many samples to run in the HPLC-MS, a lot of time is spent waiting for the samples to be ran.
Since I was not familiar on using the HPLC MS machine, I used it under the guidance of the lab staff.

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
I think finishing up the poster was the most rushed for me since it had to be submitted in Jan. Prior to that I only started lab around October about once per week or in 2 weeks. I was also still confused and learning about HPLC and MS. So my December break was mostly spent in the lab doing the experiments and churning out some data for the poster.
As for the abstract and paper, I asked my mentor if I could finished it earlier so that I would not have to be stressed out over URECA and studying for summs nearing the end of the AY. I finished all the wet lab experiments end February and so I had more than sufficient time to write the paper. I started writing my draft for the paper from end February onwards and submitted it early May.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?
URECA is quite beginner friendly since it is a relatively more structured programme with lectures and seminars to help guide you through the project. Also since there were other schoolmates doing URECA, it was easy to reach out to them whenever I had queries regarding admin stuff and other difficulties.

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?
I think it depends alot on the project you choose and also the Prof. Besides that, I guess the tight timeline of needing to submit a poster by Jan.

WAI JIA YAN

Any other tips/advice you wish you had known before starting your research project?

I think the first few meetings with your prof is very important in setting out:
- What you hope to gain and learn from the experience
- What you want to contribute and how she expects to you to contribute (i.e you might be expecting more but perhaps your prof might be less open/ you expect to contribute in a different way but end up doing almost something completely different. But there is always room for negotiation throughout the project)
- What stage of the project your prof is in and what she hopes to achieve

Also while you may be interested in a particular topic based on your current impression/ knowledge/ google, it would be good to do a thorough literature review on the topic to gain a better understanding of the current grounds or findings in the scientific field before you decide on the project.

Knowing your prof's working style prior to picking a project would be very useful too since you will be working with him or her for a year (ureca).

Your contact details for juniors to learn more

90844582

ASHLEY

The Impact of Death and Dying on the Personhood of Medical Students: A Systematic Scoping Review

Project Timeline: 2 weeks in April

Professor and Faculty: Dr Lalit Krishna Senior Consultant Division of Supportive & Palliative Care National Cancer Centre

Why did you decide to take up a research project?

The team was looking for people to help out for a short period. They were close to publishing but needed more people to handle the data that they were generating. Also because of COVID, the team was trying to rush this paper to prove to doctors that medical students should be allowed in the wards. Due to this time clutch, I decided to join because they needed help.

What is your project about?

The topic was framed to fit the COVID situation: by understanding the impact of death and dying on medical students, doctors will be better able to mentor students when a patient dies. TLDR: although the emotional impact of a patient's death is jarring to a medical student, it's a valuable opportunity that educators should not let go of. Instead, they should be better equipped to mentor the students through this situation. This will allow students to get in touch with the human side of medicine and mature in terms of handling the topic of death. Methodology: 3 methods (directed content analysis, thematic analysis and summaries) were used to ensure that the systematic review (of the list of included papers using PICO) was robust. Followed by an internal appraisal using COREQ and MERSIQ

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?

The project was really close to summs. So I had to make sure that it was a short term commitment and that i would only have to sacrifice a few days at most.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?

I had to give up 4-5 days worth of studying for summs. But it was managable as classes were online and OSCEs were cancelled.

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?

You get to network with other medical students from NUS. Also, once you enter into their community, they will provide you with additional projects when your current one is done. If the project fits your interests, the time the you spend on it is actually enjoyable. It also allows you to reflect on your own experiences and maybe help you mature.

ASHLEY

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
Sometimes meeting deadlines is tough. There is just so much papers to read and because of this project's timeline, it was a mad rush.

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?
Make sure you know the people on your team and roles are given out prior to starting the project. This will reduce the risk of people fighting to be first/second authors. Its also okay to be the 10th author (me) because it gets published anyways.

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
84485473

THIRRISHA MURUGAN

Looking into patient rights and ethical considerations of AI use in the tertiary hospital setting

Project Timeline: October 2019- present
Professor and Faculty: Prof Andy Prahl, Ms Wong Pei Wen from WKWSCI

Why did you decide to take up a research project?

I've had experience in the past with lab based projects but I wanted to try something different. My project is quite different from what seniors/others have done in the past because it focuses more on the policy aspect of healthcare technology which is something I'm quite interested in and thought that Year 2 would be the right time to start on such a project while we still have the time.

What is your project about?

Simply put it looks at some of the ethical challenges that might come with using decision support systems in terms of the ethics of its use, issues of legal liability and responsibility as well as the extent to which developers of such technology and doctors consider these issues as the people mainly involved in such implementation. The scene is largely still a work in progress so there's quite a bit to look into in terms of the policy aspect of it.

What was your decision process in taking up this particular project?

So as said earlier, I thought it would be good to take up an interdisciplinary project to learn from the perspective of another faculty and also to try something new while I still had time on my hands.

What was the commitment level like and how did the project fit in with school and other commitments?

The interview phase was quite taxing because I'd have to travel down to the different hospitals to meet the consultants and then manually scribe the transcripts but overall it was quite OTOT in my case. My profs were also really understanding in letting me finish on time to focus on summs instead.

From your experience, what were the pros of taking up a research project?

Gave me a chance to work with a completely different faculty and learn skills in qualitative research which is something not commonly seen when it comes to clinical research.

THIRRISHA MURUGAN

From your experience, what were the cons of taking up a research project?
It does take up a considerable amount of time and it's largely self-driven. I feel you also need to have an end goal in mind? Like beyond URECA/M2 what would you like to do with your project but that's just my take on research.

Do you have any tips on how to approach starting a project?
I'd say focus on an area that really interests you before approaching profs/doctors as well as have a clear idea of what you expect out of the project. It would be a rather painful and unenjoyable process otherwise haha.

How did the URECA timeline and deliverables affect you in practical terms?
So the URECA timeline doesn't follow the LKC schedule clearly and their timelines don't always make sense (like you have to submit the poster months ahead of the paper while still in the midst of carrying out your research) I feel if you let your prof know ahead of time it's possible to fit it to our schedule but you really have to stick to the timeline you set because otherwise you'll be in a mad rush to meet the deadlines.

What are the pros of doing a project under URECA?
My project was interdisciplinary so URECA helped with letting me link up with another faculty which I would not have been able to otherwise so that was useful.

What are the cons of doing a project under URECA?
Honestly it's a very short term project with limited scope unless your prof wants you to extend it further and the timeline can be an issue.

Your contact details for juniors to learn more
9731 5857