2026 Undergraduate Research Opportunities (URO)

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (OVPRI) will fund the Undergraduate Research Opportunities (URO) program in Summer 2026. The URO program offers students a meaningful opportunity to participate in scholarly, research and creative (SRC) activities and benefit from working directly with a faculty mentor.

Criteria

URO applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. **The quality of the research experience being offered to the student (40%)**

   - Specific research skills to be developed/enhanced.

   - Opportunities to develop an increased understanding of the depth and breadth of the student's academic field.

   - Direct supervision and mentorship by the faculty member/supervisor and interaction with research team members.

   - Consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI)-focused measures in place.

2. **Enhanced academic and career opportunities made available to the student (30%)**

   - Potential for conference attendance, participation in research seminars and/or an advanced training opportunity.

   - Potential for continued involvement in research and co-authorship on papers or presentations.

   - Potential for developing post-graduation employment contacts/preparation for graduate school.

3. **Excellence of the student (20%)**

   - Based on GPA, or a combination of GPA with demonstrated research interest and/or community or research experience.

4. **Quality and completeness of the application (10%)**

   - Strength and likelihood of success of the project.

Ineligible Projects

Projects that do not enhance a student's research or academic potential are ineligible. For-profit contract research, consulting contract work and administrative, organizational or non-academic research projects are also ineligible.

Guidelines

Please note that the following program guidelines must be strictly adhered to:

- The URO is a student award for SRC assistance on a new or existing faculty member-driven project. Work that is not part of a faculty member's SRC project is not eligible.

- Given the program's competitive nature and the limited number of awards available, preference will be given to applications within the student's home faculty. Students wishing to apply to work with a supervisor who does not reside in the student's home faculty must have the proposed supervisor bring this request to the relevant faculty's Associate Dean, Research.

- The student may apply for only one URO opportunity per competition.

- Normally, only current full-time undergraduate students are eligible to apply; part-time students will be considered with a rationale/justification.

- The student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.

- The award cannot be held concurrently with another paid research-related student position.

- The student cannot work more than 35 hours in any week as it relates to their URO award.

- The program supports student employment for 14 weeks (490 hours total) from May to August 2026.

- The supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the student completes the assigned work within the time frame noted above (no more than 35 hours per week for 14 weeks).

- The student will receive a base hourly rate of $21.11.

- The total value per award is up to a maximum of $11,741.00.

- Any overspending will be covered by the supervisor.

- Financial reporting to the OVPRI is not required, but unused funds must be returned to the OVPRI no later than Sept. 30, 2026.

- Supervisor and student must confirm review of the Mutual Expectations Checklist.

- The URO student agrees to attend and participate in the mandatory URO Workshop and URO Showcase events (details for both to follow) as part of accepting the award. These events are held in-person. The URO student acknowledges that failure to comply with this

mandatory requirement may result in forfeiting the right to be considered for the following year's URO competition.

- Support for Showcase presentation materials, i.e., costs associated with printing posters, will be covered by the supervisor.

Submitting an Application

- Students must coordinate and complete their URO application with the proposed supervisor.

- The URO/USRA supervisor form must be completed by the proposed supervisor and attached to the student's online application. If a student belongs to a different faculty than the proposed supervisor, the supervisor must seek guidance from the Associate Dean, Research, and provide a clear rationale as to why the student is the best candidate for that position.

- Please note that URO applications with missing information, including the completed URO/USRA supervisor form, will not be considered.

Undergraduate Research (URO) Workshop and Showcase

Hosted by the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, in collaboration with TMU Libraries, the URO Workshop and Showcase events offer valuable opportunities for undergraduate students to learn important SRC-related professional development skills in preparation for academic and career futures.

- The workshop will provide students with an opportunity to learn valuable SRC database techniques, translation, presentation and communication skills.

- The showcase will allow students to share the work they have been doing over the summer. It will be a multidisciplinary event designed to highlight the student's SRC activities and help them practice important presentation and knowledge translation skills.

- As the range of projects presented at the showcase event will be diverse, this is also an opportunity for students to engage with other students and faculty members outside their field of study.

- The workshop and showcase are required elements of the URO program.

Details for the URO Workshop will be shared in Spring 2026 and details for the URO Showcase will be shared in Summer 2026.

Please find additional information on the URO program on the [OVPRI website](#).