

Developing and resourcing academics to help students conduct and communicate undergraduate research on a large scale

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alure-project.net

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The Undergraduate Research Experience (URE) is known to provide students with a range of beneficial skills and experiences, but the number of participating Australian students is low. This project focused on developing an integrated URE model, Authentic Large-scale URE or ALURE, where STEM students engage in a meaningful research project as part of a standard course. We mentored academics across Australia to design and deliver these experiences for their students. We evaluated both the student and implementer experience in ALURE, and from this developed resources to support academics interested in implementing their own ALURE program.

Project Impact

We identified and documented, or implemented and evaluated 21 ALUREs. Eleven were developed in association with the authorship team. This represents an annual engagement of over 7000 undergraduate students in authentic research. We also built a nationwide Community of Practice of 39 academics, some of whom have formed new mentor-mentee relationships, and have received recognition for their teaching and learning contributions.

Deliverables

- The Implementer's Checklists for novice implementers designing and developing an ALURE
- Detailed exemplars of the implementer experience in ALUREs from around Australia
- An evaluation instrument trialled in multiple course evaluations
- Artefacts from ALURE implementations; protocols, task descriptions, and student work
- Exemplar data on the impact of ALUREs on student perceptions and attitudes towards research and their learning gains

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