

2026 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grant

Purpose / The Undergraduate Research Opportunity (URO) grant offers a minimum of 6 undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts the chance to meaningfully participate in the Scholarly, Research and Creative (SRC) activities of a faculty member in Arts and to benefit from their mentorship. The URO grants are designed to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to enhance their research, analytical, presentation and writing skills that they can use in their careers or future research projects. Please note: The Faculty of Arts in collaboration with OVPRI will be funding up to 5 additional URO positions (subject to finances).

Student Eligibility / The applicant:

- Must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate Faculty of Arts program with a cumulative GPA greater than 3.0
- Only current full-time undergraduate students are eligible to apply; part-time students will be considered with a rationale/justification.
- Faculty supervisor cannot be a sessional instructor. For more details regarding faculty supervisor eligibility, please ask your potential supervisor to review the URO policy available on the Faculty of Arts Internal Grants website.
- The URO is for SRC assistance on a faculty member's new or existing project.
- May apply for only one URO opportunity per year.

Faculty Supervisor Eligibility /

- All tenured and pre-tenure faculty members are eligible to serve as supervisors.
- Limited Term faculty members must hold a position during the award period (May 1 to August 31, 2026).
- The URO is for SRC assistance on a faculty-member-driven new or existing project. Work that is not part of a faculty member's SRC project is not eligible for funding.
- Ineligible projects include those that do not enhance a student's research or academic potential, for-profit contract research, consulting contract work, and administrative, organizational, or non-academic research projects.

Amount / The total amount for each URO Grant is \$11,741 (inclusive of benefits and vacation pay). The hourly base rate (not including benefits and vacation pay) is \$21.11. Students cannot work more than 35 hours in any week. The URO grant supports student employment for up to a maximum of 14 weeks (490 hours total), from May to August 2026. The faculty 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). Support for Showcase

presentation materials, i.e., costs associated with printing posters, will be covered by the supervisor. **Any overages will be the financial responsibility of the faculty supervisor.**

Review Process / The URO applications will be jointly adjudicated by the Associate Dean of Arts, Undergraduate Studies and the Associate Dean of Arts, Research and Grant Development. The adjudication criteria include:

- 1) The quality of the research experience being offered to the student (40%)
 - a) Specific research skills to be developed/enhanced.
 - b) Opportunity to develop increased understanding of the depth and breadth of the student's academic field.
 - c) Direct supervision and mentorship by the faculty member/supervisor and interaction with research team members.
 - d) Consideration of EDI-focused measures in place.
- 2) Enhanced academic and career opportunities made available to the student (30%)
 - a) Potential for conference attendance, participation in research seminars, and/or an advanced training opportunity.
 - b) Potential for continued involvement in research and co-authorship on papers or presentations.
 - c) Potential for developing post-graduation employment contacts/preparation for graduate school.
- 3) Excellence of the student (20%)
 - a) 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%)
 - a) Strength and likelihood of success of the project.

Responsibilities / The URO student must agree to participate in an undergraduate research workshop and a separate showcase event (details to follow). Financial reporting to the OVPRI is not required, but unused funds must be returned to the OVPRI by no later than September 30, 2026. Unused funds cannot be banked for other purposes. Successful faculty and student applicants must sign the Mutual Expectations Checklist (to be provided) prior to the start of the project.

URO student is responsible for finding a supervisor/faculty member, discussing the proposed project and secure the supervisor's agreement to sponsor the application.

Application / Students must complete the online application below in consultation with their potential supervisor. URO student applicant must upload their transcript and a one-page student statement. Please consult the [URO/USRA Application Upload Attachment Instructions](#) for detailed instructions.

The URO/USRA supervisor form must be completed by the Faculty supervisor and attached to the student's online application. Please note that URO applications that are missing information or do not include the completed URO/USRA supervisor form will not be considered.

Deadline / Closing date: March 31, 2026.

Please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional details.