

# Connecting Undergraduate Researchers in the Global Space – the Matariki Undergraduate Research Network

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In this session we describe the development and implementation of an undergraduate research network across several countries. The Matariki Undergraduate Research Network (MURN) is a global research project connecting students at the universities of Western Australia and Otago, as well as Durham (2012) or Queens (2013). The rationale driving MURN is the unique opportunity to connect students engaging in undergraduate research programmes across the globe. On each campus four to nine undergraduates across the disciplines are selected to participate in MURN and engage in workshops and online modules to learn about research methods in higher education. Some elements are taught in a global classroom using web conferencing tools, and students connect via online platforms. Over the following six months all students design and execute a research project on a higher education topic of strategic importance to the participating universities. In 2012 and 2013 the umbrella topic for research is internationalisation. Alongside student research, the supervisory teams are also researching the development and implementation of the network. Data are collected using both quantitative (surveys) and qualitative (focus groups and interview) methods. Analysis of data collected from the first cycle of MURN in 2012 was used to improve aspects of the network in 2013. In this session, we will present key findings regarding the benefits and challenges of instigating and sustaining an undergraduate research network across a global space.