

National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

Nov. 9, 2018

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Research Western

Agenda

- What are USRAs?
- Eligibility: Students / Supervisors
- Award Allocation and Award Decisions
- How to apply
- Support/Resources
- Additional Information

What are USRAs?

- A 16-week, full-time research award (consecutive weeks)
- [USRAs](#) –
 - Provide financial support for a **natural sciences and engineering** (NSE) research placement
 - \$4500 from NSERC + supervisor supplement (min 25% of NSERC portion = \$1125)*
 - Help students gain research experience in an academic setting
 - Stimulate interest in research in NSE
 - Encourage students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields

**Total value of award is for student's personal use at their discretion.*

Do I qualify?

To apply

By application deadline:

- ✓ Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ✓ Have obtained a (min) cumulative B or B- average over previous years of study*
- ✓ Be registered in a bachelor's program at NSERC-eligible university

To hold award

- ✓ Have completed all course requirements of at least 1st year of university study for your bachelor's degree
- ✓ Be registered in at least one of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award (i.e. Fall and/or Winter terms for a Summer award)
- ✓ Be engaged on full-time basis in research activity in NSE for tenure of award

**Competitive program; minimum average doesn't guarantee an award*

Do I qualify? (cont'd)

Indigenous students:

- ✓ Individuals who self-identify as Indigenous, meet the program criteria and are recommended by their university, do not count toward the university's allotted quota of awards

Other:

- ✓ An individual -
 - Can't hold more than 1 USRA in a fiscal year (April 1 to March 31)
 - Can't hold more than 3 USRAs during their university undergrad career

Who does NOT qualify?

Students who –

- have started a graduate program
- hold higher degrees in NSE
- are enrolled in a professional degree program (ie. MD, DDS, BScN)
- Are/will be enrolled in courses full-time for the term in question*

**You can take a maximum of 1 course concurrent to your USRA. Supervisor and student must make arrangements to make up the time.*

Supervisor requirements

Supervisor –

- Must hold active an active NSERC research grant, NSERC Partnership award, Canada Research Chair or Canada Excellence Research Chair, Networks of Centres of Excellence

University award allocations

- Universities are given a yearly allocation of USRA awards by NSERC
 - 120 were allocated to Western for Summer 2019 (we anticipated a similar number in 2020)
- Allotted awards are distributed across Western faculties (based on a formula)

Ranking students

- Universities are responsible to establish their own selection criteria within the broad guidelines that NSERC provides
 - Criteria are determined at **faculty level** at Western and may be stricter than NSERC's guidelines
- At Western, **faculties** rank and select students according to their established criteria
- Rankings are typically based on academic record and aptitude for research

Award decisions

- Faculties will inform applicants of their award decisions after selection process is complete*
- Awards are non-transferable
- Award payments are made monthly to award holders through Western's payroll system

**NSERC will also mail successful applicants (students) an award letter after the award has started.*

How to apply

- Application is done through NSERC's [Online System](#)
- NSERC online form is completed by both student and supervisor
 - Student – Form 202 (*Part I*)
 - Supervisor – Form 202 (*Part II*)
- If you've applied for a USRA previously, use the **same form** and update the information, transcripts

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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On-line Services

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Site Tools

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On-line Services

Our on-line services are designed to give you easier access to NSERC's on-line systems.

Update on NSERC's Research Portal
As of spring 2013, researchers and institutional administrators will use the Research Portal and the Canadian Common CV to apply to some NSERC programs and to review/approve applications. For more information, please consult the [Resource Centre](#).

Accessibility Notice
If you cannot access the following content, please contact the On-line Services Helpdesk by e-mail at webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca or by telephone at 613-995-4273. Indicate the e-mail address and telephone number where you can be reached.

PILOT SITE NOTICE
Our Pilot Site is no longer available. The On-line System may be used for training purposes; however, test applications must not be submitted to NSERC.

For Authorized Institutional Representatives: Before you register to access the On-line System or the Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation (FDSR) System, ensure that you have completed, signed and emailed the pertinent registration form to NSERC and read the instructions and the frequently asked questions provided. You will find the forms, instructions and frequently asked questions, for one or the other system, at the [On-line System Overview](#) and [FDSR Overview](#) pages.

On-line System Users
Select **On-line System Login** to create or access an application.

- First-Time User? Please Register
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Forms in PDF Format and Instructions

On-line System Login

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp


NSERC
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

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- [Login >](#)
- Main Menu**
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 - [Proactive Disclosure](#)

Security, Privacy and Use and Disclosure of Information

Before using NSERC's On-Line System, please read the following documents and register your acceptance below:

- NSERC's [Security Statement](#) and details on the retention periods of the data;
- NSERC's statement on the federal [Access to Information Act and Privacy Act](#);
- For applicants and co-applicants: [Use and Disclosure of Personal Information Provided to NSERC](#); and
- For Referees: [Instructions to Referees on the Privacy Act, Confidentiality and the Use and Disclosure of Information](#).

When you login and use this system, it means that you understand and accept that these policies and conditions apply.

Login

You will be automatically logged out of the system if there has not been any activity (e.g., Save, Preview, etc.) for an extended period of time. To avoid having to login again, we recommend that you select **Save** every 10 to 15 minutes.

Account name (User ID) (30 chars)

[Forgot your Account name?](#)

Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Must be 8-10 characters long, must contain at least one special character (!@#\$%^&*()+={}|<>~.-[]/?) and no spaces, may contain numbers (0-9), lower and upper case letters (a-z, A-Z). Please note that your password is case sensitive. (10 chars)

https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part I – Student

- Upon completion of Part I, the system will generate a **Reference #** that you provide to your supervisor so s/he can go online and complete Form 202 Part II
- NSERC PIN – leave field blank if this is your 1st application to NSERC
- “Official” transcripts are not required for students registered at and intending to complete their USRA at Western. However, they must meet **specific requirements***:
 - Your name and the university’s name appear
 - Grades through to December 31 for the year immediately preceding your USRA application appear


** Western’s “Academic Record” format meets NSERC’s standard for transcripts. You can obtain this through your faculty USRA contact.*

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part II - Supervisor

- Links to Part I by logging into the Online System and entering the **Reference #** the student provides
- Provides a description of the project (must be NSE focused) and a clear description of the student's role
 - Note: USRA holders cannot do **thesis** research during the term of the award
- 'Submits' in Online System to Research Development & Services

Form 202 – Student


 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

FORM 202 - PART I
Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award

System-ID: 295960056

Reference No. 337750 Date: 2015/11/11

Family name of student: Pickard Given name: Bryce Is this (s) official name? Yes No Personal identification no. (PIN): 484392

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)

| Degree | Name of discipline | Institution | Department | Year and month of degree completion |
|--------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | |

At the time of application, you are attending a postsecondary institution? In full-time? part-time? Have you ever held a USRA in the past? Yes No

SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED (start with most recent and include NSERC awards)


| Name of award | Location of tenure | Period held (yyyy/mm - yyyy/mm) |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | |

OTHER INFORMATION

Canadian citizen Permanent resident (indicate date of landing as stated on official immigration document) Other

Language of correspondence: English French

Current address: _____ Permanent mailing address (if different from current address): _____
 Telephone number at permanent address: _____ Telephone number at permanent mailing address: _____
 E-mail address: 12vzgo@uwo.ca

Form 202-1 (2011 W)  Personal information collected on this form and appended will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the applicable program. Version française disponible. PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED

Form 202 - Student

Reference number



Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences
naturelles et en génie du Canada

FORM 202 - PART I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award

Rectangular Snip

System-ID

295960056

Date

2015/11/11

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Reference No. 337750 | | | |
| Family name of student | Given name | Initial(s) of all given names | Personal Identification no. (PIN) |

Form 202 - Supervisor

Form 202 Part II - Create a New Application

Proposed work term Year YYYY

Will the award be held: at a university? in industry or not for profit organization?

If you select "university", the form will be placed in the Researcher's Portfolio. If you select "in industry or not for profit organization," the form will be placed in the Partner's Portfolio.

Family name of student (30 chars)

Reference number (Generated for the Student by the system only if Part I was completed on-line)

Title of proposed research project (100 chars)

Institution that will administer the award

Department

Birthdate: Sex: M Residency: Canadian/Native

---RESIDENCY INFORMATION:
 ---UWO PROBLEM INFORMATION: NONE FOUND
 ---UWO REGISTRATION CONDITIONS: NONE FOUND
 ---UWO PERSONAL DATA:
 APPTYPE: HAS DEG: ATTEMPTS: 0.0
 ---UWO ACTIVE SERVICE INDICATORS:
 1 V 2017-OCT-24
 ---UWO COMMENTS:

Permitted transcript type for UWO students

00794721 0 SBMS1 B:GR11 T:PND O:N
 FIRST 87.8000 MIDYR 89.3333 FINAL 88.8333
 GR11 87.4286

---UWO ADMISSION COMMENTS: NONE FOUND
 ---SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:
 ---DEGREE INFORMATION: NONE FOUND
 ---ACADEMIC PROGRAM HISTORY:

---Undergraduate Record:

--2013 Fall/Winter: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:1 Ld:F
 Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

| Course | Description | Units | Grade |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| CALCULUS 1301B 004 | CALCULUS II | 0.5 | 083 |
| PSYCHOL 1000 002 | INTRODUCTORY PSYCHOLOGY | 1.0 | 080 |
| PHYSICS 1029B 001 | PHYSICS FOR BIOLOGICAL SCI II | 0.5 | 083 |
| CALCULUS 1000A 004 | CALCULUS I | 0.5 | 096 |
| PHYSICS 1028A 001 | PHYSICS FOR BIOLOGICAL SCI I | 0.5 | 090 |
| BIOLOGY 1001A 001 | BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE I | 0.5 | 082 |
| BIOLOGY 1002B 001 | BIOLOGY FOR SCIENCE II | 0.5 | 083 |
| CHEM 1301A 002 | DISCOVERING CHEMICAL STRUCTURE | 0.5 | 090 |
| CHEM 1302B 002 | DISCOVERING CHEMICAL ENERGETIC | 0.5 | 090 |

Term AVG: 85.70 Pass: 5.00 Term Totals: 5.00
 Eligible for Medical Sciences 2
 Program is dependent on successful completion of summer
 SPCL AVG: Sessional: 85.70 DHL: 85.70
 Cum AVG: 85.70 Pass: 5.00 Cum Totals: 5.00
 Dean's Honor List

--2014 Summer: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:2 Ld:F

Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

| Course | Description | Units | Grade |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|-------|
| ENGLISH 2033E 001 | CHILDREN'S LITERATURE | B 1.0 | 072 |

Term AVG: 72.00 Pass: 1.00 Term Totals: 1.00
 May proceed.
 Cum AVG: 83.41 Pass: 6.00 Cum Totals: 6.00

--2014 Fall/Winter: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:2 Ld:F

Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

| Course | Description | Units | Grade |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| BIOLOGY 2382B 001 | CELL BIOLOGY | 0.5 | 070 |
| BIOLOGY 2290G 008 | SCIENTIFIC METHOD BIOLOGY | 0.5 | 076 |
| CHEM 2213A 002 | ORGANIC CHEMISTRY | 0.5 | 084 |
| CHEM 2223B 001 | ORGANIC CHEM BIOLOGI MOLECULES | 0.5 | 064 |
| BIOCHEM 2280A 002 | BIOCHEM & MOLEC BIOL | 0.5 | 078 |
| PHYSIOL 2130 650 | HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY | 1.0 | 076 |
| BIOLOGY 2581B 002 | GENETICS | 0.5 | 068 |
| STATS 2244A 002 | STATISTICS FOR SCIENCE | 0.5 | 071 |
| MICROIMM 2500A 001 | BIOLOGY OF INFECTION/IMMU | 0.5 | 064 |

Term AVG: 72.70 Pass: 5.00 Term Totals: 5.00

---BASIS OF ADMISSION:
 * 2013 Ontario Secondary School Diploma 2013
 3 2017 BSc Western University 2017

---ADVANCED STANDING: NONE FOUND

---HIGH SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION:

External Org: [REDACTED]

| Lvl | Subject | Description | Source | Units | Grade |
|-----|----------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 12 | BUSINESS | BOR4MR | OUP | 1.0 | 086 |
| 12 | ENGLISH | ENG400 | OUN | 1.0 | NMR |
| 12 | MATH | MCV400 | OUN | 1.0 | NMR |
| 12 | MATH | MDM400 | OUN | 1.0 | NMR |
| 12 | MATH | MHF400 | OUP | 1.0 | 096 |
| 12 | BIOLOGY | SBI400 | OUN | 1.0 | 091 |
| 12 | CHEMIST | SCH400 | OUN | 1.0 | 086 |
| 12 | ENGLISH | ENG400 | OUP | 1.0 | 080 |
| 12 | INTERDIS | IDP4UR | OUN | 1.0 | 075 |
| 12 | MATH | MCV400 | OUP | 1.0 | 093 |
| 12 | MATH | MDM400 | OUP | 1.0 | 084 |
| 12 | PHYSICS | SPH401 | OUN | 1.0 | 090 |
| 12 | INTERDIS | IDP4UR | OUP | 1.0 | 082 |
| 12 | BIOLOGY | SBI400 | OUP | 1.0 | 088 |
| 12 | CHEMIST | SCH400 | OUP | 1.0 | 086 |
| 12 | PHYSICS | SPH4U1 | OUP | 1.0 | 090 |

External Org: Other Secondary School/Not Home School

| Lvl | Subject | Description | Source | Units | Grade |
|-----|---------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|
| 12 | PHYSICS | SPH4UP | OUN | 1.0 | NMR |

---ADMISSION AVERAGES:

NSERC application support

- NSERC has a short, helpful **Online Tutorial** (~8 minutes)
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/usra-brpct_eng.asp



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the NSERC website. The page title is "NSERC USRA program application tutorial". The main content area features a video player with a play button. Below the video player, there is a table with the following data:

| Reference Number | Status | Last Updated | Edit Form | Verify Completion | Preview/Print |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 226556 | Completed | 2011/08/17 | (Edit) | (Verify) | (Preview/Print) |

The website also includes a navigation menu with links for Français, Home, Contact Us, Help, Search, and canada.gc.ca. A sidebar on the left contains links for Students and Fellows, Undergraduate Programs, Postgraduate Programs, Postdoctoral Programs, Summary of Changes, Eligibility, How to Apply, Direct Deposit, Resource Videos, Contact Newsletter, Tri-Agency Harmonization of the Canada Graduate Scholarships, and Important Notices.

Western deadline

- Form 202, Parts I & II must be completed and submitted online by **Friday, January 25, 2019**
(2020 deadline TBD)

Additional Information

‘Experience’ Awards (formerly *Industrial USRAs*)

- For students who wish to gain research experience in an **industry setting**
- Provide support via the industry host company
- Same criteria as USRA including 16-week consecutive term, during which the student is an employee of the company
- Part of student supplement is provided by the host company
- Companies/organizations must meet NSERC’s **eligibility criteria**
- **Details:**

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/Experience-Experience_eng.asp

Additional information (cont'd)

Holding a USRA at another university

- You can hold an award at another university
- The other university will handle the application, adjudication and awarding processes; you need to contact them

Travel allowance

- If you plan to apply for and hold a USRA at a university *other* than the one where you are registered, you may qualify for a travel allowance; details available through the other university

Corrections/changes to a submitted application

- Research Services must release the form back to the supervisor in the Online System. When changes are made, supervisor re-submits

Unable to complete the USRA award term?

- Supervisor/student must notify faculty USRA contact immediately



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