

RESEARCH, INNOVATION TRANSFER AND GRADUATE STUDIES
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)
Call for Applications

Deadline for Submissions to the Department Chair: February 12, 2010

What It Is: The NSERC USRA provides scholarships for students to engage in research with a faculty member whose research is funded by NSERC.

These are very prestigious awards. Students interested in graduate studies or a career in research and development are strongly encouraged to apply.

Who is Eligible to Apply: These awards are for excellent students interested in pursuing research. When selecting students for awards, the university will assess the merit of the application on the basis of the academic record **and** the research aptitude of the student and the objectives of the USRA program.

To be eligible students must:

- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, registered full-time as an undergraduate student, and have a minimum cumulative GPA of B-.
- Have completed at least the first year of university study of a bachelor's degree. Graduating students are eligible to hold an award.
- Not hold a higher degree in natural sciences and engineering, and have not started graduate studies
- **Have identified a faculty supervisor** who holds an active NSERC research grant.

Value of USRA: Minimum of \$5,625.00 (\$4,500 from NSERC award, supplemented by a minimum of 25% of its value by the research supervisor).

How do I find a supervisor? Discuss the opportunity with a faculty member you would like to work with and determine whether the faculty member holds an NSERC. You may also contact the research office or check with your faculty office for a list of potential supervisors.

Faculty members are also encouraged to recruit students for this award.

Duration: These awards are primarily to be held in the summer of 2010. Students must work full-time (16 weeks) in research and development in the natural sciences and engineering during tenure of the award.

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How to Apply

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Go to: www.nserc.ca

Select the language of your choice.

Select: “**Information for students and fellows**” from the left navigation pane

Select: “**Program Guide**” from the left navigator panel

Select: “**Undergraduate Programs**” from the left or centre panel

Scroll down and select: **Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)**.

Select “**Apply On-line**” from the centre panel: If you are a first time user, you need to register with NSERC. There is a **Pilot Training Site** to guide you through the process. If you are already registered, then use the On-Line log in system. **Instructions** are also provided.

Complete **Form 202, Part I** on line and then print and sign a copy

You need to provide your potential supervisor with a copy of your **Form 202 Part I**.

Your potential supervisor will then complete **Form 202, Part II** on line. He/she will then print and sign a copy, have his/her chairperson sign the copy and then provide you with the signed copy. **Form 202 Part II** will outline the nature of the research project.

Make sure that the copy you receive back from your supervisor has the original of the supervisors and his/her chairperson’s signatures.

Submit 6 copies of the signed completed **Forms 202 Parts I and II** to the Department Chair (the original copy and 5 photocopies). The Chair will forward your application to the Office of Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies after the February 12th deadline.

Adjudication of Awards: Applications will be evaluated by a TRU-USRA selection committee according to the merit of each application, the student's academic record, the student’s research aptitude, and the objectives of the USRA program.

Successful applications are forwarded to NSERC.

You will be notified by March 12, 2010 as to whether your application has been forwarded or not.

Other NSERC Undergraduate Student Awards

NSERC also offers Undergraduate Student Research Awards in Industry. These awards provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to gain research and development experience in an industrial setting. A list of the industrial organizations eligible to participate in this program is available from NSERC (www.nserc.ca).