

**Theodore Lamort de Gail**, Undergraduate, MSci Mathematics with a Year Abroad

UROF – Summer 2019

Project: Complex analysis and dynamics

I love pure maths for its own sake, so it seemed natural to me that I should do a UROF. It's a great opportunity to spend some time learning about more advanced topics, without being constrained by course structures, and at my own rhythm.

Autonomously working on a single topic for 6 weeks was going to be something new and exciting to me. I wanted to develop my work ethic, patience and determination. I also wanted to try to emulate a research experience which might help me decide whether I want to go into research after I graduate.

As a second-year student (at the time of the UROF), I knew that I probably won't be able to contribute anything ground-breaking to the mathematical community. Therefore, the research experience under the supervision of a member of staff in the Dept of Mathematics was focused on studying and understanding a topic in complex analysis.

During my UROF I have faced challenges and difficulties that I hadn't faced before. For instance, working autonomously means organising entire weeks of your time without any external constraint. I had to avoid getting side-tracked and remain focused on the objective that I had been given. Another interesting challenge was getting stuck, being unable to carry on because I didn't understand something. I learned to research information more efficiently and find appropriate help.

Apart from developing those "universal" skills, I also did learn a lot of maths. This was one of my main goals, and I'm happy the UROF went as well as I hoped.