# 2021 NSERC USRA SUMMER AWARDS

## 1) NSERC USRA updates last year (2020-21) that continue this year

- Supervisor eligibility: supervisors will no longer be required to hold an active NSERC grant to supervise a USRA student.
- Travel allowance discontinued: Previously students coming from other institutions could claim a round trip travel allowance. This was rarely used and has been discontinued by NSERC.
- 2) New this year Temporary change for 2021-22: Because of the uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, awards will not be pro-rated this competition year. Anyone awarded a USRA will receive the full \$6,000 from NSERC and the minimum 25% top-up (\$1,500) from the department. Requests for shortened work terms need not be submitted.
- **3)** Selection process: At UofT the selection is undertaken at the departmental level (against their quota) using NSERC assessment criteria. In 2020 a third criterion was added (c, below).
  - a. Academic record
  - b. Research aptitude
  - c. Expected quality of the training to be received (suitability of the supervisor)

As with all internal research competitions, it is expected that principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) will be incorporated into the selection process.

## 4) NSERC USRA Overview

- To provide research work experience that will fully develop students potential for a research career in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE)
- to inspire students to consider graduate studies and pursue careers in the (NSE)
- NSERC encourages qualified Indigenous students to apply for this award. *Award Value:* \$6,000, plus a minimum 25% supplement (\$1,500) provided by the department would be over and above the quota, i.e. does not count towards the quota
- Any supplement above 25%/\$1,500 may be set at the department or supervisor's discretion. Departments may provide fringe benefits. Eligible sources for supplement can include NSERC grants, research funds from university and other sources.

## 5) NSERC USRA –Summer Life Cycle

End of January NSERC releases the U of T quota January / February RSO calculatesand share quota with USRA departments

<u>April 5</u> all USRA applications are submitted in NSERC system & to RSO

By **May 3** RSO to provide NSERC with all applications to NSERC

#### **UofT APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

#### **Step 1: Student Eligibility**

- Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.
- Registered either full-time or part-time at the time of USRA application
- Must have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of "B" or "B-", if applicable)

#### **Step 2: Supervisor Eligibility**

- NSERC considers anyone that meets eligibility to apply for, and hold, grant funds according to NSERC's <u>Eligibility Criteria for Faculty</u> (the supervisor need not hold an active NSERC award)
  - Hold, or have a firm offer of, an academic appointment at a Canadian Institution (minimum three-year position or tenure track) as of September 1, 2021
  - Be in a position that requires independent research and allows supervision of HQP

#### Step 3a: NSERC On-Line System – First time users need to register:

 NSERC Initial registration for new users: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index\_eng.asp



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# Step 3b: NSERC On-Line System- Complete Form 202 Part I

NSERC PDF Forms and Instructions: <u>https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Forms-Formulaires\_eng.asp</u>

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# Form 202 Part I - Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)

Once you have created your application, the system will assign it a reference number. Once Part I is complete, you must provide this number to your proposed supervisor to enable him or her to complete Part II. If you intend to apply a second time using your Form 202, do not forget to update it.

Reference Number	Status	Last Updated	Edit Form	Verify Completeness	Preview/ Print
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## Step 3c: NSERC On-Line System- Complete Form 202 Part II

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## Form 202 Part II - Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)

- 1. Select Verify to ensure your application is complete (status will appear as Completed).
- 2. **Submit** your application to your institution for approval (status will appear as Submitted). This action is the equivalent of you signing the application. Refer to Electronic Submission of Applications.
- 3. Your institution submits your application to NSERC for consideration (status will appear as Approved).

Student Name	Term	Status	Last Updated	Edit Form	Verify Completeness		Submit to LO
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Keating,Jessica	Summer	Submitted	2013/01/17			Preview	Submit
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#### Step 4: Department nomination package – Due APRIL 5, 2021

Only e- copies of the following documents are due to rso.vpr@utoronto.ca by April 5, 2021

- Departmental electronic nomination table (excel format);
- Student/Supervisor Certification Form;
- Departmental Certification Form;

Electronic NSERC applications on the NSERC web portal must be completed and submitted by the student and supervisor.

#### **NSERC Resources:**

- NSERC Initial registration for new users: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index eng.asp
- NSERC PDF Forms and Instructions: <u>https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Forms-Formulaires\_eng.asp</u>
- NSERC USRA Website:<u>https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc\_eng.asp</u>
- U of T Research Funding Opportunities: <u>https://research.utoronto.ca/funding-opportunities/db/undergraduate-student-research-award</u>