2020 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards
Program Guidelines and Application Procedures

Purpose: To provide research work experience that complements the degree program which will encourage students to consider graduate studies and pursue careers in the natural sciences and engineering.

Award Value: $4,500, plus a minimum 25% supplement ($1,125) provided by the department
• Any supplement above this level may be set at the department’s or supervisor’s discretion. Departments may provide fringe benefits
• Sources of supplements: NSERC grants, other research funds (non-NSERC) and university sources.
• Travel allowances is no longer granted by NSERC
• The supervisor or department must cover any additional costs related to the fieldwork (e.g., travel expenses).
• NSERC will not reimburse the University for any period in which the student worked part-time. In addition, it will not approve any payment for any vacation days taken during the tenure of the award.

Duration: 16 full consecutive weeks (similar to co-op work terms)
• For USRA work terms shorter than 16 weeks: NSERC’s approval is required prior to the beginning of the work term. Departments must submit any short work term requests along with a justification to Research Services as soon as possible.
• There is no provision for sick leave, vacation or other interruptions of awards. Should a work term be terminated early, NSERC must be informed. Contact the Research Services Office (RSO) immediately.
• Awards may not be deferred.

USRA Workterm at UofT: The University of Toronto administers this program in the summer term only, between May 1st and September 30th of each year.

Departmental Quotas and Deadlines: The Department of Biology has 4 (four) awards to give out for the summer 2020.
Biology Department Deadline: March 5, 2020 (4pm)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS

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<th>Eligible</th>
<th>Ineligible</th>
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<td>• Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada.</td>
<td>• Foreign or international students</td>
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<td>• Registered either full-time or part-time (at the time of application) in a bachelor's degree program in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award. NSERC, however, expects that full-time students will hold most awards. o A student is still eligible if they already hold a bachelor’s degree, as long as they are currently studying towards a second bachelor degree in the natural sciences or engineering.</td>
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<td>• Must have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of &quot;B&quot; or &quot;B-&quot;, if applicable)</td>
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<td>• Must have completed, at the time of application (by April 13, 2020), a minimum of two academic terms/semesters.</td>
<td>• Currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, BScPhm, D.D.S., BScN)</td>
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<td>• Graduating students in the term immediately following the completion of their undergraduate program requirements, as long as they have not started a program of graduate studies.</td>
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<td>• Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the award tenure.</td>
<td>• Holds higher degrees in the natural sciences &amp; engineering.</td>
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APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
1. Complete the latest version of the application form (Form 202, Part I) [online] and adhere to NSERC’s General Presentation Guideline. HANDWRITTEN APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
2. Order a copy of your transcripts. Deliver them to the Biology Department (DV3056). They will be scanned and emailed back to you. Upload the emailed copy to your NSERC application.
3. Once Form 202–Part I has been completed, provide your prospective supervisor with the reference number generated by the system so that s/he may complete Part II of the form.
4. Email a copy of your Form 202 – Part 1 to Stephanie.dorego@utoronto.ca
5. Supervisor should email a copy of the Form 202 – Part 2 to Stephanie.dorego@utoronto.ca
6. Once both parts of the form have been completed and verified the supervisor can submit the USRA application.
7. Complete the Student/Supervisor Certification form. It must bear both your and your supervisor’s signatures. Once signed, submit it in person to the Biology Department (DV3056)

Questions?
Contact: Stephanie do Rego
Stephanie.dorego@utoronto.ca
905-828-3876
FAQ’s found here