

Undergraduate Student Research Award Competition – Fall 2025

The Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program supports more than 3,000 students annually and is administered jointly by Canada's three research granting agencies: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Applications for the USRA program must be completed and submitted to **the Canadian institution where you wish to hold the award through NSERC's online system**. Selected applications are submitted to NSERC by institutions. No USRA applications may be submitted directly to the agencies.

Deadline for submission: August 15, 2025 – 4pm

Total value of award: \$11,289.60 (based on \$18.00/hour +12% benefits, 35 hrs/wk, 16 weeks)

NSERC Contribution: \$6,000.00

Researcher Contribution: \$5,289.60 (minimum)

*****Student applicants for Fall or Winter competitions are required to contact Financial Aid (financial.aid@msvu.ca) to confirm what financial impact this award may have (e.g., loans, bursaries, scholarships) prior to applying for this award.**

Please note that students working less than the allocated time will have their award prorated. Students may hold this award only once per fiscal year.

Student Eligibility

- be registered in a Bachelor's degree at an eligible university **in at least one of the 2 terms immediately previous to the award** to be eligible to hold a USRA.
- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada or a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection*
- be registered, at the time of application, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university; and
- must have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of "B" or "B-," if applicable) as defined by your university.
- cannot be currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN) (*does not apply for CIHR USRAs*)
- cannot be currently registered or have been previously registered, at any time, in a graduate program in the same field of study
- cannot have completed all your degree requirements

For more information, please review the NSERC USRA website at:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp

Actual student stipend - \$11,289.60 for a full 16-week period

Please note the following application procedure for students wishing to apply for a NSERC USRA position:

1. Students are to complete Part 1 of the USRA application
2. Faculty Sponsor/Supervisor are to complete Part 2 of the USRA Application. Once complete, please upload/submit the application to NSERC. This will enable the Research Office to access these applications for adjudication.
3. Via e-mail, the faculty supervisor should submit a Letter of support (max 1 page) including a statement that they will provide the minimum salary contribution of \$5,289.60. (NOTE: in the event that a faculty member is associated with more than one student, the faculty member must rank order each of their candidates.)

Please note that no handwritten application will be accepted.

The Committee on Research and Publications reminds faculty and students that they must adhere to the NSERC rules and regulations for USRA candidates (website: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp). The CRP will endeavor to ensure an even disbursement between senior and junior faculty applicants, however, preference will be given to faculty who currently hold NSERC Discovery Grants.

Any CRP member who has applied for USRA positions for their student(s) shall be absent for the adjudication of this competition. Preference shall be allotted to Faculty who have a current NSERC Discovery grant.

Applications will be adjudicated and scored out of a possible 15 points. Weighted scores are as follows:

Transcript 5	Student's Application (Part I) 5	Faculty Application (Part 2) 5
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The University will ensure that a minimum of 50% of candidates chosen will be female as per NSERC regulations.

Applications will be classed as follows:

A	Successful	Application will be submitted to NSERC
B	Waitlisted	Application is meritorious and will be considered if
		NSERC USRA allocation is increased
C	Unsuccessful	Application is unsuccessful. Application will be returned to researchers