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 research award (consecutive weeks)

• USRAs –
  – Provide financial support for a natural sciences and engineering (NSE) research placement
    • $6000 from NSERC + supervisor supplement*
  – 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)

Indigenous students:
✓ Individuals who self-identify as Indigenous, 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 (i.e. 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 2 courses concurrent to your USRA. Supervisor and student must make arrangements to make up the time.
Supervisor requirements

Supervisor* –

- Must hold a faculty position that makes them eligible to supervise students

*As of Summer 2020, supervisors no longer need to hold NSERC funding to qualify.
University award allocations

• Universities are given a yearly allocation of USRAs by NSERC
  – **94** for Summer 2022

• 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
  – aptitude for research, and
  – expected quality of the training to be received
Award decisions

• Faculties will inform applicants of their award decisions after selection process is complete*
• Awards are non-transferable
• Award funds are provided monthly to award holders through Western’s HR system

*NSERC will also email successful applicants (students) an award letter after the award has started.
How to apply/re-apply

• Application is done through **NSERC’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 (don’t start a new form)
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)

Forgot your Account name?

Password

Forgot your Password?

Must be 8-16 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)
How to apply (cont’d)

Form 202 Part I – Student

– Upon completion of Part I, the system generates a Reference # that you provide to your supervisor so they can complete Form 202 Part II
– NSERC PIN – leave field blank if this is your 1st application to NSERC (the system will assign you a PIN)
– “Official” transcripts not required for students registered at & intending to complete their USRA at Western. However, transcripts must meet specific requirements. Western’s “Academic Record” is acceptable
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)
  – a clear description of the student’s role, and
  – the expected quality of the training to be received

• ‘Submits’ in Online System to *Western Research*

*Note: USRA holders cannot do thesis research during the term of the award*
Form 202 – Student

**Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference No.</th>
<th>433415</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family name of student</td>
<td>Kiliński</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given name</td>
<td>Louise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial(s) of all given names</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Identification no. (RTH)</td>
<td>Valid 485208</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Name of discipline</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Year and month of expected degree completion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Western Ontario</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>2022-04</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED (start with most recent and include NSERC awards)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of award</th>
<th>Location of tenure</th>
<th>Period held (yyyy-mm - yyyy-mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Best Reviewed</td>
<td>Western Ontario</td>
<td>2018/01 - 2018/01</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OTHER INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship</th>
<th>X Canadian citizen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language of correspondence</td>
<td>X English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consent to sharing information forjoint-funding opportunity</td>
<td>X Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reference number

Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award

Reference No. 433415

System-ID 381102381
Date 2019/11/13
Form 202 - Supervisor

Form 202 Part II - Project Profile

Program: Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Student name: Kilianski, Louise

Student Reference Number: 433415

Proposed work term: Summer

Year: 2020

Title of proposed research project: Project title

Research subject code: ANIMAL BIOLOGY

Application language: English

Institution that will administer the award: Western Ontario

Department: Biology

Save  Preview  Portfolio  Instructions  Logout
---Permitted transcript type for UWO students

"Academic Record" accurate to Dec. 31, 2021
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

• Visit Western’s USRA web page
Western deadline

• Form 202, Parts I & II must be completed and submitted online by: Friday, Feb. 18, 2022
• Don’t submit online until you’ve attached the Academic Record (accurate to Dec. 31, 2021)
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
• No longer provided by NSERC

Corrections/changes to a submitted application
• Research Services must return the application to the supervisor in the Online System. When changes are made, the supervisor re-submits, creating a new “snapshot” of application that NSERC can see

Unable to complete the USRA award term?
• Supervisor/student must notify faculty USRA contact immediately