

Dear SPARQ-ed Participant,

Congratulations on being selected to take part in a Research Immersion Program at SPARQ-ed, the joint UQDI / DET / TRI education outreach centre. You have an exciting and extremely busy week ahead of you, so please take the time to make sure you're ready with the following information sheet.

What you can expect:

SPARQ-ed is unlike anything you have done in school so far. To date, your science practical experience has probably been performing some tried and tested experiments which have a defined and easily predicted outcome. With SPARQ-ed, you will be doing real research in a real research laboratory with real scientific researchers. This means that there is a good chance that the experiments you will be carrying out may not have been done before - even we're not sure on the outcome. This raises a very important point: sometimes things don't work out the way we want or expect them to. The joy of discovery is one of the great things about scientific research. Try to keep in mind that in scientific research a result that you're not expecting can be just as valid as one that you are expecting. It's up to you to determine the significance of your findings. Did you carry out the procedure in such a way that you are confident of the results? What does a negative result actually mean for the research project?

The SPARQ-ed projects have been designed to be modified to coincide with what happens in the lab. If a procedure takes longer than expected, we can skip one part of the project, or leave it until the next day. At some points we may do an experiment twice under slightly different conditions just to make sure we cover all of the possibilities. If we find that incubating something for one hour gives us results then we might not bother with following up the samples which have been incubated overnight. This is what happens in real research laboratories and what you find will shape the experiences for the participants that follow you.

What we expect of you:

The Research Immersion Program will run for five days. You will be expected to attend all week. Each day, the laboratory program may operate between 9.00am and 5.00pm with breaks for morning tea and lunch during the day. You should plan to arrive no later than 8.45am, as the Coordinator will be waiting for you from this time. If you are delayed in getting in to the facility, please call our office on 3443 6920 so that we can make alternative arrangements to meet with you. Depending on the work undertaken, some days may finish earlier than 5.00pm or in fact later than 5.00pm. You may choose to leave or spend the time catching up on research in the breakout room. If you cannot attend one of the sessions or need to leave early, please contact the SPARQ-ed Coordinator by email or telephone prior to the commencement of that day's activities.

The majority of the work undertaken will be conducted in the SPARQ-ed teaching laboratory on Level 2 of TRI. The library research session may be held in the joint Pharmacy Australia Centre for Excellence (PACE) medical library. Morning tea and lunch breaks may be taken in the lunch room on Level 7 of TRI, while the academic seminar and the closing symposium will be held in the TRI auditorium on Level 2 or a similar space on level 2. Other locations visited will be as directed by the Coordinator.

The week will finish with a symposium where you report the findings of your research to your fellow participants and researchers from TRI in a short oral presentation. This symposium will be held on the Friday afternoon and you are encouraged to invite friends and family.

Bring a notebook and writing implements - pens not pencils. You will be provided with a laboratory manual, but you may find the notebook useful to record any extra information (and will serve as the laboratory journal for students undertaking the bonus ranks program). It's also a good idea to bring a USB memory stick to save any files like documents you have written or photos you have taken.

Make sure you come suitably attired. Wear comfortable but respectable clothes like shirts with sleeves. We will supply you with gloves, lab coats and safety glasses, and you will be changing in and out of these all day. If you have long hair, bring a hair tie as you will not be allowed to work in the lab with it flowing free. Above all, wear appropriate footwear. You must wear shoes that completely cover the feet. They don't have to be work boots (although these are acceptable), but they can't expose any of your feet (no straps or exposed toes, tops of the feet or heels). Keep the soles as flat as possible. Runners or school shoes are perfect for this. Thongs, sandals or ugg boots are completely unacceptable. You will not be permitted to take part in the laboratory exercises if you do not have the correct footwear.

If you have any cuts or open wounds on an exposed part of your body (especially your hands), make sure that you have it covered with a waterproof dressing.

Before you arrive:

It is imperative that you familiarise yourself with the research program and background reading before you arrive. It is a requirement of the course that you are familiar with the risk assessments for the activity and have signed the relevant forms (or had your parent or guardian sign for you) to show that you are familiar with the procedures and the risks involved. When you have been assigned a project, you will get access to this information via the SPARQ-ed web portal. In the meantime, you can get a feel for what is done in the projects by perusing previous project materials at : <http://www.di.uq.edu.au/sparqed-projects>.

We are interested in finding out whether the experience of the SPARQ-ed Research Immersion Programs can influence students' attitudes to science. To help us out, we have established some online surveys which are linked from the website above. One survey is to be completed before the project, while the other will be available after the project. Please take the time to complete these surveys.

If cell biology is not currently your strong point, review the structure of the cell, the nature of biomolecules like proteins and nucleic acids and the process of DNA transcription and RNA translation. The SPARQ-ed web portal has some links and activities which will take you through the relevant information.

SPARQ-ed

Students Performing Advanced Research QLD

SPARQ-ed™

UQ Diamantina Institute
Level 7 | Translational Research Institute
37 Kent Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102
Ph. 07 3443 6920 | Fax. 07 3443 6966
Email. sparqed@uq.edu.au
Web. www.di.uq.edu.au/sparq-ed

For those students undertaking the bonus ranks program, you will need to have completed a review of the literature which is to be handed to the coordinator on the first day. See <http://www.di.uq.edu.au/sparqedbonusrank> for more information on this

When you first arrive:

All of the research facilities at TRI are security controlled and not accessible to the general public. TRI is located adjacent to the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Woolloongabba, Brisbane and, on the first day, you will need to assemble ground floor foyer of TRI. Here, you will be met by the Coordinator who will take you where you need to go. On subsequent days of the program, once you have found out where TRI is, you can assemble in the central atrium of the TRI building.

Program:

It is difficult (and possibly futile) to try to plan out the research activities for the week minute by minute. However, there are a number of “non-negotiable” times where activities have been planned - the lab work will fit around these activities:

Monday:

- Meet Coordinator in ground floor foyer of TRI
- In SPARQ-ed breakout room (Level 2 of TRI) :
 - Welcome by Coordinator
 - Introduction to project by research leader
- Laboratory Induction by Coordinator in SPARQ-ed teaching laboratory (Level 2 of TRI)
- Morning Tea
- Project work commences Monday before lunch

Tuesday:

- Lunchtime research seminar in TRI Auditorium

Wednesday:

- Academic research session

Thursday:

- Science communication tutorial in the SPARQ-ed breakout room

Friday:

- Lunchtime
- Afternoon research symposium in TRI Auditorium

A proud initiative of





Students Performing Advanced Research QLD

SPARQ-ed™

UQ Diamantina Institute
Level 7 | Translational Research Institute
37 Kent Street, Woolloongabba QLD 4102
Ph. 07 3443 6920 | Fax. 07 3443 6966
Email. sparqed@uq.edu.au
Web. www.di.uq.edu.au/sparq-ed

Facilities:

TRI is located on adjacent to the Princess Alexandra Hospital on Kent Street, Woolloongabba, between the Hospital and Dutton Park railway station. The hospital is a public transport hub, with regular buses to the city departing from outside the hospital in addition to its proximity to Dutton Park railway station. The PA Hospital also has a stop on the new Southeast Busway which runs across the Brisbane River to the University of Queensland at St Lucia. Parking is not free. The hospital has a multistorey parking station which costs approx. \$20 per day to park. Across Ipswich Road is the Buranda carpark which also costs approx. \$20 per day. The area around the hospital is a restricted parking zone and the nearest free on-street parking is a considerable distance from the hospital. While there is a drop-off point at the main entrance to the hospital, consideration should be given to patients who are being picked up or dropped off at the hospital.

The TRI and hospital have a number of dining and takeaway facilities. Catalyst Cafe, located on the ground floor of TRI provides a range of reasonably priced quality food options. The hospital has a cafeteria and a Starbucks coffee shop in the main foyer, and the Pacemaker coffee shop is located in the PACE building adjacent to TRI. Access to these may be limited by the amount of time available in breaks (and the queue at Starbucks can be quite long). Participants will be provided with a voucher for lunch, and are encouraged to bring your own snacks for morning tea. Refrigerators and secure storage areas will be made available for you to keep your lunch and belongings. Please note that break times will be tailored to suit the research activities undertaken. Just like in a real research lab, they will not be held at the same time every day. You may also be expected to multi-task (eg. attending a research seminar while eating your lunch).

The PA Hospital has ATM facilities and a newsagent located close to the main entrance.

Feedback:

While we have been running for over four years, SPARQ-ed is still striving to improve our service. We value any constructive feedback on how the course went and what we could do to improve it. Please take the time to complete the feedback surveys and return them to us.

Contact:

SPARQ-ed Coordinator
sparqed@uq.edu.au
University of Queensland Diamantina Institute
<http://www.di.uq.edu.au/sparq-ed>

Level 7 | Translational Research Institute
37 Kent Street, Woolloongabba, Qld 4102, Australia
Ph : +61 7 3443 6920 | Fax : +61 7 3443 6966
email : sparqed@uq.edu.au

A proud initiative of



SPARQ-ed Research Immersion Program Checklist :

One week before the project - have you :

- Visited the website (via <http://www.di.uq.edu.au/sparqed-projects>)
- Read through the manual
- Read the risk assessments and signed the appropriate paperwork
- Familiarised yourself with how you're going to get there every day
- Completed (or are well on the way to completing) your literature review (bonus rank program students only)

On the first day, do you have :

- Appropriate clothing
- Appropriate footwear
- Lunch
- Writing implements
- A notebook
- A data storage device (eg. USB memory stick or similar)
- Your literature review (bonus rank program students only)

After the project, have you :

- Told your friends and colleagues what a great time you had
- Completed your draft paper and submitted it to the coordinator (bonus rank program students only)

Finding The Translational Research Institute

