VACATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME (VRP) 2011

The Vacation Research Programme (VRP) is a new programme available to post-SPM students, who are interested in exploring a scientific research career. VRP is designed to offer motivated students the opportunity to be involved in hands-on research project under the mentorship of established research scientists, laboratory technicians and graduate students in various tertiary research institutions in Malaysia.

Who can apply?
All Malaysian Form 5 students who will be sitting for SPM in 2010 are eligible to apply.

When will the programme begin and how long does the programme last for?
The programme will begin any time after SPM examinations, and must last for a minimum of three months. Date of commencement and length of the program is to be negotiated between successful applicants and their research supervisors.

Do I get scholarship/ stipend for this programme?
Successful applicants will receive RM 1000.00 scholarship each. Half of the scholarship will be awarded at the beginning of the programme, with the remaining awarded upon completion of the programme.

How many places are available?
There will only be three places available for 2011. The number is expected to increase in the subsequent years.

Do I have to look for a research supervisor for this programme?
No. Potential research supervisors interested in the programme have been contacted, and successful applicants will be matched to one of the three researchers involved in the programme for 2011. The three researchers involved in the VRP for 2011 are based at:

1. Malaria Research Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Kuching, Sarawak
2. School of Science, Monash University (Sunway campus), Bandar Sunway, Selangor
3. Brain Research Institute at Monash Sunway (BRIMS), Monash University (Sunway campus), Bandar Sunway, Selangor

However, if you are aware of any researchers who would like to be involved in the programme in the future, please feel free to contact us on vrp2011@gmail.com.

What are the selection criteria?
Selection for the programme is on a competitive basis, taking into account all information provided in the application. Shortlisted applications will be forwarded to potential research supervisors, and the supervisors will make the final decision on the applicant selected for the programme in his/ her laboratory. The requirement of interview is at the discretion of each supervisor.

How do I apply?
Fill in the application form, and submit the application (4 copies) along with a letter of recommendation, four certified copies of PMR results and higher secondary academic results to:

Vacation Research Programme
Peti Surat 54, 05670 Alor Setar, Kedah.

The closing date for the application is **15th December 2010**.

When will I know the results of my application?
Applicants will be notified of the results of their application by early January.

What happens at the end of my programme placement?
Successful applicants are required to write a short report at the end of the programme, covering the work carried out in the laboratory, and benefits and experience gained through the programme.

For further information, please contact us on vrp2011@gmail.com.

VACATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME (VRP) 2011
APPLICATION FORM

Name:

Phone number: **Email:**

Address:

Parent/ Guardian's Name:

School:

Subjects taken for SPM:

		Trial Exam Grade
Pure Mathematics	☐	
Additional Mathematics	☐	
Chemistry	☐	
Physics	☐	
Biology	☐	

Awards/ Achievements (list up to 10 relevant awards you have received in secondary school e.g. National Chemistry Quiz, Olympiad Mathematics etc.)
Extra-curricular activities (list up to 10 relevant school/ voluntary activities involved and leadership roles fulfilled in secondary school e.g. Science club president etc.)

Essay (250-500 words)
Why do you want to participate in the Vacation Research Programme, and how will this be a unique experience for you. You may also want to discuss about any distinctive attributes you possess, which makes you a good candidate for this programme.

Letter of Recommendation
One letter of recommendation, from your Mathematics/ Science teacher is required for this application. It must NOT be from a family member.

Academic transcript: Certified copy of PMR results and higher secondary academic transcript (i.e. Form 4 and Form 5) are required.

Signatures:
All the information provided above is true to my best knowledge

_____ _____
Student's signature Date

The above student has my permission to apply for the Vacation Research Programme

_____ _____
Parent/ Guardian's signature Date

Application checklist
Completed application form (4 copies) ☐
Letter of recommendation (in a sealed envelope) ☐
Certified copy of PMR results (4 copies) ☐
Certified copy of academic transcript (4 copies) ☐

NOTE: Letter of recommendation, which have been opened, will not be accepted.

VACATION RESEARCH PROGRAMME (VRP) 2011
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
(Confidential)

Student's Name: _____

To the referee:
The student named above wishes you to provide a recommendation on behalf of his/ her application for the Vacation Research Programme (VRP) 2011. This is a 3-month laboratory internship where students immersed in scientific research. It is imperative that they are self-motivated. We would greatly appreciate your objective evaluation of the student's qualification.

In your letter, please address the following issues:

- Do you think that this student will be successful at the Vacation Research Programme? Why, or why not?
- Describe the attitude and behaviour of the student
- Describe how the student gets along with his/her peers and adults
- Please include any additional comments concerning maturity, motivation, personality, extracurricular activities, or any other factors, which you think may be pertinent to the student's performance in the programme.

May we contact you for further information? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name:

Phone: **E mail:**

School/ Organization and Address:

_____ _____
Referee's signature Date

Please make four copies of the recommendation letter, place them in a sealed envelop (sign across the seal and cover it with clear tape) and return it to the applicant.

Further questions should be addressed to vrp2011@gmail.com

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
(Confidential)

Student's Name: _____

_____ _____
Referee's signature Date