

ICEF Advanced Research Program (ARP)

2017/18 Academic Year

Prepared by Student Research sub-committee:

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1 Background and Concept

ICEF is the leading educational institution for Finance and Economics in Russia. A core component of Bachelors and Masters programs is research. Students in the final years are required to complete a dissertation while in other years are required to complete an extensive coursework. The increasing numbers of students in the department, and the professional outlook of many incoming students, has meant that additional resources are required to emphasise the value of student research and encourage and support students wishing to engage with it intensely. The ARP fills this role.

The ARP program should be considered part of the overall objective of ICEF to become a world-class "Research Department". That is, a department where research is at the core of all of its activities. As the ARP program will highlight the research focus of the department it will be an attractive feature for job market candidates considering joining ICEF faculty.

Finally, the ARP is aimed at providing clarity and support for students wishing to pursue a research career. Ultimately this will encourage more research oriented students to enter into ICEF.

1.1 History and Evolution

In 2015-16 ICEF launched the ARDP (Advanced Research and Doctoral Placement Program). In 2016-17 sees this transform into the ARP. The reason is two fold:

1. The committee felt that high quality research is valuable to students pursuing professional careers as much as academic ones. Although doctoral placement support remains one of the key objectives of the program, the program has a mission to cultivate passion and skills in research among students
2. The ARP will be one of two components of the BSc ICEF Academic program. Students will complete the ATP (Advanced Teaching Pro-gram) in the first two years and participate in the ARP in the 3rd and 4th years. But 2nd year students are also encouraged to join ARP even on their 2nd year.

In 2017-2018 ARP continues to work in the last year format.

2 Objective

1. The purpose of the program is to cultivate interest and skills in research for motivated ICEF students.
2. Train, inform and support ICEF students in the BSc and MSc programs to eventually become leaders in Academia. Students accepted into doctoral programs should be able to pass the (di cult and demanding) comprehensive exams, complete a quality job market paper, obtain an academic faculty position and finally obtain tenure. Simply increasing the number of students who enter into doctoral programs will be a poor metric in which to judge the success of the ARP program. What is essential is that those that go on to doctoral studies from the ARP complete all the necessary steps of a successful academic career and ultimately become "academic ambassadors" for ICEF.

3. Provide a clear path, contacts and support structure within ICEF for students wishing to pursue a research career. This will involve guiding students to make the best decisions consistent with an academic career, provide access and support from ICEF FTAs and access to ICEF PhD alumni and academic visitors to the department.

3 Scope

The ARP program will be a support structure which will run alongside and compliment the BSc and MSc programs. The ARP will remain independent of the degree programs and their current activities.

4 Key Personel of ARP

Udara Peiris (Director)

Alexis Belanin

Emiliano Catonini

Dmitry Makarov

Kosmas Marinakis

5 List and Schedule of Activities

5.1 Overview

Students interested in a research career will apply to be part of the ARP. Students who apply, including MSc students, will be admitted on a case-by-case basis, following an interview and meetings with programme Director and advisors.

5.2 Programme benefits

Programme benefits are as follows:

1. Since their 2nd year, member students will be placed within ICEF- or HSE-operated research laboratories.
2. Organization of special lectures on research methods and skills.

3. Priority access to research resources, funding, conference trips and other facilities available at ICEF and HSE.
4. Advice of ICEF FTAs and staff on placement strategy, including TOEFL/GRE, submission of application packages etc.
5. Consultations to international visiting faculty members
6. Right to present their research and receive feedback at student research seminar and research conference.
7. Reference letters and other assistance in placement at the top schools.

Participation in the programme is voluntary to the students.

5.3 Programme requirements

Students on the ARP will be required to:

1. Member students will be expected to be strong students, typically at a level of First and Upper Second Degree diploma of the UoL. Students should maintain high grades throughout their studies at ICEF.
2. Students are expected to register for certain advanced courses taught at ICEF and, possibly, other HSE departments, upon the recommendation of the programme Director and advisors.
3. Students, from the 2nd year of BSc and 1st year of the MSc, are expected to work intensively on their research. The research, at a minimum, will be to satisfy the requirements of the degree. To continue their programme involvement, students are expected to provide evidence of sufficient progress in research.
4. Meet with their research committee regularly.
5. Attend research seminars, workshops or events required by ARP.
6. Respond and report to the ARP in a timely manner.

5.4 ARP responsibilities

The ARP will coordinate and be responsible for the following activities

1. Preparation and delivery of annual comprehensive information session to all students (especially for 2nd year BSc and 1st year MSc) about a research career, research and academic culture and entering into the ARP
2. Organise academic research skills lectures.
3. Provide and organise supervision of the member students in research committees.
4. Advise students on courses to take (other than ARP requirements)
5. Arrange and coordinate, with student Academic council and ICEF Academia, open lectures of ICEF faculty on research methods and the lectures of ICEF FTAs to 2nd year BSc and 1st year MSc students in a non-technical way.
6. Organise and select papers for the student research conference.
7. Advise BSc students in 4th year or MSc students in 2nd year on the best path for an academic career (further Masters or PhD directly)
8. Whenever appropriate, arrange contacts with external programme advisors.
9. Coordinate reference letters and make direct contact with target departments in Exceptional Cases.

6 Programme contents

6.1 BSc Student progression in ARP

2nd year

1. Students will be advised on the courses to take and individual research trajectories
2. Students will be required to attend lectures on research methods and skills, and encouraged to attend research presentations of ICEF faculty members and other academic events in the areas of their specialisation.

3. Students will be encouraged to attend student research seminars in the Fall semester and student research conference in the Spring semester (typically, without presentations).
4. Students are strongly encouraged to attend ICEF research seminars and other related activities in their field of specialisation
5. Students are supposed to meet with their programme advisor at least twice a semester to discuss progress.
6. Students are required to attend the September workshop and participate in the Winter term conference.

3rd year In addition to the 2nd year facilities, are eligible for the following

1. Presentation of the topics/plans of their research at an ICEF student research seminar in the Fall semester.
2. Presentation of the results of their research at an ICEF student research conference in the Spring semester.
3. Students are required to attend the September workshop and present in the Winter term conference.

4th year In addition to the 3rd year facilities, are eligible for the following

1. Starting in November, students will be assisted in preparing a dossier of schools they are interested in and potential advisors they are interested in working with. This will be shared and discuss with committee members. At the middle of November committee members will discuss with ARP director their frank assessment of the student and which schools are appropriate. Coordination may be necessary across candidates.
2. Exceptional students will be put into direct contact with external committee members and/or international academics of their potential placement schools.
3. Present the draft results of their diploma paper at ICEF 4th year pre-defense seminars.
4. Students are required to present in the September workshop and participate in the Winter term conference.

6.2 MSc Student progression in ARP

1st year MSc students are eligible for the following

1. Students are strongly encouraged to attend ICEF research seminars and other related activities in their field of specialisation.
2. Students will present results of their research at MSc student research seminar.
2. Students are supposed to meet with their programme advisor at least twice a semester to discuss progress.
3. Students are required to attend the September workshop and present in the Winter term conference.

2nd year in addition to the 1st year facilities, students are eligible for the following:

1. Starting in November, students will be assisted in preparing a dossier of schools they are interested in and potential advisors they are interested in working with.
2. Exceptional students will be put into direct contact with external committee members and/or international academics of their potential placement schools.
3. Students are required to present in the September workshop and participate in the Winter term conference.

6.3 Schedule of Activities

Students on ARP program meet their advisor and committee on a regular basis throughout the year.

1. September

- Research Workshop for ARP students from previous year
- Welcome meeting

2. October - November

- Series of research skills lectures to all students.
- Scientific approach and methods
 - Literature search

- Presentation skills
- Data
- LaTeX
- Stata/R/Matlab

4 FTAs present their research in non-technical way to 2nd year undergraduates, but open to all students. Should be organised by student Academic committee.

3. November

Coordination on doctoral placement

4. January/February 2018

Research Conference/Retreat.