

National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Undergraduate Student Research Awards
(USRA)

November 2019

Research Western

Agenda

- What are USRAs?
- Eligibility: Students / Supervisors
- Award Allocation and Award Decisions
- How to apply
- Support/Resources
- Additional Information

What are USRAs?

- A 16-week, full-time research award (consecutive weeks)
- USRAs –
 - Provide financial support for a **natural sciences and engineering** (NSE) research placement
 - \$4500 from NSERC + supervisor supplement (min 25% of NSERC portion = \$1125)*
 - Help students gain research experience in an academic setting
 - Stimulate interest in research in NSE
 - Encourage students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields

**Total value of award is for student's personal use at their discretion.*

Do I qualify?

To apply

By application deadline:

- ✓ Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ✓ Have obtained a (min) cumulative B or B- average over previous years of study*
- ✓ Be registered in a bachelor's program at NSERC-eligible university

To hold award

- ✓ Have completed all course requirements of at least 1st year of university study for your bachelor's degree
- ✓ Be registered in at least one of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award (i.e. Fall and/or Winter terms for a Summer award)
- ✓ Be engaged on full-time basis in research activity in NSE for tenure of award

**Competitive program; minimum average doesn't guarantee an award*

Do I qualify? (cont'd)

Aboriginal students:

- ✓ Individuals who self-identify as Aboriginal, meet the program criteria and are recommended by their university, do not count toward the university's allotted quota of awards

Other:

- ✓ An individual -
 - Can't hold more than 1 USRA in a fiscal year (April 1 to March 31)
 - Can't hold more than 3 USRAs during their university undergrad career

Who does NOT qualify?

Students who –

- have started a graduate program
- hold higher degrees in NSE
- are enrolled in a professional degree program (ie. MD, DDS, BScN)
- Are/will be enrolled in courses full-time for the term in question*

**You can take a maximum of 1 course concurrent to your USRA. Supervisor and student must make arrangements to make up the time.*

Supervisor requirements

Supervisor –

- Must hold active an active NSERC research grant, NSERC Partnership award, Canada Research Chair or Canada Excellence Research Chair, Networks of Centres of Excellence

University award allocations

- Universities are given a yearly allocation of USRA awards by NSERC
 - 120 were allotted to Western for Summer 2019 placements (we expect a similar number for Summer 2020)
- Allotted awards are distributed across Western faculties (based on a formula)

Ranking students

- Universities are responsible to establish their own selection criteria within the broad guidelines that NSERC provides
 - Criteria are determined at **faculty level** at Western and may be stricter than NSERC's guidelines
- At Western, **faculties** rank and select students according to their established criteria
- Rankings are typically based on academic record and aptitude for research

Award decisions

- Faculties will inform applicants of their award decisions after selection process is complete* (notification process can start no earlier than Feb. 3, 2020)
- Awards are non-transferable
- Award payments are made monthly to award holders through Western's payroll system

**NSERC will also email successful applicants (students) an award letter after the award has started.*

How to apply

- Application is done through **N SERC's Online System**
- NSERC online form is completed by both student and supervisor
 - Student – Form 202 (*Part I*)
 - Supervisor – Form 202 (*Part II*)
- If you've applied for a USRA previously, use the **same form** and update the information, transcript

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Navigation menu: Français, Home, Contact Us, Help, Search, canada.ca

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On-line Services

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Site Tools

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On-line Services

Our on-line services are designed to give you easier access to NSERC's on-line systems.

Update on NSERC's Research Portal
As of spring 2013, researchers and institutional administrators will use the Research Portal and the Canadian Common CV to apply to some NSERC programs and to review/approve applications. For more information, please consult the [Resource Centre](#).

Accessibility Notice
If you cannot access the following content, please contact the On-line Services Helpdesk by e-mail at webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca or by telephone at 613-995-4273. Indicate the e-mail address and telephone number where you can be reached.

PILOT SITE NOTICE
Our Pilot Site is no longer available. The On-line System may be used for training purposes; however, test applications must not be submitted to NSERC.

For Authorized Institutional Representatives: Before you register to access the On-line System or the Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation (FDSR) System, ensure that you have completed, signed and emailed the pertinent registration form to NSERC and read the instructions and the frequently asked questions provided. You will find the forms, instructions and frequently asked questions, for one or the other system, at the [On-line System Overview](#) and [FDSR Overview](#) pages.

On-line System Users
Select **On-line System Login** to create or access an application.

- First-Time User? Please Register
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Forms in PDF Format and Instructions

On-line System Login

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp


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- [Login >](#)
- Main Menu**
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Security, Privacy and Use and Disclosure of Information

Before using NSERC's On-Line System, please read the following documents and register your acceptance below:

- NSERC's [Security Statement](#) and details on the retention periods of the data;
- NSERC's statement on the federal [Access to Information Act and Privacy Act](#);
- For applicants and co-applicants: [Use and Disclosure of Personal Information Provided to NSERC](#); and
- For Referees: [Instructions to Referees on the Privacy Act, Confidentiality and the Use and Disclosure of Information](#).

When you login and use this system, it means that you understand and accept that these policies and conditions apply.

Login

You will be automatically logged out of the system if there has not been any activity (e.g., Save, Preview, etc.) for an extended period of time. To avoid having to login again, we recommend that you select **Save** every 10 to 15 minutes.

Account name (User ID) (30 chars)

[Forgot your Account name?](#)

Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

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. (10 chars)

https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part I – Student


- Upon completion of Part I, the system will generate a **Reference #** that you provide to your supervisor so s/he can go online and complete Form 202 Part II
- NSERC **PIN** – leave field blank if this is your 1st application to NSERC (the system will assign you one)
- “Official” transcripts are not required for students registered at and intending to complete their USRA at Western. However, they must meet *specific requirements*. Western’s “**Academic Record**” is acceptable.
 - To obtain your Academic Record, contact the faculty USRA contact

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part II - Supervisor

- Links to Part I by logging into the Online System and entering the **Reference #** the student provides
- Provides a description of the project (must be NSE focused) and a clear description of the student's role
 - Note: USRA holders cannot do **thesis** research during the term of the award
- 'Submits' in Online System to Research Development & Services

Form 202 – Student

 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada		Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada		
FORM 202 - PART I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award				
Reference No. 433415		System-ID 381102381		
Family name of student Kilianski		Given name Louise	Initial(s) of all given names E	
		Personal identification no. (PIN) Valid 485208		
		Date 2019/11/13		
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)				
Degree	Name of discipline	Institution	Department	Year and month of expected degree completion
Bachelor's	Biology	Western Ontario	Biology	2022/04
At the time of application, you are attending a postsecondary institution? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> full time? <input type="checkbox"/> part time?				
Have you ever held a USRA or Experience Award (previously IUSRA) in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED (start with most recent and include NSERC awards)				
Name of award	Location of tenure	Period held (yyyy/mm - yyyy/mm)		
Best Dressed	Western Ontario	2018/01 - 2018/01		
OTHER INFORMATION				
Citizenship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canadian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent resident (indicate date of landing as stated on official immigration document)				
Language of correspondence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French				
Consent to sharing information for joint-funding opportunity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
Current address 1393 Western Road SSB 5150 London ON N6G1G9 CANADA			Permanent mailing address (if different from current address) 555 Main Street Hamilton ON A1A1A1 CANADA	
If current address is temporary, indicate leaving date			Telephone number at permanent mailing address 519-5555555	
Telephone number at current address 519-6612111			E-mail address louise.kilianski@uwo.ca	
Form 202-1 (2016 W) Version française disponible				
Personal information collected on this form and appendices will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.				
Canada PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED				

Form 202 - Student

Reference number

FORM 202 - PART I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award		System-ID 381102381
Reference No. 433415		Date 2019/11/13

Form 202 - Supervisor



NSERC

www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Save	Preview	Contact Us	Help	Instructions	Logout
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[Project Profile >](#)

Form

Form 202 Part II - Project Profile

Project Profile

Supervisor Profile

Current Employment

Address at Location of Tenure

Outline of Proposed Research Project

Preview Student's Form (Part I)

University Comments

Program Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Student name

Student Reference Number

Proposed work term

Year yyyy

Title of proposed research project

(100 chars)

Research subject code

Application language

English French

Institution that will administer the award

Department

Save	Preview	Portfolio	Instructions	Logout
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Birthdate: Sex: M Residency: Canadian/Native

---RESIDENCY INFORMATION:

00794721 0 SBMS1 B:GR11 T:PND O:N
 FIRST 87.8000 MIDYR 89.3333 FINAL 88.8333
 GR11 07.4286

---UWO PROBLEM INFORMATION: NONE FOUND

---UWO ADMISSION COMMENTS: NONE FOUND

---UWO REGISTRATION CONDITIONS: NONE FOUND

---SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:

---UWO PERSONAL DATA:
 APPIYTYPE: HAS DEG: ATTEMPTS: 0.0

---DEGREE INFORMATION: NONE FOUND

---UWO ACTIVE SERVICE INDICATORS:
 1 V 2017-OCT-24

---ACADEMIC PROGRAM HISTORY:

---UWO COMMENTS:

---Undergraduate Record:

--2013 Fall/Winter: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:1 Ld:F
 Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

Course	Description	Units	Grade
CALCULUS 1301B 004	CALCULUS II	0.5	083
PSYCHOL 1000 002	INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY	1.0	080
PHYSICS 1029B 001	PHYSICS FOR BIOLOGICAL SCI II	0.5	083
CALCULUS 1000A 004	CALCULUS I	0.5	096
PHYSICS 1028A 001	PHYSICS FOR BIOLOGICAL SCI I	0.5	090
BIOLOGY 1001A 001	BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE I	0.5	082
BIOLOGY 1002B 001	BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE II	0.5	083
CHEM 1301A 002	DISCOVERING CHEMICAL STRUCTURE	0.5	090
CHEM 1302B 002	DISCOVERING CHEMICAL ENERGETIC	0.5	090

Term AVG: 85.70 Pass: 5.00 Term Totals: 5.00

Eligible for Medical Sciences 2

Program is dependent on successful completion of summer

SPCL AVG: Sessional: 85.70 DHL: 85.70

Cum AVG: 85.70 Pass: 5.00 Cum Totals: 5.00

Dean's Honor List

--2014 Summer: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:2 Ld:F

Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

Course	Description	Units	Grade
ENGLISH 2033B 001	CHILDREN'S LITERATURE	B 1.0	072

Term AVG: 72.00 Pass: 1.00 Term Totals: 1.00

May proceed.

Cum AVG: 83.41 Pass: 6.00 Cum Totals: 6.00

--2014 Fall/Winter: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:2 Ld:F

Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

Course	Description	Units	Grade
BIOLOGY 2382B 001	CELL BIOLOGY	0.5	070
BIOLOGY 2290G 008	SCIENTIFIC METHOD BIOLOGY	0.5	076
CHEM 2213A 002	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	0.5	084
CHEM 2223B 001	ORGANIC CHEM BIOLGCL MOLECULES	0.5	064
BIOCHEM 2240A 002	BIOCHEM & MOLEC BIOL	0.5	078
PHYSIOL 2130 650	HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY	1.0	076
BIOLOGY 2581B 002	GENETICS	0.5	068
STATS 2244A 002	STATISTICS FOR SCIENCE	0.5	071
MICROIMM 2500A 001	BIOLOGY OF INFECTION/IMMU	0.5	064

Term AVG: 72.70 Pass: 5.00 Term Totals: 5.00

Permitted transcript type for UWO students "Academic Record" accurate to Dec. 31, 2019

---BASIS OF ADMISSION:

W 2013 Ontario Secondary School Diploma 2013
 3 2017 BSc Western University 2017

---ADVANCED STANDING: NONE FOUND

---HIGH SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION:

External Org:

LVL	Subject	Description	Source	Units	Grade
12	BUSINESS	BOR4MR	OUP	1.0	086
12	ENGLISH	ENG400	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MCV400	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MDM400	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MHF400	OUP	1.0	096
12	BIOLOGY	SBI400	OUM	1.0	091
12	CHEMIST	SCH400	OUM	1.0	086
12	ENGLISH	ENG400	OUP	1.0	080
12	INTERDIS	IDP4UR	OUM	1.0	075
12	MATH	MCV400	OUP	1.0	093
12	MATH	MDM400	OUP	1.0	084
12	PHYSICS	SPH4U1	OUM	1.0	090
12	INTERDIS	IDP4UR	OUP	1.0	082
12	BIOLOGY	SBI400	OUP	1.0	088
12	CHEMIST	SCH400	OUP	1.0	086
12	PHYSICS	SPH4U1	OUP	1.0	090

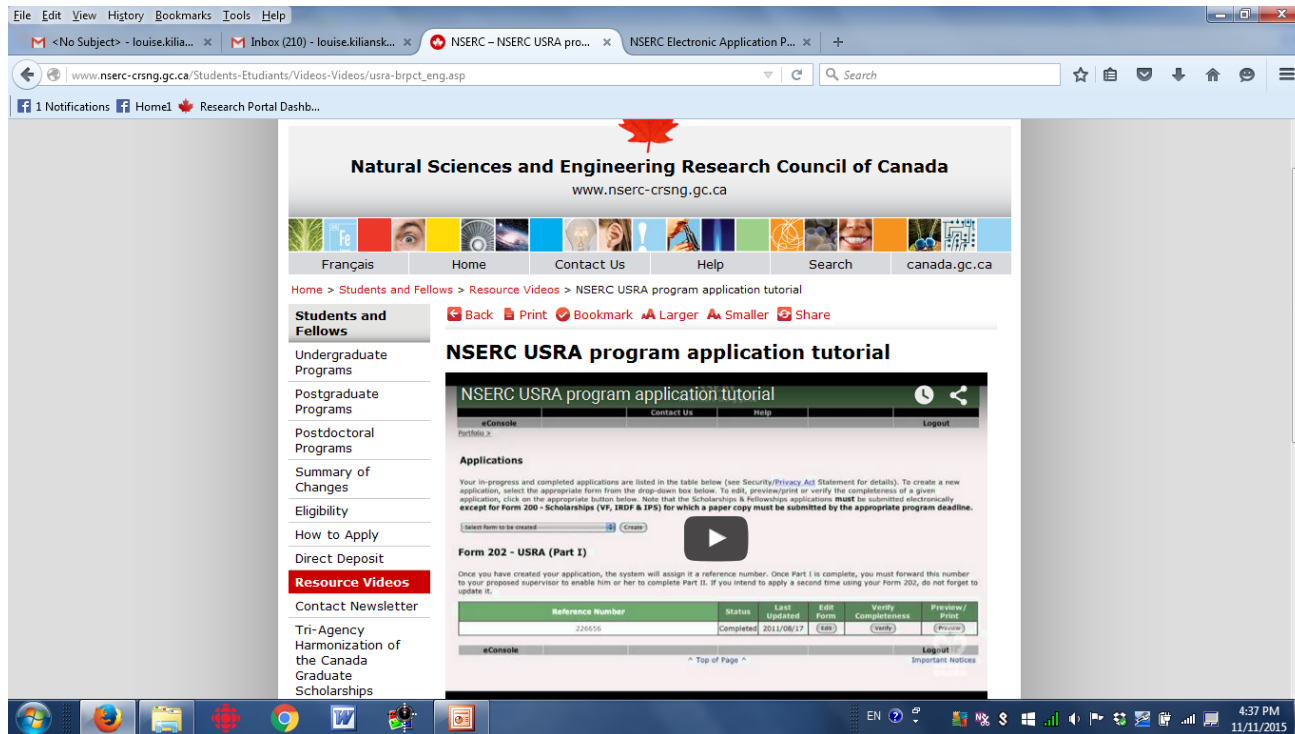
External Org: Other Secondary School/Not Home School

LVL	Subject	Description	Source	Units	Grade
12	PHYSICS	SPH4UP	OUM	1.0	NMR

---ADMISSION AVERAGES:

NSERC application support

- NSERC has a short, helpful **Online Tutorial** (~8 minutes)
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/usra-brpct_eng.asp



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NSERC website. The page title is "NSERC USRA program application tutorial". The main content area features a video player with a play button and the text "NSERC USRA program application tutorial". Below the video, there is a table with the following data:

Reference Number	Status	Last Updated	Edit Form	Verify Completion	Preview/Print
226556	Completed	2011/08/17	(Edit)	(Verify)	(Preview/Print)

The left sidebar contains navigation links such as "Students and Fellows", "Undergraduate Programs", "Postgraduate Programs", "Postdoctoral Programs", "Summary of Changes", "Eligibility", "How to Apply", "Direct Deposit", "Resource Videos", "Contact Newsletter", "Tri-Agency Harmonization of the Canada Graduate Scholarships", and "Franglais". The top navigation bar includes "Franglais", "Home", "Contact Us", "Help", "Search", and "canada.gc.ca". The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar with the system clock at 4:37 PM on 11/11/2015.

Western deadline

- Form 202, Parts I & II must be completed and submitted online by Monday, **January 27, 2020**

Additional information

Holding a USRA at another university

- You can hold an award at another university
- The other university will handle the application, adjudication and awarding processes; you need to contact them

Travel allowance

- If you plan to apply for and hold a USRA at a university *other* than the one where you are registered, you may qualify for a travel allowance; details available through the other university

Corrections/changes to a submitted application

- Research Services must release the form back to the supervisor in the Online System. When changes are made, supervisor re-submits and creates a new “snapshot” of application that NSERC can see

Unable to complete the USRA award term?

- Supervisor/student must notify faculty USRA contact immediately



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