NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards
2021 Competition

OVERVIEW AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS

Ryerson Quota	Up to 37 USRAs can be awarded at Ryerson
Award Details	$6,000 from NSERC plus the Supervisor's mandatory supplement (top-up) of at least $3,177. The duration of the award is 16 consecutive weeks, on a full-time basis for a period between May 3 (earliest start date) and September 3, 2021 (latest end date).
University Application Deadline	Application Submission Deadline: **Thursday, February 25, 2021 by 4:00pm**. • Completed electronic application (Form 202-Parts I & II), **transcript(s)** via NSERC On-line Services Portal • **Student statement** submitted to OVPRI via Google Forms: https://forms.gle/ycSP6FqNfz96BGyV8
Student Eligibility	You must: • Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada; • Be registered, at the time you apply, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university • **Have obtained over the previous years of study a cumulative GPA of 3.67** • Have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (2 academic terms) of your bachelor's degree*; • Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award You may hold a maximum of 3 USRAs throughout your (undergraduate) university career. *Priority will be given to students entering their 3rd and 4th year of study. NOTE: If you are currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences, you are ineligible.
	NSERC strongly encourages applications from qualified students from under-represented groups (including women and Indigenous students), who may be interested in pursuing graduate studies and research careers in the natural sciences and engineering.
How to Apply** **USRA application video** **http://www.nserccrsng.gc.ca/StudentsEtudiants/VideosVideos/usrabrpct_eng.asp**	Speak to your prospective Supervisor and secure their agreement to sponsor your USRA application. **[**Ryerson will only accept one application per student**] Read the Program Description and the Instructions for Completing an Application and the FAQ before starting the Application Process: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp Create or access the USRA application form on the NSERC On-Line System login at: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp • **Past applicants** can login to the NSERC On-Line System to update the form from last year's online application. • **New applicants** must create a profile before creating an application. To view instructions for completing an application – Form 202: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/202/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp

How to Apply (continued)	**1) NSERC Form 202 Parts I and II**
	   a) Instructions for students:
	    Form 202 Part I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award
	    • Complete the online application and **provide the reference number (not your PIN) to your research supervisor**.
	    • Upload a copy of your most up-to-date transcript(s) from **all** university programs and the legend explaining acronyms (see page 3 for more on NSERC transcript requirements).
	    • Download a copy for your records and meet with your proposed Supervisor to discuss the research project and your role to be described in Part II.
	
	   b) Instructions for Supervisors:
	    Form 202 Part II Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award
	    • Select Form 202 Part II under the heading Forms-Researcher
	    • Enter the reference number for the student, and complete all the modules necessary to create a Form 202 Part II
	    • Verify the form using the button on the Portfolio screen to ensure your application is complete (status will appear as "completed")
	    • Click the **Submit to LO button** to complete the online application process
	    • If the supervisor does not verify the application, the "Submit to LO" button will not appear
	
	2) Student Statement
	   [1-page maximum - single-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman, 2cm margins all-around]
	   Upload the statement that answers the following 2 questions:
	    A) Explain why you want to undertake this research project and how it relates to your plans following the completion of your undergraduate degree.
	    B) Describe your qualifications (e.g. education, experience, leadership roles, etc.) and your research experience to date (including previous awards and scholarships; as well as your involvement in publications, posters, and presentations) for this research award.
	    C) If previous NSERC USRA awardee, explain why you should be considered for another NSERC USRA award (i.e. how will this experience be different?)
	   This is to be written by you alone, not in collaboration with your supervisor.
	   [An additional page can be added to explain exceptional circumstances that may have negatively impacted your GPA].
	
	   *Note: Student statements for the application will now be accepted via Google Forms: https://forms.gle/ib13jdL51cjTyrWn6

Review Process	Department Application Rankings to be submitted to Linda Hurrell, Grants/Contracts Officer, in OVPRI by **Friday, March 12, 2021 by 4:00pm.** The University Selection Committee will assess the ranked USRA applications submitted by the Departments/Schools and will recommend USRAs up to the NSERC allocation quota. There will be a limited wait list. OVPRI will notify students and supervisors of the outcome of the University assessment/review by early April. Successful applicants will be asked to confirm acceptance by **mid-April**.
Contact	**Linda Hurrell, Grants/Contracts Officer** (Natural Sciences & Engineering) Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation Email: lhurrell@ryerson.ca This person is the liaison between the Applicants, the Departments, the University Selection Committee, and NSERC.

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NSERC TRANSCRIPT REQUIREMENTS

All transcripts must be combined into a single PDF file.

Ryerson University students: Transcripts in PDF format from RAMSS are accepted. An official transcript may be required at a later date if you are granted the award. If you have also attended another university, please include a scanned copy of your official transcripts from that institution, including the legend on the back.

Students applying from other universities: Official, up-to-date transcripts for all university programs must be provided. Official transcripts must be scanned into a single PDF file, including the legend on the back of each transcript.

The purpose of uploading the legend is to help the committees and NSERC understand the grading system at each postsecondary institution.

In this context, official transcripts are those that show the name of the institution, the program in which you are enrolled, your complete course of study, your marks and the legend explaining acronyms etc.

To be up-to-date, transcripts must show the term before the application was prepared. For example, if you applied to your university USRA competition in February, the transcript must show the previous Fall (September to December) term's marks.