

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Undergraduate Student Research Award**

**The Department of Biology deadline is:
Friday, February 7th, 2025 4:00pm
*No late applications will be accepted***

Please email information to Beata Malczewski (bmalcze@uwo.ca)

NSERC website: www.nserc.ca

What are these awards for?

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are meant to stimulate your interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering. They are also meant to encourage you to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields. If you would like to gain research work experience that complements your studies in an academic setting, these awards can provide you with financial support through your host university. NSERC encourages qualified Aboriginal students to apply for this award.

Are you eligible for an award?

To be eligible to apply for an award, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- be registered, at the time you apply, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university; and
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of 80%.

In addition...

- If you already hold a bachelor's degree and are studying toward a second bachelor's degree, you may still apply to this program.
- You may hold only one USRA per fiscal year (April 1 to March 31).
- You may hold a maximum of three USRAs throughout your university career. To hold an award, you must:
 - have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms) of your bachelor's degree;
 - have been registered in the term immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
 - not have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering; and
 - be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award.

Who is not eligible?

You are not eligible for an Undergraduate Student Research Award if:

- you are currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN); or
- you hold higher degrees in the natural sciences or engineering.

Value of awards

These awards have a value of \$9,632 for a full 16-week period.

Universities are required to supplement the amount of the award by at least 25 percent of its value using other sources, such as university funds, NSERC grants, or any other research funds. Universities may also provide fringe benefits.

NSERC will not reimburse the university for any period during which you worked part-time. No payment will be approved for any vacation leave you take during the tenure of the award.

Duration of awards

The duration of the award is 16 consecutive weeks on a full-time basis.

You may hold an award at any time during the year as permitted by your academic program.

Tenure may start on a date acceptable to both you and your host institution.

How do you apply?

To apply for these awards, you must complete an Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award Part I (Form 202) online at http://www.nserc.gc.ca/forms/formtable_e.htm. Just follow the instructions and email a copy to Beata Malczewski at bmalcze@uwo.ca by February 7th, 2025. Students complete only Part 1. Please fill out the [Access to Academic Records Form](#) and forward it to bmalcze@uwo.ca and your transcripts will be emailed to you. The proposed supervisor must complete Part II of Form 202 and email a copy to bmalcze@uwo.ca by Friday, February 7th, 2025. The whole application is to be typed.

Award decisions

Each university will inform applicants of its award decisions after it has completed its selection process.

Payment of awards

NSERC will pay its contribution directly to the university. You will receive your payment from the university. The university will issue payments to you for the total value of the award in accordance with its pay procedures. It will also issue a T4 or T4A slip (Statement of Income) to you at the end of the calendar year.

DEPARTMENTAL PROCEDURE

STEPS IN APPLYING FOR AN NSERC UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD (USRA) IN BIOLOGY

Deadline: Friday, February 7th, 2025 (tentative) @ 4:00 pm

Details about the award can be found:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp

- 1) Find a faculty member in the Department of Biology to be your supervisor. This person no longer needs to hold an NSERC grant.
- 2) After finding a supervisor, notify Beata Malczewski (bmalcze@uwo.ca) that you are applying, (**especially if you are not from Western**) then complete the application form:
 - a) Go to the NSERC website (http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices/servicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp) and follow the links from 'PDF Forms and Instructions'. Complete the application form online.
 - b) Go to this video for help with filling in your application (very useful for first-time applicants). http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos/Videos/usra-brpct_eng.asp
 - c) Make sure you use your UWO e-mail address.
 - d) Complete an 'Access to Academic Records Form of Consent' and e-mail it to Beata Malczewski (bmalcze@uwo.ca) which will allow her to pull your academic transcript and e-mail it to you.
 - e) NSERC requires students to upload their academic transcript before allowing them to print off their application, so complete step (d) as soon as possible. Once you have your academic record upload the file to NSERC.

IMPORTANT information: Please do **not** hit "submit" in the [NSERC Online System](#) until after uploading, the correct "Academic Record" - that's accurate to **Dec. 31, 2024**.

(Your name, the university's name, and the program in which you're enrolled appear. Grades up to **December 31st** of the year preceding the award are included. Western's "**Academic Record**" format meets NSERC's transcript requirements. (N.B. students can't access the Academic Record on their own; transcripts such as those printed from a student's account do not meet NSERC's requirements as there is insufficient identifying information).

If you are undertaking a USRA at Western but your **home university is different**, you must attach an official transcript from your home university to your online application, including the legend).

- 3) Complete a 'Biology Student Statement Form.'
- 4) Prepare a 1-2 page resume.
- 5) **Please email the signed copy of your application form, the 'Biology Student Statement Form', and your resume to** Beata Malczewski (bmalcze@uwo.ca)

Faculty members are listed on the Biology Department website.

<http://www.uwo.ca/biology/people/faculty.htm>

For more details, including potential supervisors and research areas, please visit:

[Faculty Interested in Accepting Students - NSERC USRA and WSRI USRI 2025](#)