



## NSERC USRA Program – Summer 2021

**Applications due: Thursday, 25 February 2021**

*NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are meant to nurture interest and develop potential for a research career in the natural sciences and engineering. They are also meant to encourage students to undertake graduate studies in these fields.*

**Duration:** Awards are for 16 consecutive weeks (May-August) and are considered full-time employment.

**Value:** The full award includes \$6,000 from NSERC coupled with a minimum 25% supplement (\$1500) from the faculty supervisor. The combined funding covers both student salary (including 4% vacation pay) and mandatory employment-related costs of 8.5% (EI, CPP, WC). The funding is considered employment income and is taxable.

Eligible, self-identified Indigenous students are encouraged to apply for an award; these applications are approved by NSERC and are in addition to Acadia's current quota of 10 NSERC USRA awards. To further advance **equity, diversity and inclusion** in awards at Acadia, a number of the USRA awards will be allocated to other under-represented or under-served groups. All applicants will be contacted soon after the application submission due date with a link to a form to voluntarily and confidentially self-ID.

**STEP 1: Students eligible to apply**, must at the time of submission (by February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021):

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- be registered in coursework towards a bachelor's degree and have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms). You may already hold a bachelor's degree and be studying toward a second bachelor's degree. A USRA may also be held during a co-op placement.
- have obtained, for courses completed, a Cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 3.00 (B average).

**STEP 2: The application process (submit by 25 February)**

There are 3 Parts to the USRA application. To complete the required online NSERC USRA application sections (Parts I and II), go to [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp)

- Form 202, Part I – Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award
- Form 202, Part II – Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award
  - Please read all online instructions carefully. If you are not already in the NSERC system, register as New User.
  - **NOTE:** Applicants must upload official, up-to-date transcripts of ALL university records (including Acadia transcript) with the on-line application.
  - Ensure transcripts are scanned as a black and white printed document and, whenever possible, in portrait style, clear, and include a copy of the grade scale information (usually found on the back).
- **Form Part III: Research Aptitude** section needs to be completed by both student and supervisor; locate form at <https://research.acadiau.ca/Undergraduate Student Honours Research.html>

**STEP 3: Internal adjudication**

- USRAs are competitive. Only 10 USRAs are available at Acadia in 2021 (not including Indigenous USRAs).
- Applications are adjudicated by a committee of Acadia science and engineering faculty, chaired by the Dean of Research & Graduate Studies or designate.
- When confirmed as eligible, the primary assessment criteria are research aptitude, student academic record (Cumulative GPA, research experience), and the expected quality of the training to be received. Equity, diversity and inclusion will also be a consideration in award decisions. Notification of decisions will be in late March.