



# Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

## Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Gain experience in research this summer

### **\*Important update as of 2022\***

Based on updated recommendations from NSERC, recipients of USRAs at UPEI will be paid by an hourly rate as employees, rather than stipend awards. The NSERC award amount is \$6000, and supervisors will be required to provide a top-up amount to ensure compliance with UPEI student pay rates based on 16 weeks of full-time employment.

### **To be eligible, student applicants must:**

- be registered in a Bachelor's degree program at an eligible university as of the deadline date for applications

**Please note** that students from other institutions remain eligible to apply to UPEI; however, UPEI students will be given priority and non-UPEI students will only be considered if a justification can be made based on a student's specialized area of expertise

- have completed at least 1 full year (10 courses) in any bachelor's program of academic study as an undergraduate by May 2023 (includes D.V.M. program, excludes B.Sc. Nursing)
- have not held more than 2 previous USRA awards in total
- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least 80% (cGPA 3.7), &
- meet all other eligibility criteria as described in the Undergraduate Student Research Awards program description ([https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp))

<b>Objective of the program</b>	The objective of the USRA program is to provide <b>research experience</b> that complements the degree program <b>to encourage students to consider graduate studies</b> and/or a research career. The proposed research must be in an area of natural sciences or engineering supported by NSERC.
<b>Award Information</b>	1. The NSERC awards have a value of <b>\$6,000</b> for a full <b>16-week period</b> . Supervisors are required to supplement the award to ensure compliance with UPEI student pay rates based on 16 weeks of full-time employment. 2. The program makes no provision for sick or vacation leave, or for other types of interruptions. Awards may not be deferred.
<b>How to apply:</b>  <b>Use Form 202</b> available at: <a href="http://www.nserc.ca">www.nserc.ca</a>  <b>UPEI requirements</b>	Note: Students can pick only one supervisor and project. <b>Supervisors are allowed to submit only ONE application.</b> Supervisors do not need to be NSERC grant holders. 1. Students will fill out Part 1 electronically and provide their supervisor with their reference number. Note that students must upload their transcripts as a single PDF file. Successful applicants may be asked to submit the official hard copies of their transcripts for verification before taking up the award. Degree Audit reports will NOT be accepted in lieu of transcripts. 2. Supervisors will fill out Part 2 then submit the completed application on-line. 3. As part of the application process for UPEI, students are asked to write a Letter of Interest with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research project: demonstrate an understanding of the research project;</li><li>• Experience: describe previous research or relevant experience, especially funded through the USRA program;</li><li>• Expected outcomes: describe the potential impact of the project as well as expected outcomes including but not limited to research paper, presentation at scientific events, reports and posters;</li><li>• Career objectives: describe how a USRA would further the applicant's career and professional objectives.</li></ul> This part of the application is limited to <b>one page</b> (excluding references), to be submitted electronically to Research Services ( <a href="mailto:researchservices@upei.ca">researchservices@upei.ca</a> ) by the competition deadline (Feb 17 at 4pm). 4. Students will be required to submit a brief report, highlighting the project's progress and outputs, upon completion of the award term.

**UPEI DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE APPLICATION AND LETTER OF INTEREST:**  
**February 17, 2023 by 4:00pm**

For more information: Leslie Cudmore 902-566-0709 [lcudmore@upei.ca](mailto:lcudmore@upei.ca)  
Research Grants Coordinator, Office of Research Services

An **information session** will be held on Friday, **January 27, 2023, from 1:30 to 2:30 pm** via Zoom. Students and supervisors are encouraged to attend. Please email [researchservices@upei.ca](mailto:researchservices@upei.ca) to RSVP and to obtain the zoom link.