2022 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Program Guidelines and Application Procedures

Purpose: To provide research experience that complements the degree program which will encourage students to consider graduate studies and pursue careers in the natural sciences and engineering.

Award Value: $6000, plus a minimum 25% supplement ($1,500) provided by the department
- Any supplement above this level may be set at the discretion of the department or the USRA supervisor.
- Sources of supplements: can include NSERC grants, other research funds (non-NSERC) and university sources.
- Travel allowances are **no longer granted** by under the NSERC USRA program.
- The supervisor or department must cover any additional costs related to the fieldwork (e.g. travel expenses).
- In addition, NSERC does not permit any payment for any vacation days taken during the tenure of the award.

Duration: 16 full consecutive weeks (similar to co-op terms)
- For USRA terms shorter than 16 weeks: NSERC's approval is required **prior** to the beginning of the award term. Departments must submit any short award term requests along with a justification to Research Services as soon as possible.
- **There is no provision for sick leave, vacation or other interruptions of awards.** Should an award be terminated early, please contact the Research Services Office (RSO) immediately so that NSERC can be informed.
- NSERC does not permit USRA Awards to be be deferred.

Tenure at Another Location: The USRA Award holder and their supervisor must both be at the same university where the student holds the USRA. USRA allocations are not transferable from one university to another. Students may apply at any eligible university.

USRA term at UofT: The University of Toronto administers this program in the **summer term** only, between May 2nd and September 2nd of each year.

Departmental Quotas and Deadlines: Contact the respective department Undergraduate Office.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS

Eligible	*Ineligible*
• Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. • Registered either full-time or part-time (at the time of application) in a bachelor's degree program in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award. NSERC, however, expects that full-time students will hold most awards. o A student is still eligible if they already hold a bachelor's degree, as long as they are currently studying towards a second bachelor's degree in the natural sciences or engineering. • 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) • Must have completed, <u>at the time of application (by April 11, 2022</u>, a minimum of <u>two</u> academic terms/semesters. • Graduating students in the term immediately following the completion of their undergraduate program requirements, as long as they have not started a program of graduate studies. • Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the award tenure.	• Foreign or international students • Currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, BScPhm, D.D.S., BScN) • Holds higher degrees in the natural sciences & engineering.

Please remember:

- First-year students are excluded from the competition. Applicants must have completed a minimum of two terms at the time of submission of the application. Results from at least two terms must be available on a student's transcript by the internal deadline of April 11, 2022
- Students who will graduate at the end of the term before the USRA begins (that is, who will graduate after the term in which they apply) are eligible, as long as they do not begin graduate studies while holding the USRA and meet the other eligibility requirements.
- The USRA program is intended to be over and above the academic credits needed for a degree. Award holders should not receive academic credits for research done during the USRA term
- USRA award holders are permitted to take up to maximum two courses during the award term.
- Thesis research during award term is not permitted.
- A USRA may be held concurrently with a co-op placement.
- A student may hold only one USRA per fiscal year.
- A student may hold a maximum of three (3) USRAs throughout their university career.

Application Instructions

FOR STUDENTS (UofT & Non-UofT)

1. Contact the Undergraduate Office of the department through which you wish to apply and inquire about a supervisor and quota availability. You can apply through more than one department but can only hold one USRA.
2. Complete the latest version of the application form (Form 202, Part I) online. Follow the instructions and adhere to NSERC's General Presentation Guideline. **NSERC refuses handwritten applications.**
3. Attach a PDF copy of your transcripts (or the university e-transcripts or the most recent academic history report from ACORN to the application form (Part I), after it has been opened and reviewed by the Undergraduate Office.
4. Once Form 202–Part I has been completed, provide your prospective supervisor with the reference number generated by the system so that they may complete Part II of the form.
5. Once both parts of the form have been completed and verified the supervisor can submit the USRA application.
6. If any additional changes are made by either party–you or your prospective supervisor–will require the other party's verification and confirmation in the online system in order to re-submit the edited application
7. In addition, your department requires a copy of your application and your e-transcripts or most recent academic history report from ACORN, which you will submit to the department Undergraduate Coordinator.
8. Complete the Student/Supervisor Certification form. It must bear both your and your supervisor's signatures. Once signed, kindly create a PDF and submit it to the department's Undergraduate coordinator
9. Research Services can only accept the application that has been endorsed by the department.