Undergraduate Student Research Awards – Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

- Information session for students

By Dalie Brisson, Liaison Officer for the NSERC USRA program
Session Plan

• Award Overview

• Eligibility

• Selection criteria

• Application process

• Questions?
Award Overview

Research internships in natural sciences and engineering for undergraduate students from any faculties. Professor’s can be eligible to supervise a student, as long as they hold an active NSERC research grant.

- **Objectives:**
  - Stimulate interest in research
  - Work closely with a research team at the graduate level
  - Encourage to undertake graduate studies

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

- **Duration:** 16 consecutive weeks full time, between May 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021. Students choose the Summer, Fall or Winter term to complete their placement.
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 2019)
• must not have previously received three USRAs
• Must not have 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, 2019, but who received an extension to use up the remaining funds from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, will be eligible to supervise a USRA student in the summer or fall of 2020 or the winter of 2021.

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

- NSERC criteria's
  - academic excellence (strong CGPA, awards)
  - research aptitudes (resume, awards, statement of interest)

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

- Indigenous students have additional quotas given by NSERC (high success rate)
Application process

Deadline: March 1, 2020
Summer 2020, Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

• Application are submitted by the student-professor team

• Step 1: with the NSERC On-line system

• Step 2: with the Centre for Research Opportunities
  – Student’s resume & statement of interest
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

Family name
(30 chars)
Given name
(30 chars)
Initial(s) of ALL given names
(4 chars)
Previous Family Name
(30 chars)
E-mail address
(100 chars)
Birth Date
Day Month
Institution where bachelor degree was obtained
Preferred language of correspondence
English ☐ French ☐
Daytime phone number
Country Code Area Code Number Extension
Account name (User ID)
(30 chars)
Begin with a letter, and use only letters (a-z), numbers (0-9), the underscore (_), and no spaces.
Password
(10 chars)
Must be 8-10 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
(10 chars)
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>
<tr>
<th>Reference Number</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Last Updated</th>
<th>Edit Form</th>
<th>Verify Completeness</th>
<th>Preview/Print</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Number</th>
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<th>Last Updated</th>
<th>Edit Form</th>
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<td>2014/01/29</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Verify</td>
<td>Preview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Form 202 part I – Student

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 - 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
PROFESSOR FORM 202 PART II
Form 202 part II - Professor

- Completed by the professor
- NSERC On-line Systems
  - Existing account

- Form 202 Part II - Create a New Application

  - Proposed work term: Fall, Year: yyyy
  - Will the award be held: at a university? • in industry or not for profit organization? ○
    If you select "university", the form will be placed in the Researcher's Portfolio. If you select "in industry or not for profit organization," the form will be placed in the Partner's Portfolio.

  - Family name of student: (30 chars)
  - Reference number: (Generated for the Student by the system only if Part I was completed on-line)
  - Title of proposed research project: (100 chars)
  - Institution that will administer the award: List...
  - Department: 

  - Create Cancel
## 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>
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<th>Edit Form</th>
<th>Verify Completeness</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>In Progress</td>
<td>2014/01/29</td>
<td>Edit</td>
<td>Verify</td>
<td>Preview</td>
<td>Submit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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

QUESTIONS ?
Centre for Research Opportunities

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Deadline: March 1st, 2020