

NSERC USRA Guidelines – Deadline Monday, January 23, 2017

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are intended to stimulate student interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering. They are also meant to encourage students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields.

A. To be eligible, a student must:

- ❖ Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- ❖ Have a minimum B average (3.0 GPA);
- ❖ Have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours at the time of application;
- ❖ Be registered full-time (min. 18 credit hours in 2016-17 academic year) and attend school in at least 1 of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- ❖ Submit a transcript (transcripts printed from WebAdvisor are acceptable);
- ❖ Identify a primary supervisor to guide their research project (must hold NSERC funding). For further information on when it is necessary to name an alternative supervisor, please see point C below;
- ❖ Work a full 16 weeks, normally during the period from May 1 – August 31. Students and their supervisors are to devise a work plan that is suitable for the research project;
- ❖ Provide a 250-500 word statement describing how the NSERC USRA will benefit their career/future and an idea of their future plans. If the student previously held an NSERC USRA, they must describe what their role in the previous project was and what they learned, and provide outcomes/an update of the project they were working on;
- ❖ As per NSERC regulations, a student may only hold three NSERC USRAs throughout their academic career.

B. Applications from students registered at other universities will be accepted, but all other things being equal preference will be given to current University of Winnipeg students.

C. The faculty supervisor must hold an NSERC research grant (PI or Co-app) by May 1st. If the primary supervisor has an NSERC renewal or application pending, a letter from an alternate supervisor (also NSERC funded) is required stating that they are willing to supervise and fund the student should the original faculty supervisor not be awarded a grant.

D. Salary: \$4500 is provided by NSERC, and a *minimum* 25% of the NSERC portion (\$1125) is provided by the faculty supervisor. As the USRAs are prestigious awards, we strongly encourage funding above this amount. Faculty members can apply for internal funding to help supplement salaries.

E. Students who receive the NSERC USRA are encouraged to present their research at institutional workshops, poster competitions, and conferences. They will also be invited to a special awards luncheon in their honour.

Please Note: NSERC reviews the university USRA submissions during June and July, well after the student has begun the summer research project. The committee will do their outmost to ensure that only students meeting NSERC's eligibility requirements are put forward. In the rare case where NSERC deems a student to be ineligible to participate in the NSERC USRA program, the Research Office and faculty supervisor will together address the issue.

NSERC and The University of Winnipeg strongly encourage qualified Aboriginal students to apply