

Faculty of Science
Undergraduate Student Summer Research Award Application

The Faculty of Science is delighted to offer undergraduate students the opportunity to engage in research experiences through two distinct funding initiatives: the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) and the Western University Undergraduate Summer Research Internships (USRI). One application allows students to apply for both programs.

Both the NSERC USRA and the USRI programs provide students with the opportunity to participate in innovative research across various scientific disciplines. While the NSERC USRA is a nationally recognized program funded by the federal government, known for its prestige and competitive nature, the USRI program is generously supported by Western University. The primary distinction between the two lies in their funding sources, but the core experience remains focused on hands-on research under the guidance of experienced faculty mentors.

In our selection process, we prioritize students with higher academic averages for the NSERC USRA, due to its national standing. Once all NSERC USRA positions are filled, we will then allocate the USRI positions to other qualified applicants. This ensures equitable distribution of research opportunities, allowing a diverse group of students to immerse themselves in the enriching experience of academic research.

Eligibility.

1. Students must have been enrolled in an undergraduate program in Winter (Jan – Apr) 2026 and should be planning to attend Western in Fall (Sep – Dec) 2026.
2. The NSERC USRA program requires applicants to be Canadian citizens or permanent residents (Students from other Canadian universities are eligible).
3. Western USRI program requires applicants to be Western students (International students with study permits are eligible).
4. Students with a cumulative average of 70% or above are encouraged to apply.
5. Preference will be given to those in Years 2 and 3 with primary programs in the Faculty of Science, and other criteria deemed appropriate by the department administering the awards.
6. Students must be available to participate in research activity for 16 weeks between May 1 and August 31, 2026, under the supervisor from a faculty mentor with an appointment in the Faculty of Science.

| Applicant's Information | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Applicant Name (Last, First): | |
| Cumulative average (all grades, including Fall 2025): | |
| Enrolled Program (Module): | |
| Year of enrolment: | International Student (Y/N): |

As part of the ongoing commitment Western has made for EDI-D, the Faculty of Science strongly values the diversity of their awardees. Students from equity-deserving groups, such as but not limited to Black, Indigenous, students of colour, students with disabilities, students who self-identify as LGBTQ2S+, immigrants and newcomers, and women are particularly encouraged to apply to the USRA/USRI program.

Supplementary funding from the Faculty of Science will be available to provide additional opportunities for qualified applicants who self-identify as members of equity-deserving groups using the following questionnaire. Submission of the information below is optional and it will only be used for the ranking of applications*.

- ☐ I self-identify as Indigenous, that is, First Nations (North American Indian), Métis or Inuk (Inuit)
- ☐ I self-identify as Black
- ☐ I self-identify as another racialized group (visible minority); e.g., East Asian, Latino/a or Latinx, South Asian, Southeast Asian, West Asian or Middle Eastern.
- ☐ I self-identify as a [first-generation](#) Canadian
- ☐ I self-identify as a student who has financial needs that qualify for [Bursaries and Work Study](#)
- ☐ I self-identify as a person with a disability as described in the Accessible Canada Act
- ☐ I self-identify as a member of LGBTQ2S+
- ☐ I self-identify as a woman
- ☐ I self-identify as another equity-deserving group not included above: _____

Click [here](#) for additional information regarding the definitions of the above groups.

*Personal EDI-D information will only be used for the application evaluation committee for the USRA/USRI competition, and it will not be accessible to potential supervisors. Only anonymous aggregate data of the equity-deserving group constituency may be released.