Undergraduate Student Research Awards – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

- Information session for students

By Dalie Brisson, Coordinator of the NSERC USRA program
Plan

- Program Overview
- Eligibility
- Selection criteria
- Application process
Program Overview

Research internships in natural sciences and engineering

- **Objectives:**
  - Stimulate interest in research
  - Encourage to undertake graduate 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 2018-19 (198 applications)
Holding the award

- 16 consecutive weeks, full-time
  - No courses at the same time
    - For special cases maximum of one course (need supervisor authorization) and such course has to be taken in the evening or weekends – not daytime
  - No vacations

- Between May 1, 2019 and April 30, 2020

- Bi-monthly installments
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., Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing)
• CGPA of at least 7.5
  – **Students with high CGPA are selected (>9.1 in 2018)**
• must not have previously received three USRAs
• Must not have been received an NSERC-USRA award in the same fiscal year (April 1st to following March 31st)
Eligibility – cont.

To hold an award, you must:

• Have completed all the course requirements of at least the 1st year of their bachelor’s program;
• Not take daytime courses during the term of the award in order to dedicate themselves to award activities on a full-time basis; and
• must not hold or be in a graduate degree in the natural sciences or engineering
• Not do thesis research during the term 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, 2018, but who received an extension to use up the remaining funds from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019, will be eligible to supervise a USRA student in the summer or fall of 2019 or the winter of 2020.

- A maximum of 2 applications per session per professor. Exceptions possible by contacting Dalie Brisson.
Selection criteria

• NSERC’s criteria
  – academic excellence (strong CGPA, awards)
  – research aptitudes (resume, awards, statement of interest)

• Additional criteria:
  – Students in 3rd or 4th year at the time of the application will be given priority.

• Aboriginal students: do not count in the uOttawa awards quota given by NSERC as there is a specific program
Application process

Deadline: February 1, 2019
Summer 2019, Fall 2019 and Winter 2020

- Application are submitted by the student-professor team
- Step 1: with the NSERC On-line system
- Step 2: with the Centre for Research Opportunities

- Highly competitive program: incomplete applications will not be reviewed
NSERC System Access

- 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 (6 chars)

Family name

Given name

Initial(s) of ALL given names

Previous Family Name

E-mail address

Birth Date

Institution where bachelor degree was obtained

Preferred language of correspondence
- English ☐
- French ☐

Daytime phone number

Account name (User ID)

Password

Password confirmation

Authentication question (200 chars)

Institution where the bachelor was or will be obtained
APPLICATION PROCESS
STEP 1 - NSERC SYSTEM
Welcome

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
Form 202 part I – Student

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.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Reference Number</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
<th>Edit Form</th>
<th>Verify Completeness</th>
<th>Preview/Print</th>
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<td>2014/01/28</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Verify</td>
<td>Preview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Form 202 - USRA (Part I)

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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</tbody>
</table>
Form 202 part I - Student

• Attach most recent transcript, 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.

• Will generate a reference number which has to be given to the professor
  – This is not your NIP!
Awards

- Include only competitive awards
  - Based on academic or research excellence
  - Do not include admission scholarship
PROFESSOR FORM 202 PART II
Form 202 part II - Professor

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

## 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**).

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
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<td>Edit</td>
<td><strong>Verify</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Submit</td>
</tr>
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</table>
APPLICATION PROCESS
STEP 2 - CRO
Step 2 - CRO

Send by email to brpc-usra@uottawa.ca

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

2) 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.

3) Which term the placement would take place
Useful links


- Program details uOttawa: [https://research.uottawa.ca/centre-research-opportunities/usra-nserc](https://research.uottawa.ca/centre-research-opportunities/usra-nserc)

QUESTIONS ?
Centre for Research Opportunities

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Tabaret Hall N111

Deadline: February 1st, 2019