

National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

November, 2017

Agenda

- What are USRAs?
- Eligibility: Students / Supervisors
- Award Allocation and Selection
- 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
 - \$4500 from NSERC + supervisor supplement (min 25% of NSERC portion)
 - 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

Do I qualify?

To apply

At application:

- ✓ Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- ✓ Obtained a (min) cumulative B or B- average over previous years of study*
- ✓ 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 of your bachelor's degree
- ✓ Be registered in at least one of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award (Fall and/or Winter for Summer awards)
- ✓ 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 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

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

If you need help identifying an eligible USRA supervisor, contact your **faculty's USRA representative** (see contact list on Research Western USRA web page)

University award allocations

- Universities are given a yearly allocation of USRA awards by NSERC
 - Expected to be ~100 for Western for Summer 2018
- Allocation is distributed amongst 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. 5, 2018)
- Awards are non-transferable
- Award payments are made monthly to award holders through Western

How to apply

- Application is done through **N SERC's Online System**
https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm
- 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, transcripts

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
- “Official” transcripts are not required for students registered at and intending to complete their USRA at Western
 - Ideally, the transcript contains your name, “The University of Western Ontario”, along with academic record

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part II - Supervisor

- Links to Part I by 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
- 'Submits' in Online System to Western's Research Development & Services Department

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

System-ID: 295960056

Reference No. 337750 Date: 2015/11/11

Family name of student: Pickard
 Given name: Bryce
 Is this (y) or all other names: X
 Personal identification no. (PIN): 484392

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)				
Degree	Name of discipline	Institution	Department	Year and month of expected degree completion

At the time of application, you are attending a postsecondary institution? Full time? part time?

Have you ever held a USRA in the past? Yes 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)

OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: Canadian citizen Foreign citizen (indicate date of landing as stated on official immigration document)

Language of correspondence: English French

Current address: _____
 Permanent mailing address (if different from current address): _____

If current address is temporary, indicate ending date: _____
 Telephone number at permanent mailing address: _____

Telephone number at current address: _____
 E-mail address: 12wrgo@uwo.ca

Form 202-1 (2011 W) Canada
 Personal information collected on this form and appended will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.
 PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED

Form 202 - Student

Reference number



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

Rectangular Snip

Reference No.
337750

System-ID
295960056
Date
2015/11/11

Family name of student	Given name	Initial(s) of all given names	Personal Identification no. (PIN)
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Form 202 - Supervisor



Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada

Canada

Form 202 Part II - Create a New Application

Proposed work term 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

Department

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)

The left sidebar contains navigation links for "Students and Fellows", "Undergraduate Programs", "Postgraduate Programs", "Postdoctoral Programs", "Summary of Changes", "Eligibility", "How to Apply", "Direct Deposit", "Resource Videos", "Contact Newsletter", and "Tri-Agency Harmonization of the Canada Graduate Scholarships".

Western deadline

- Form 202, Parts I & II must be completed and submitted online by **Friday, January 26, 2018**

Additional Information

‘Experience’ Awards (formerly *Industrial USRAs*)

- For students who wish to gain research experience in an **industry setting**
- Provide support via the industry host company
- Same criteria as USRA including 16-week consecutive term, during which the student is an employee of the company
- Part of student supplement is provided by the host company
- Companies/organizations must meet NSERC’s **eligibility criteria**
- **Details:**

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/Experience-Experience_eng.asp

Additional information (cont'd)

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

USRA holders are not permitted to do **thesis research** during term of award



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