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Year 3 in 2019-20, MEng Biomedical Engineering, Dept of Bioengineering

UROP: Summer 2020 (undertaken in the Dyson School of Design Engineering)

A Perspective: Incorporation of vasculature for FE brain model, to be studied for transient forces in TBI

I decided to do a UROP in order to experience what a research career or a PhD is like.

To find my UROP, I decided to look at research done in different departments related to my background and interests in the medical field. I discovered the HEAD laboratory, a research group in the Design Engineering department. It seemed very interesting, so I decided to contact the professor in charge, Dr Ghajari. He agreed to meet with me to discuss the project in more detail. Once we defined the project and the objectives of UROP, I applied for an EPSRC vacation bursary. Prior to UROP, I did more research on the HEAD lab and had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the laboratory group, where a PhD student was reviewing her research with the rest of the group.

During UROP, I not only gained technical skills, but also a better understanding of how to communicate my ideas and research and how to structure my tasks and goals.

I also learned a lot about the other PhD students in the lab group, as we had a weekly meeting where one person from the group presented their research updates, followed by interesting discussions.

This experience definitely helped me for my 4th year project, as I am more structured, more efficient in communicating my points of view and more proactive. I wish I had done UROP earlier in my curriculum, so I really encourage Imperial students to think about this option for the summer. You will gain valuable and transferable skills and academic maturity for the rest of your course.