

# TRU Undergraduate Research Ambassadors

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) seeks applications from TRU undergraduates to serve as Ambassadors of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Inquiry. This capstone experience will strengthen students' undergraduate research understanding and provide training to enhance skills as TRU Ambassadors.

**Award:** \$3,000 envelope (salary + benefits); up to 14 awards available in total

**Roles & Responsibilities:** Ambassadors will work with the Research Office on a range of projects related to undergraduate research including:

- Have the opportunity to bring together the knowledge, skills, and interests developed at this point through all aspects of their education, to enhance Undergraduate research at TRU.
- Have the opportunity to participate on projects and work with students from a variety of majors and backgrounds to work as a team, pooling resources and collaborating with faculty and staff.
- Constitute an informal advisory board to the Research Office
- Assist with the annual Undergraduate Research Conference and other undergraduate research meetings and conferences
- Assist in the development and maintenance of TRU research publications
- Advise fellow students on research related opportunities through public talks, workshops, orientation activities
- Represent TRU research and creativity at campus and community events to help promote and expand undergraduate research and creativity efforts across campus.
- Provide 120 hours of involvement during the academic year (including training)
- Participate in a formal training process

**Qualifications:** Ambassadors will be TRU students who;

- Are in good academic standing with at least 60 completed credits at the time of the application.
- Have a 3.2 or higher GPA
- Have engaged in or are currently engaged in research or creative activities under the guidance of a TRU faculty mentor (eg. former or current UREAP, USRA or URA).
- Can commit to 60 hours of service (approx. 5 hours per week) within the academic year terms (Fall/Winter).

**Deadline:** Completed applications by **September 15, at 4:00 pm**. Qualified students will be contacted by the first week of October and will be expected to be familiar with information on the pages that follow.

The application for the program follows on the next page of this document.

# TRU Student Research Ambassadors Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ TRU ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Faculty \_\_\_\_\_

Completed credit hours at time of application \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Planned graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

Prior UREAP or Undergraduate Research Assistant position (indicate your role and the name of your faculty supervisor):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_

A completed application packet will include:

- 1) this page printed and completed by the student
- 2) a copy of the student's resume
- 3) an unofficial copy of the student's TRU transcript
- 4) one reference letter from a faculty supervisor (A reference writer should write her/his letter, sign it, seal it in an envelope, write across the sealed envelope flap, and give the letter to the student to put into the application packet. Please attach the letter to this application package.)

Completed and sealed application packages should be forwarded to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies and be marked as follows;

<b><u>Name of Award:</u></b>	<b>Undergraduate Research Ambassador Program</b>
<b><u>Name of Student:</u></b>	<b>Student Name and TRU ID#</b>
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b>Date Submitted</b>
<b><u>Mail drop:</u></b>	<b>Research and Graduate Studies office, Clock Tower, CT225</b>

## WHAT IS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

*"An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original, intellectual, or creative contribution to the discipline..."* (from the Council on Undergraduate Research)

"Research" is interpreted broadly to reflect what goes on **not only** in laboratories and fieldwork settings, but also in **libraries, art studios, and music practice rooms**. Undergraduates are a part of TRU's exciting community of discovery, creativity, and innovation from all academic disciplines within the University. Undergraduate research enhances the student learning experience and expands the intellectual vitality of Thompson Rivers University. Undergraduate researchers tackle important, real-world questions ranging from how to improve K-12 education to improving disease prevention, from enhancing the livability of small cities to understanding and protecting the environment (see the TRU Strategic Research Plan for priority research areas).

Undergraduate research **requires an educational collaboration between students and faculty members**. Research experiences may be initiated by students who seek out faculty supervision for their projects or by faculty members who involve undergraduate students in their research teams.

**Research can culminate in a written or oral presentation, an exhibition, or a performance** as a means of making the body of academic knowledge or creative exploration accessible to other investigators in the field, as well as to the general public.

**Significant opportunities exist for students** to become actively involved in the scholarly pursuits of the faculty and to take part in a compelling learning experience. This kind of involvement provides insight into the creation of knowledge that may be difficult or impossible to replicate in a conventional classroom setting. It gives the student a hands-on opportunity to apply what they have been learning in the classroom, as well as to develop a mentoring relationship with a faculty member.

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RESEARCH?

**Participation in undergraduate research benefits students educationally, professionally, and personally.**

Undergraduate Research at TRU: (from the Council of Undergraduate Research)

- Engages and empowers students in hands-on learning
- Enhances the student learning experience through mentoring relationships with faculty
- Increases retention
- Provides effective career preparation & promotes interest in graduate education
- Develops critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, self-confidence, and intellectual independence
- Promotes an innovation-oriented, problem-solving culture

Educational benefits include:

- Working closely with a faculty mentor
- Learning about issues, methods, and leaders in students' chosen fields
- Applying concepts learned in coursework to "real life" situations
- Sharpening problem-solving skills
- Learning to read primary literature

Professional benefits include:

- Exploring and preparing for future careers
- Developing marketable skills
- Enhancing professional communication skills
- Collaborating with others and working effectively as part of a team

Personal benefits include:

- Growing as a critical, analytical, and independent thinker
- Meeting challenges and demonstrating the ability to complete a project
- Discovering personal interests
- Developing internal standards of excellence