

Research Internships with QUT Urban Informatics
Write your thesis in Brisbane!



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QUT Urban Informatics

Research Internships

What's the idea?

We regularly give selected applicants from overseas universities the opportunity to join the QUT **Urban Informatics Research Lab** as research interns. Some use this time to write their Bachelor or Master thesis for their degree at home. During their stay, research interns will be part of a highly productive team working on applied research topics across people, place and technology.

Research interns will usually be hosted for up to 6 months, and a **bench fee*** is payable to QUT. In return, interns receive University Visitor status, which includes a desk in the lab's office space, access to QUT support and library facilities.

*) as of 2015, AUD 4,500



Urban Informatics Research Lab

Who are we?

We are an internationally recognised team working across research and development at the intersection of **people, places and technologies**, with a focus on cities, location-based services and mobile technology. The team is transdisciplinary in that it comprises and collaborates with architects with degrees in media studies, software engineers with

expertise in urban sociology, human-computer interaction designers with a grounding in cultural studies, and urban planners with an interest in digital media and social networking.

The lab provides an ideal environment for a dynamic and vibrant **research culture** to flourish with research staff, post-docs, and PhD students working on related topics under senior supervision across the QUT School of Design.

The lab offers regular seminars, weekly team meetings, an annual retreat, and mature mentoring. All lab members are encouraged and supported to publish their research in high-quality journals and conference proceedings.



The Research Internship

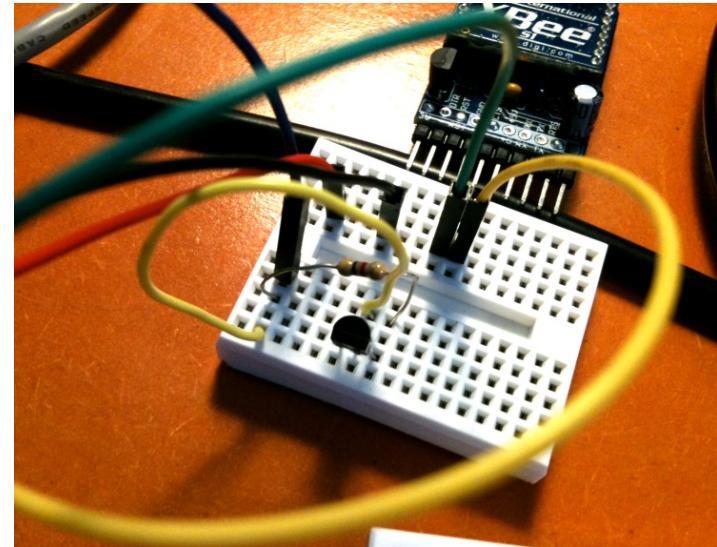
How does it work?

- Research Interns will be hosted for **up to 6 months**, receiving University Visitor status which includes an ID card, a desk in the lab's office space, access to QUT library facilities and IT support.
- Research Interns will receive **supervision by researchers** of the lab with expertise relevant to the proposed internship project or thesis study. Biographies can be found at: urbaninformatics.net/team
- Research Interns will be invited to join the lab's annual retreat at Salt Village, Kingscliff, New South Wales in May, for concentrated work and team building exercises (subject to annual review). In December, interns are invited to the annual Xmas party. Furthermore, interns are encouraged and supported to publish their findings in high quality publications.
- Research Interns should consider their options to apply well in advance for institutional / university support and/or a nationally funded scholarship or travel grant (in Germany, e.g.: DAAD FITweltweit, Studienstiftung, Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung, etc.)

The Research Internship

What will I do?

- You will be part of a productive research team working on applied research topics across people, place and technology, such as:
 - Urban computing and Smart Cities
 - Human-Computer Interaction (HCI)
 - Pervasive technology / ubiquitous computing
 - Design research
 - Mobile, physical, tangible interactions
- Topics for research internships can be proposed by either the lab or the candidate.
- Candidates are encouraged and supported to combine their studies and research publications as part of their thesis. Stand-alone internships without thesis are possible, too.



Applying for an Internship

How does it happen?

Although interns can visit the lab at any time during the academic year, we recommend a stay of at least 6 months that commences either in February/March or in July/August. Keep in mind that our summer break is from end of December until end of January, and many research staff are on leave. You can extend your stay if you want to travel Australia before or after your internship.

- **Ideally 12 months ahead***
 - Start preparations by talking to your local study abroad advisor.
 - Identify a suitable project topic (see slide “Finding a Research Topic”). Then email us with **your application** (see slide “How do I apply?”). We like applicants who have done their homework and know what we do. We then discuss and refine your proposed topic. If your application is successful, we will issue a **Letter of Invitation** you can use to apply for scholarships and travel grants to help cover the QUT bench fee, travel and living costs.
- **Ideally 6 months ahead**
 - You have secured a scholarship to cover the QUT bench fee, travel and living costs. QUT will issue a **Letter of Offer**. Once you accept the offer, you can apply for a visa. Once your visa is confirmed, you can book your flights.

*) In rare circumstances we consider ad hoc applications if you have already secured your own funding and your proposed topic is of high relevance to the lab.

Applying for an Internship

How do I find a topic?

You can suggest your own research topic. Or you can align yourself with one of the lab's programs of research. To help you get started, please consult the following resources:

- Current **research projects** in the lab: urbaninformatics.net/projects
- Books and other research publications: urbaninformatics.net/publications
- List of our **research staff and students** as well as **research intern alumni** and what they worked on (via the ePrints link next to their name): urbaninformatics.net/team
- **Day in the Lab** article in ACM interactions: eprints.qut.edu.au/78246
- **Latest news**, events, and media coverage:
 - urbaninformatics.net/news
 - urbaninformatics.net/videos
 - urbaninformatics.net/media
 - facebook.com/urbaninformatics
 - twitter.com/UrbanInf

Applying for an Internship

How do I apply?

- We recommend to start your preparations 12 months ahead of your intended internship. Places are limited. Selection is competitive, based on merit and relevance to the lab.
- First, seek approval from your home university and your head of department.
- Email your application to interns@urbaninformatics.net and include:
 - Current CV of up to 4 pages
 - Academic Records
 - A brief and preliminary project proposal of not more than 2 pages outlining the research topic (**what?**), why it is relevant (**why?**), and how you intend to approach it (**how?**). This will form the basis for further discussions how we can align you with current or future work within the lab, and identify suitable supervisors.
 - Your current status at home (degree name, semester, thesis yes/no, advisor)
 - Your intended time frame for the internship
- We will review your application and endeavour to get back to you within 2 weeks.

Previous Interns

What was their experience?



"I am extremely grateful I had the opportunity to intern at the Urban Informatics Research Lab. Not only did I learn so much professionally, but also on a personal level in this beautiful setting of Brisbane."

Verena Lindner (2015)



"I got so much out of my stay at the Urban Informatics Research Lab, it's no coincidence I came back for a PhD."

Fabius Steinberger (2013)



"I've spent one fantastic semester at the Urban Informatics Research Lab exploring mobile apps for citizen engagement. I'm grateful for Prof. Foth and his team's perfect mix between autonomy, talent, support and interdisciplinarity. The openness and laid-backness of Australian culture and the sheer beauty of its nature made it even easier to return for a PhD early 2015."

Irina Anastasiu (2011)

More Information

Who do I contact?

- **Dr Jaz Hee-jeong Choi**
Director
- **Professor Marcus Foth**
Founder
- Urban Informatics Research Lab
School of Design
Creative Industries Faculty
Queensland University of Technology
- interns@urbaninformatics.net
- www.urbaninformatics.net
- Feel free to contact individual lab members for discussing prospective internship topics.



