



Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR)

Faculty of Science

Sara Cormier, Dr. Sunita Nadella, Dr. Jim Lyons
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What is the OUR Mission?

We aim to make research an integrated component of the undergraduate experience for all undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science by breaking down the barriers to engagement, facilitating access and outcomes, and creating communities of practice to elevate the student experience and ensure student success.



Who is the OUR?

Meet our Team



Dr. Jim Lyons

Director



Dr. Sajeni Mahalingham

Program Manager



Sara Cormier

Acting Program Manager



Dr. Sunita Nadella

Experiential Programming and Outreach Manager

Who does the OUR support?

- Our mandate is to help all undergraduate students (~8600) in the Faculty of Science as they explore and engage in research
- We support research faculty in supervising undergraduate students

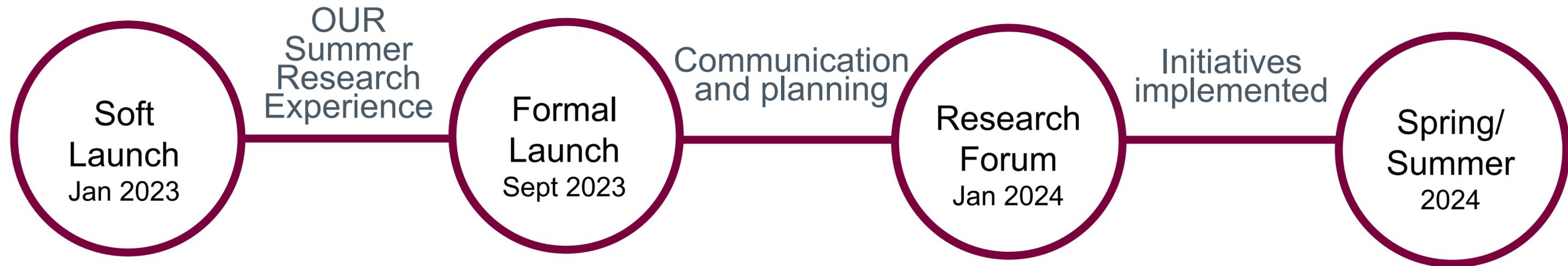


Why?

Undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science are enthusiastic about research but feedback showed they were unsure about where to begin and how to get involved, especially early in their undergraduate journey.

When?

Timeline of the OUR



Where?

BSB 129

What does the OUR offer?

2023/2024 initiatives

- Faculty of Science Colloquia
- Skills Workshops
- Instagram (@mcmasterour)
- Website
(our.science.mcmaster.ca)
- OUR Path to Research Podcast
- 1-on-1 in-person and virtual advising
- Summer research (and fall/winter)
- Graduate Student Shadowing
- Research Application Bootcamp
- Field Schools
- Undergraduate Research Forum
- Science 2RP3 and 2EP3 placement courses
- Developing Science 2RS3 – second year research skills course



Undergraduate Research Positions

Summer 2024

Support the hiring/funding of students through various research programs:

- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
- NSERC USRA
- OUR Summer Research Experience
- Bamfield (Victoria, BC) Field School
- Georgian Bay Field School

EMPLOYED

70+

Undergraduate
Students in the Faculty
of Science in
Research Positions

How are we doing?

OUR metrics

- 700 students joined the mailing list
- >52 000 website visits; >1300 unique visitors
- >150 advising appointments – 4.8/5.0 usefulness rating
- 12 skills workshops – routinely at capacity
- 3 colloquia – 4.9/5.0 enjoyment rating from attendees
- ~180 Forum attendees, >400 registrants, - 6.4/7 usefulness rating
- 145 filled in end-of-year survey – 5.3/7 rating of overall experience with OUR

REACHED

700

Students via
emailing list

How is this possible?

The OUR exists because of generous SAF funding.

Support from the Faculty of Science faculty, staff, and most importantly students has made the inaugural year a success.

Thank you!

