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# SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP 2008 / 2009/2010



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# SCHOLARSHIP AIMS

Enhance the undergraduate student experience by exposing students to leading edge research

Provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to experience research first hand and test whether a further research careers is for them

Attract high achieving students to The University of Queensland for postgraduate study

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- Builds on existing initiatives in place at a number of schools, faculties and institutes
  - Centrally coordinated, but jointly funded activity
  - Central funding will enable the University to strengthen and broaden available offerings
  - Provides students with a central portal to obtain information about the range of summer research opportunities
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## Non-UQ students based outside Brisbane

- a contribution towards travel expenses to and from Brisbane, based on economy rail fares at student concession rates (or, for people from more distant parts of Australia, and New Zealand, economy-class airfares); and
- accommodation in a residential college on campus( details will be in the portal/website)

\*Not all study areas will offer placements to non-UQ enrolled students, please refer to specific study area for further information.

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### **Where can I undertake my research?**

The UQ Summer Research Scholarship Program is offered by a variety of schools, research centres and institutes during the summer vacation period (from mid-November to mid-February). Offers will be made subject to the availability of projects, appropriate supervision, accommodation, and funding.

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# Summer Research Scholarships 2008 / 2009

- 22 Schools
- 6 Research Institutes
- 217 Scholarship Recipients
  - 7 interstate and from NZ, 1 international



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## Assessment Criteria

Competitive basis

Availability of projects and supervisors

Academic merit

Personal Statement( reasons for wanting to participate)

Quality of project

Availability of Funding

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## What are the benefits?

\$Money\$...\$300/week for duration ( 6-10 weeks)..mid November-Mid February

Possibility of credit to a course eg **SCIE 3044** of Science Faculty

What if I am an interstate or international student?

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# Summer Research Opportunities

UQ Research Institutes involved in 2008/2009:

Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB)

Australian Institute for Bioengineering & Nanotechnology

Sustainable Minerals Institute (SMI)

Queensland Brain Institute (QBI)

UQ Diamantina Institute for Cancer, Immunology and  
Metabolic Medicine

Institute for Social Science Research (ISSR)

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# SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

## Schools involved in 2008/2009

- ❖ English, Media Studies and Art History
  - ❖ Centre for the History of European Discourses
  - ❖ History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics
  - ❖ Psychology
  - ❖ Political Science and International Studies
  - ❖ Social Science
  - ❖ Journalism and Communication
  - ❖ Social Work
  - ❖ Pharmacy
  - ❖ Dentistry
  - ❖ Medicine
  - ❖ Nursing and Midwifery
  - ❖ Population Health
  - ❖ Business
  - ❖ Veterinary Science
  - ❖ Integrative Systems
  - ❖ Engineering
  - ❖ Physical Sciences
  - ❖ Information Technology and Electrical Engineering
  - ❖ Geography
  - ❖ Architecture
  - ❖ Biological Sciences
  - ❖ Biomedical Sciences
  - ❖ Marine Studies
  - ❖ Maths and Physics
  - ❖ Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
  - ❖ Earth Sciences
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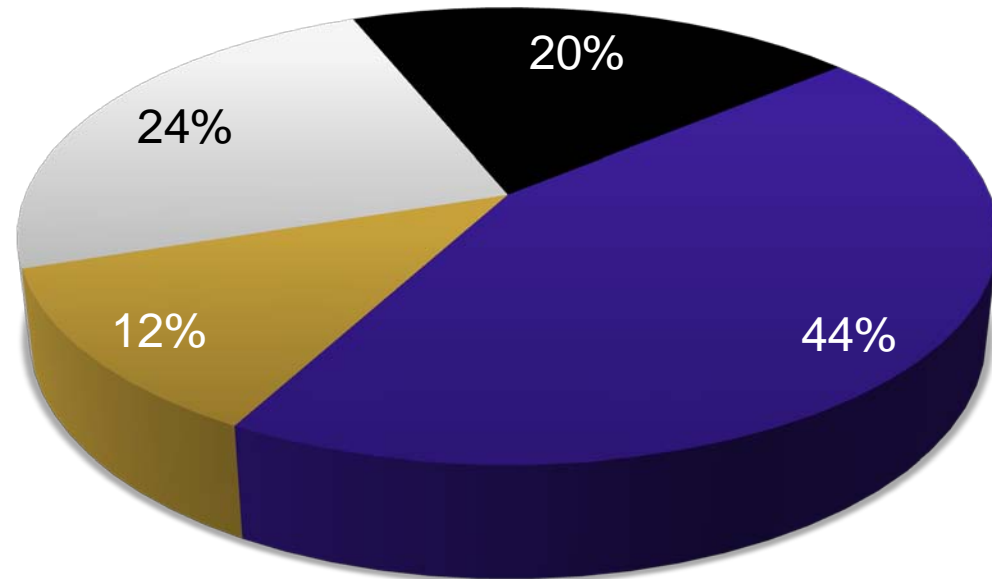
# SUPERVISORS

Surveys sent: 110

Responses received: 50

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# HOW DID STAFF FIND OUT ABOUT THE SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?



■ Email (Faculty, DVAC, School)   ■ Student   ■ Word of Mouth   ■ Faculty (Memo, Meeting)

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## SELECTION PROCESS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

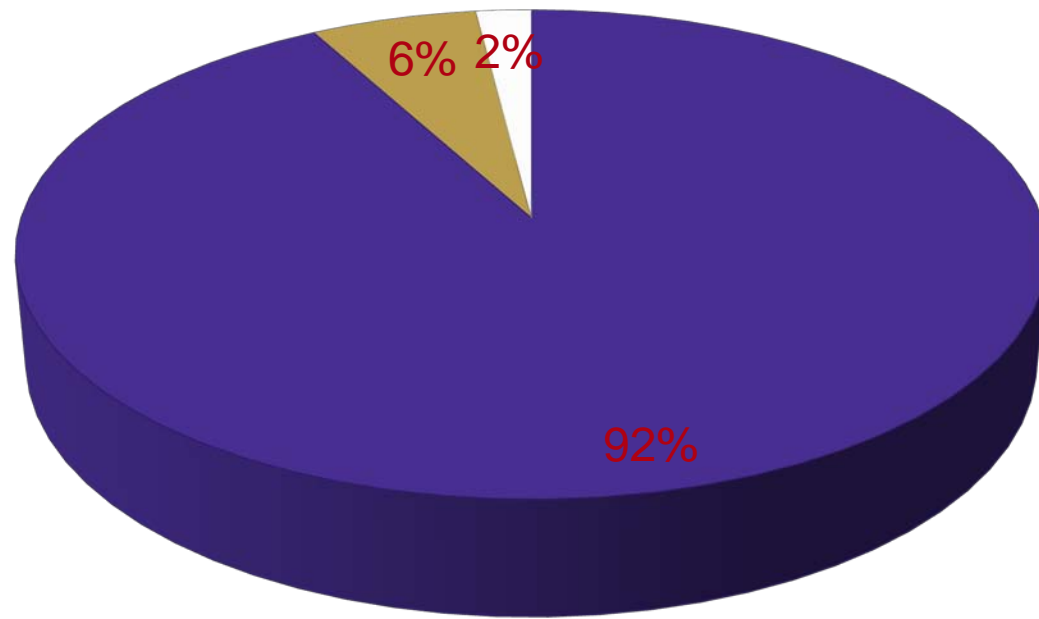
- 94% of respondents agreed that the selection process and administration were good

## CONSULTATION TIME WITH SUMMER RESEARCH STUDENT

- 38% weekly
  - 32% daily
  - 24% several times a week
  - 4% fortnightly
  - 2% several times a day
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## DID THE SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME MEET YOUR EXPECTATION?



■ Yes ■ No □ Unsure

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## SUPERVISOR FEEDBACK

- ✓ Students were highly motivated & enthusiastic
  - ✓ Good opportunity for students to experience research
  - ✓ Sound research reports were produced
  - ✓ Win-Win ...Good opportunity for staff to source / filter potential PhD student
  - ✓ Majority of staff are keen to offer new projects for the next year
  - ✓ Would like to have more non-UQ students involved
  - ✓ Strongly support this summer scholarship program
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## NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUPERVISED PER SUPERVISOR

- 1 student (58%)
  - 2 students (24%)
  - 3 students (8%)
  - 4 students (4%)
  - 7 to 10 students (6%)
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## NUMBER OF SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IN 2009/2010

- 1 – 2 scholarship (60%)
  - 3 – 4 scholarship (6%)
  - Over 10 scholarship (6%)
  - Not to offer any scholarship (12%)
  - Unsure at this stage (16%)
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## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT AND COMMENTS FROM STAFF

- Promote the scholarship earlier and few more times
  - Increase the scholarship amounts & placements
  - Project can be done across two or more schools
  - The scheme should be handled with the same procedures across schools & faculties
  - Excellent opportunity & great experience for staff & students
  - Student should have the option to received credit
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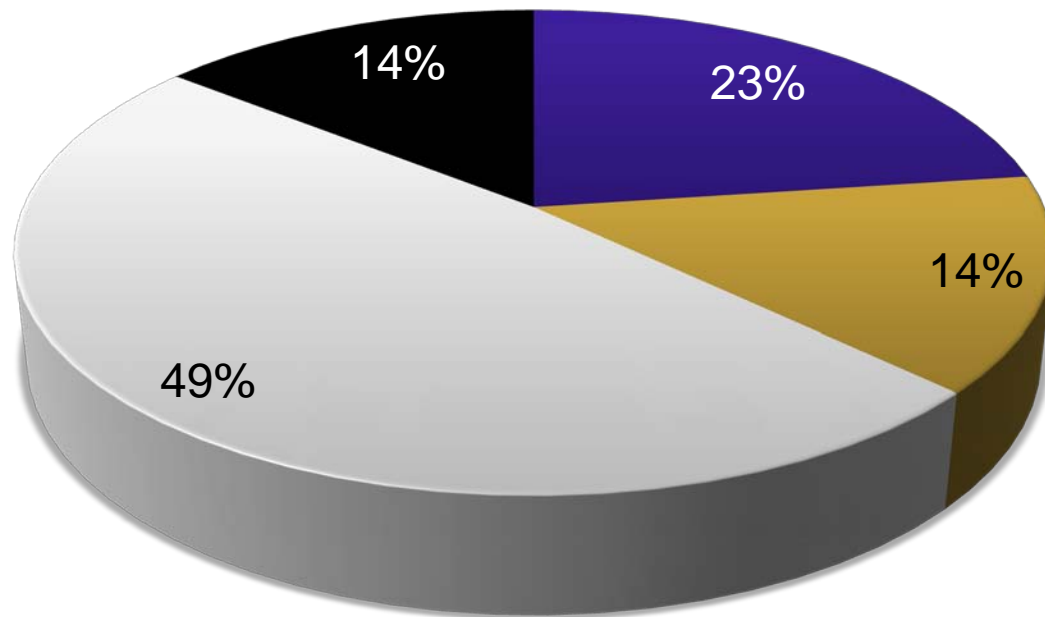
# Scholarship recipients survey

No. of surveys sent: 120

Response received: 36

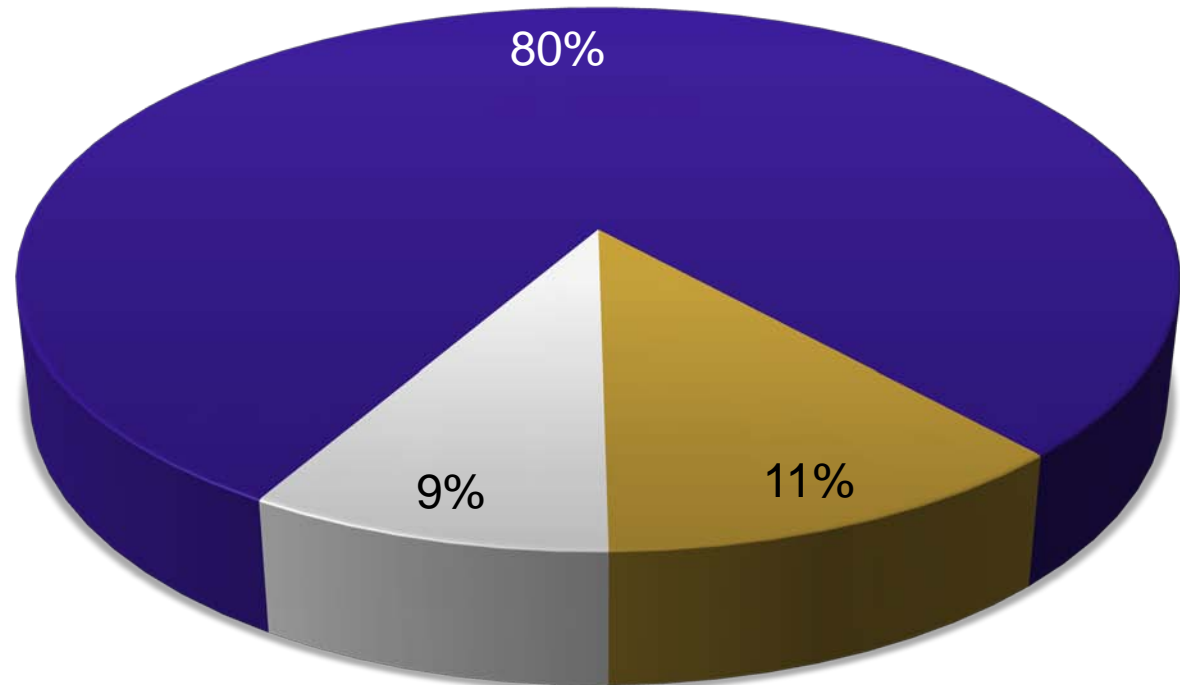
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# HOW DID STUDENT FIND OUT ABOUT THE SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM?



■ Email   ■ Website   ■ Lecture   ■ Word of Mouth  
(Friends, Supervisor, Program Advisor)

# DID THE SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME MEET YOUR EXPECTATION?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

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# STUDENT FEEDBACK

- ❖ Good learning experience & provided a nice introduction to research for honours year
- ❖ Provided a lot of valuable skills for future study & future career
- ❖ Motivated students to apply for PhD
- ❖ Should provide more information about graduate program or career information
- ❖ Supervisors were great and helpful
- ❖ Some of the programs should have more structure
- ❖ Some of the supervisors should provide more input

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# WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS SCHOLARSHIP TO OTHERS?

100% of respondents would recommend this scholarship to others

- ✓ The work was interesting and was useful for helping to decide an honours project, and directing future interests
- ✓ A great opportunity to make contacts, friends, experience the life of research and data collection, develop analytical skills and a great way to spend the summer holidays
- ✓ The scope of research areas and participating schools ensured that there were supervisors and areas of research to cater for a variety of interests

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## HOW USEFUL WAS YOUR SUMMER RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE IN HELPING YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FIELD OF STUDY?

- ✓ Very useful (78%)
- ✓ Quite useful (8%)
- ✓ Did not undertake the project in their field of study but still found it very useful (14%)



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## OTHER COMMENTS

- Offering programs like this encourages learning & fosters co operativity
- A very worthwhile experience & was glad to be part of the program
- The program should be more accessible on website or through other portals
- Encourages me to pursue further research opportunities
- Should offer different level of involvement, responsibility & complexity to the program to encourage more experienced students to come on board