

Notes for applicants - CoBiD/UREKA 2010

The application document

You cannot edit the text of the application document, or move your cursor through the text, except in the fields for you to fill in. Use the scroll bars on the side of the window to view pages for reading. The fields for you to enter are underlined spaces. Use the “tab” or arrow keys to move between fields, or use your mouse to click directly onto a field.

Fill in all four pages of the application form carefully and completely. Try to include any information that explains how you fit our eligibility criteria:

- willingness to work hard, and ability to work independently
- strong interest in the project or lab group of choice
- career goals in organismal biology
- students should be in the final year of their undergraduate (BSc) degree in 2010/11
- proficiency in English (written and spoken)

Specific notes on the application form:

Page 1.

3. please indicate the date you will finish your final exam or degree requirements for your first (undergraduate) degree; **not** the date of your formal graduation or convocation ceremony

5. current postal address, as of **April/May 2010** (where we can post materials to you if you are accepted to the programme)

9. see list of project descriptions; indicate the project **number** of your first and second choices; a third choice is optional

10. indicate who will be providing your letter of reference. n.b. letters of support **must** be received directly from the referee, not from the applicant, to ensure confidentiality.

11. if you are not an Irish citizen you will require a passport to travel to Ireland. Students who require a visa to travel to Ireland (most African, South American, and Asian countries) must send a copy of their passport picture page with this application; this is because if you do not have a passport ready **now**, you will **not** have time to process your visa application before the summer. Students who do not require a visa (e.g. from North America and Europe) are encouraged to ensure their passport is ready for travel in June but we do not require proof of passport at this time.

Page 2. For more specific details of your academic history and accomplishments, any longer-term work experience, and other qualifications that you feel may be particularly relevant, please be sure to include mention of these aspects in your personal statement or description of relevant experience on page 3.

To submit your application

The application deadline is Sunday 28 **March 2010**.

All materials (this application, and your letter of reference) must be received by this date. Candidates who are accepted for the programme will receive notification by email. All successful candidates **must** confirm their acceptance within seven days of notification. All candidates (successful or not) should be informed of admissions decisions by 11 April.

When you have completed this application, submit it by email (as an attachment, named “surname_app.doc” with your surname, i.e. family name) to ureka@ucd.ie.

To complete your application, we must also receive a letter of recommendation from a member of the academic staff in your department or another biosciences professional who is familiar with your abilities. This letter must be submitted directly from your referee, by email (as an attachment, named “surname_ref.doc” with your surname) to ureka@ucd.ie.

Applications that do not follow these instructions (including file name format) may be considered invalid.

If you have any questions about completing your application, please consult the CoBiD-UREKA website, or email us: ureka@ucd.ie

Application F.A.Q.

- ✓ **Am I eligible to apply for positions in CoBiD-UREKA at any stage of my degree programme?**

To be eligible for CoBiD-UREKA 2010, you **MUST** be registered as an *undergraduate student in autumn 2010 (September-December)*. UREKA Sites are normally targeted towards undergraduate students approaching their final degree year. However, undergraduate students earlier in their degree programme are also eligible. *Undergraduate students who are in the final year of their degree programme are NOT eligible to apply.*

- ✓ **I have already completed my degree; can I still apply?**

Students who have completed their first degree (BSc) qualification are NOT eligible to apply. However, there are a limited number of positions each summer for unpaid volunteer work-experience within the CoBiD programme. If you are interested, please contact us with your CV and a letter of interest.

- ✓ **What about three-year undergraduate programmes?**

To be eligible for CoBiD-UREKA 2010, you **MUST** be registered as an undergraduate student in September 2010. Students in three-year degree programmes are expected to apply for the summer after their second year.

Undergraduate students who are in the final year of their degree programme are NOT eligible to apply.

- ✓ **I'm in the first year of my degree; can I still apply?**

Most UREKA students are accepted to the programme in the summer before the final year of their first degree. However, some students have been accepted from earlier in their degree programme, so it is worth applying!

- ✓ **Are students from outside Ireland eligible for positions in CoBiD-UREKA?**

Yes, positions in UREKA Sites are open to Irish students and to international students from any country. There are no places specifically reserved for Irish students. A standard allowance toward travel expenses for international students (outside the island of Ireland) will be provided. This allowance is up to EUR 500 for students from outside Europe.

- ✓ **From where I live, a plane ticket to Ireland costs \$2,000.00! I can't afford that!**

We are committed to encouraging and supporting the participation of students who are financially disadvantaged. This may be because you live in a country with a disadvantageous exchange rate (e.g. Latin American or African countries) and/or because of your personal background. If you wish to apply for an extended travel allowance, please email a letter of application with an explanation of your circumstances when you submit your application: note that extended travel allowances are allocated based on financial needs, *not* on academic merit.

- ✓ **Do I have to pick one specific research group that I want to work with?**

Yes and no. The CoBiD-UREKA summer programme is targeted at students with clear research interests; we select students who are able to work independently. However, you may find several labs that are of interest. These should be ranked in order of preference on your application (maximum 2), and you should address what interests you about each one.

- ✓ **Can I apply for a project in a topic that is not listed, according to my own research interests?**

No, all students must apply to work with the labs of the CoBiD-UREKA research mentors, whose research interests are listed. However, the specific project may be finalised later in

the Spring, after final students are selected. You can contact the UREKA team, or a specific mentor for more information or guidance with your application.

✓ **If I apply early, do I have a better chance of getting a place?**

No. Applying early does not increase (or decrease) your standing in competition for placement in the programme.

✓ **My university's exam period ends after the CoBiD-UREKA programme starts. Can I start late and stay for 10 weeks?**

No. All participating students are required to attend for the full 10 weeks in the dates stated.

✓ **Is it OK to contact mentor(s) directly about summer projects?**

Because of high levels of interest in the CoBiD-UREKA program, please write only to the enquiries address: ureka@ucd.ie

We are able to answer most questions that students have at the application stage, although we may refer your question to a UREKA mentor for detailed answers.

✓ **Will you arrange my visa?**

No, but we will help. If you are from a country that requires a visa to enter Ireland, and you are accepted to the CoBiD-UREKA programme this summer, we will provide a letter of support for you to obtain a student visa. However, obtaining the necessary permission and visas to travel to and to enter Ireland are **your own** responsibility. You must make the application for a student visa, you are responsible for paying any necessary fees, and you are responsible for ensuring that you obtain the visa in good time to travel for the *beginning* of the programme.

✓ **I still have questions!**

Please email us: ureka@ucd.ie