UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

Research Opportunities Program

(ROP)

Application Tips Session

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Research Opportunities Program (ROP)

(299H/Y & 399H/Y)

- Conduct hands-on research for course credit (1.0 FCE or 0.5FCE)
- Faculty of Arts & Science degree students in their **second and third year (4.0 – 13.5 credits)** can participate in up to 2 ROPs.
- Students will be placed into a 299 course for their first ROP and a 399 course for their second ROP.
- Projects available in Fall (H), Winter (H), Fall/Winter (Y) and Summer (Y) terms
- Final grade assignments may include keeping a journal, writing a final report, presenting your research at the ROP Poster Fair, which takes place twice a year (Spring, Fall)

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Benefits of participating in ROP

- Learn and practice applied research skills
- Work closely with a faculty member, meeting at least biweekly with supervisor to discuss project and progress
- Being a part of groundbreaking research in an area that interests you
- Enhance skills and experiences that you can add to your resume and/or CV
  - Data collection and organization, literature reviews, coding, analysis
  - Time-management, communication, writing reports, presentation
- Strengthen graduate studies applications
- Career exploration and clarity

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Sample ROP Projects in Summer 23 & FW 2023-24

Dept.	Faculty Supervisor	Project Title	Term
ESS	Dr. Miriam Diamond	Characterizing lots of microplastics in Toronto outdoor air and surface waters	F/W 23-24
LIN	Dr. Myrto Grigoroglou	Events in speech and gesture	F/W 23-24
LMP	Dr. Susan Done	Heterogeneity and the Immune Response in Breast Cancer	F/W 23-24
PSL	Dr. Adria Giacca	The role of NOD1 in obesity-associated diabetes	Summer 23, F/W 23-24
PSY	Dr. Felix Cheung	The Science of a Satisfying Life	F/W 23-24
VIC	Dr. Hakob Barseghyan	Visualizing Worldviews: Deciphering the Process of Scientific Change	F/W 23-24

View the full list of 2023-24 ROP Projects

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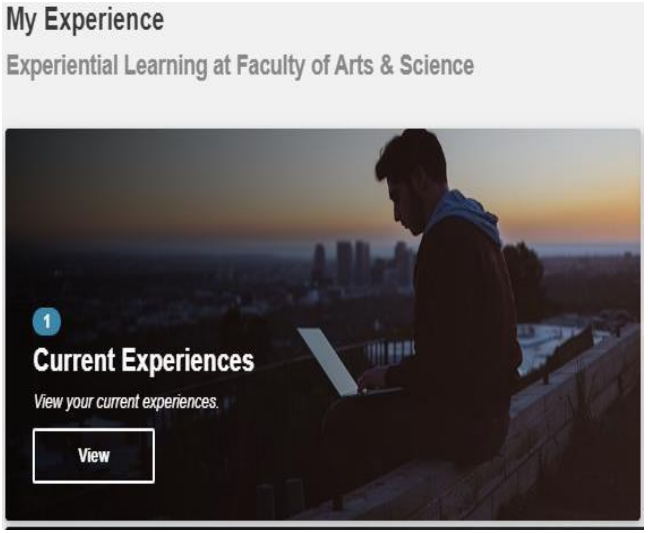
ROP Application Process



- Apply on CLNx from February 22–March 22. Detailed instrauctions are available in the How to Apply section of the ROP website.
- Browse and compare available projects to determine which ROPs courses you are interested in. You can apply for up to five ROP projects in total.
- Submit applications by clicking “Apply” and uploading your:
  - Resume
  - Letter of Intent
  - Applicant Profile Summary
  - PDF of unofficial transcript
- Project supervisors will contact students directly and coordinate selection process. Be patient – it may take supervisors a few weeks to review applications
- If selected, attend an interview with the faculty supervisor. If successful, sign ROP contract to be enrolled in the course

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Application Tips

Key words for your Resume and Letter of Intent can be found within the CLNx posting. Leverage these **keywords** to demonstrate the connection between your skills and experiences, and the qualities that a professor may be looking for in an ROP student. Sometimes you may need to read between the lines.

❑ An application can stand out to a professor if it demonstrates that:

- You have researched the topic, their work, and can explain your interest (it can be helpful to note specific examples)
- You can describe how your previous experiences reflect the skills required, and make clear connections between what you've done and what the ROP might involve
- You demonstrate a positive attitude, and emphasize that your skills and approach will be an asset to their project

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General advice

- Take some time to review a professor's interests and publications. It can sometimes be helpful to read a recent paper or two; this can help you better understand the research and speak to your interest in the project.

- Speak with current students who are involved in ROP or in research more generally, to learn about the work they're doing and receive advice. The Research Fair in March is a great opportunity to connect with ROP students.

- Demonstrate curiosity, a willingness to work hard and learn, and emphasize transferable skills such as communication skills, team work, and other skills that showcase your ability to adapt and contribute to a team or project.

- Make clear connections between your skills, experiences, and knowledge, and what the project involves. Volunteer experience, coursework, and other opportunities where you've developed skills can help strengthen your application as long as you are able to explain how these skills will be an asset as an ROP student.

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One approach to drafting your Letter of Intent

Paragraph 1: Introduce yourself and summarize your intent (goal) in sending the letter

- Dear Professor ABC,
- Name, year, studying XYZ,
- Applying to your research project, have a focus/interest in Research area(s)

Paragraph 2: Explain why you are interested in this particular research project, and show that you've done some background reading

- Be specific about **what** you are interested in (e.g. studying ancient Greek texts, researching degenerative diseases like Parkinson's) and **why** you are interested

Paragraph 3: Brief summary of your education, skills and experience

- Knowledge - courses you exceled in (GPA if helpful), research papers with high grades
- Skills and experiences relevant to the position - analytical skills, wet lab, Excel, etc.
- Transferable skills – e.g work well independently/in teams, organized, strong problem solving

Paragraph 4: Summary and next steps

- Reiterate your interest, sentence that summarizes your candidacy, enthusiasm
- Looking forward to hearing from you

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ROP Research Poster Fair

March 16
Great Hall, Hart House

- Learn about ROP research
- Talk to ROP students and hear their experience
- Ask questions to ROP officer regarding your ROP interest and application
- Register to attend!
  https://forms.office.com/r/2TeDz5eyCa

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Research Excursions Program (398H/Y)

- Off-campus research opportunities, in Canada or abroad, during the Summer term
- Typically, REPs are small group projects supervised by an Arts & Science faculty member
- REP courses are open to **3rd year** St. George Faculty of Arts & Science degree students **(9.0 – 13.5 credits)**
- While Summer tuition fees apply, travel-related expenses are covered by Arts & Science
- REPs may count as 0.5 or 1.0 course credits

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2023 REP Locations

Department	Research Project	Location
ANT	Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers at Grub Kranawetberg	Vienna and Stillfried an der March, Austria
ESS	Investigating critical metal deposits of northern Quebec and Ontario	Cobalt Ontario, Val d'Or Quebec, Chibougamau Quebec, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
ANT	Archaeological Fieldwork and Community Engagement in the Northern Cape, South Africa	Kathu and Kimberley, South Africa
EEB	Early spring breeding of amphibians in Algonquin Provincial Park	Wildlife Research Station, Ontario, Canada
CLA	Archaeological Excavations at Falerii Novi	Rome and Città Castellana, Italy
EEB	The evolution of ecological diversity across neotropical lizard communities	Santo Domingo and 6 field locations, Dominican Republic
NEW	Language, Gender, and Economic Factors in Education in Bungoma County, Kenya	Nairobi, Misikhu and Siuna, Kenya
EEB	Impacts of fragmentation and climate fluctuations on plant diversity	Koffler Scientific Reserve, Ontario, Canada

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For questions, please contact: rop.artsci@utoronto.ca

Visit the **uoft.me/ROPartsci** for ROP updates and details.

Thank you!