Undergraduate Student Research Awards – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

- Information session for students

By Melanie Bellefeuille, Communications agent, Events, Office of Undergraduate Research

January 24, 2018
Plan

• Program Overview
• Eligibility
• Selection process
• Application process
Program Overview

Research internships in natural sciences and engineering

- **Objectives:**
  - Stimulate interest in research
  - Encourage to undertake grad studies

- **Award value:** a minimum of $5625 ($4500 from NSERC + a minimum of $1125 from supervisor)

- **Duration:** 16 consecutive weeks, full time

- **Number of awards:** 102 for 2017-18
Holding the award

- 16 consecutive weeks, full-time
  - Max one course with supervisor authorization
  - No vacations

- Between May 1, 2018 and April 30, 2019

- Bi-monthly installments
Application process

**Deadline: February 9, 2018**
**Summer 2018, fall 2018 and winter 2019**

- Application are submitted by the student-professor team
- Limit of one application per student at uOttawa
- NSERC On-line system
- Additional documents by email at urop@uottawa.ca
- Highly competitive program: application which does not meet all the requirements will be rejected.
Eligibility

• Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada
• be registered in a bachelor's degree program in at least one of the 2 terms immediately previous to the award (undergraduate professional degree programs in the health sciences are not admissible, e.g., MD, DDS, BScN)
• CGPA of at least 6.0
• must not hold a graduate degree in the natural sciences or engineering
• must not have previously received three USRAs
• Must not have been received an NSERC-USRA award in the same fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st)
Eligibility

To hold an award, you must:

• have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study of your bachelor's degree (24 credits)
• have been registered in the term immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program
• not have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering
• be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities during the tenure of the award
Professor’s eligibility

- Must hold an active NSERC research grant, either at the time of the application or when the award is held.
  - Professors whose research grants terminated on March 31, 2017, but who received an extension to use up the remaining funds from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018, will be eligible to supervise a USRA student in the summer or fall of 2018 or the winter of 2019.
  - If applied for a research grant: can still apply for USRA but must notify the student.
  - If the research grant is not approved, we will find another supervisor for the student.

- A maximum of 2 applications per session per professor. Exceptions possible by contacting Melanie Bellefeuille.
Selection process

- NSERC’s criteria
  - academic excellence (CGPA, awards)
  - research aptitudes (resume, awards, statement of interest)
- Additional criteria:
  - Students in 2^{nd} or 3^{rd} year at the time of the application will be given priority.
- Aboriginal students: do not count in the uOttawa awards quota given by NSERC
Submission

- Create an account on the NSERC On-line Services
- Use an existing account to start a new application
Create an account

Have you had previous contact with NSERC (i.e., as an applicant or referee)?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If known, enter your NSERC PIN

Family name
Given name
Initial(s) of ALL given names
Previous Family Name

E-mail address

Birth Date
Day Month

Institution where bachelor degree was obtained

Preferred language of correspondence

Daytime phone number
Country Code Area Code Number Extension

Account name (User ID)

Password
Must be 5-10 characters long, must contain at least one special character ( ! @ # $ % ^ & * ( ) + - { } ] < > \ _ | ? ) and no spaces, may contain numbers (0-9), lower and upper case letters (a-z, A-Z). Please note that your password is case sensitive.

Password confirmation

Authentication question

Institution where the bachelor was or will be obtained
STUDENT FORM 202 PART I
Form 202 part I

• To be completed by the student
• Attach transcript
• Will generate a reference number which has to be given to the professor
  – This is not your NIP!
Welcome Matisse Lafrance

Users of the eSubmission system will no longer be required to periodically change their passwords. However, for their own protection, users are encouraged to change their passwords regularly. Keep your password safe and confidential; do not divulge it to anyone. NSERC will not be held liable for any loss of your data should you neglect to protect your password.

Account Management
- Change Password
- Maintain User Profile

Forms Management
- Forms - Researcher
- Forms - Student
- Forms - Reviewer
- Forms - Partners
- Forms - Department Head
Once you have created your application, the system will assign it a reference number. Once Part I is complete, you must forward 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.

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<th>Reference Number</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
<th>Edit Form</th>
<th>Verify Completeness</th>
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<td>2014/01/28</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Verify</td>
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Form 202 part I – Personal Profile

Optional Information (Refer to The access to Information Act and The Privacy Act)

Gender: Male [ ] Female [ ]

Designated group: Aboriginal [ ] Visible Minority [ ] Disabled [ ]

What languages do you:
Read English [ ] French [ ]
Write English [ ] French [ ]
Speak English [ ] French [ ]
Form 202 part I – Awards

• Include only competitive awards
  – Based on academic or research excellence
  – Do not include admission scholarship
  – May include declined awards

Form 202 part I – Transcripts

Do not follow

Must follow
Form 202 part I – Transcripts

• combined into a single file;

• **Studies at uOttawa**: unofficial transcript taken from uOzone in PDF format is accepted.
  – Wait for fall grades to be official.

• **Studies at another institution**: official transcripts are required, in a single document, including the legend found on the back.
PROFESSOR
FORM 202 PART II
Form 202 part II

- Completed by the professor
- NSERC On-line Systems
  - Existing account
Final Submission – by the prof

Form 202 - USRA (Part II)

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**).

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<th>Status</th>
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<td>2014/01/29</td>
<td>Edit</td>
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<td>Preview</td>
<td>Submit</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Other documents

Send by email to urop@uottawa.ca

- Resume
  - include a section on education, awards and research experience.
  - Maximum length: 2 pages.

- Student’s Statement of interest:
  - student must explain why he or she wants to participate in the proposed research project and the link between this and his or her professional goals.
  - Maximum length: 250 words.
Useful links


- Program details uOttawa: http://research.uottawa.ca/urop/internships-awards/usra-nserc

QUESTIONS ?
Office of Undergraduate Research

Arturo Segura,
Director, Office of Undergraduate Research
(As of January 29, 2018)

urop@uottawa.ca
613-562-5726
Tabaret Hall N111

Melanie Bellefeuille,
Communications Officer,
Research Events

melanie.bellefeuille@uottawa.ca
613-562-5800 ext. 7418
Tabaret Hall N114