National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

Nov. 9, 2018

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Research Western

Western Research

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

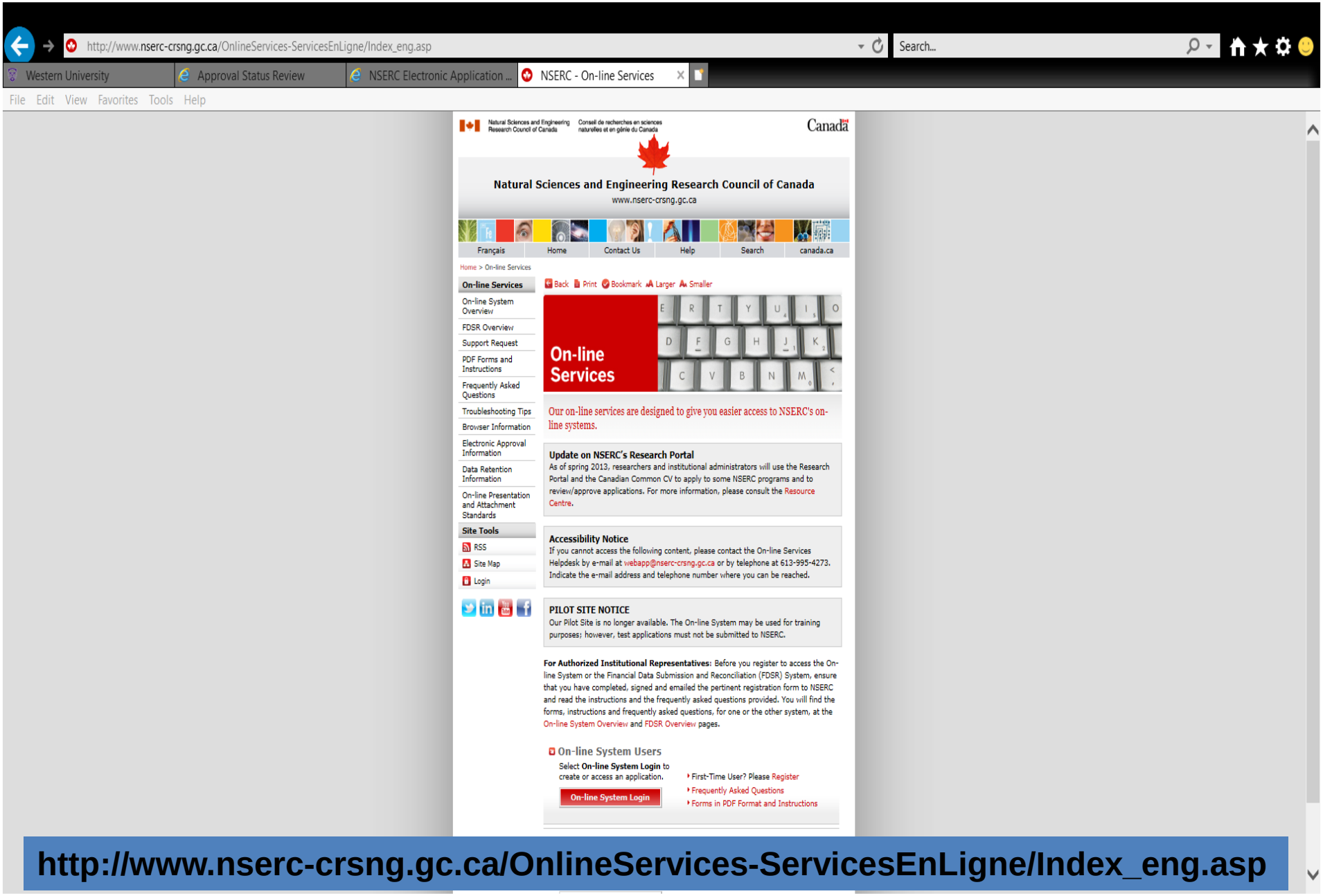
Award decisions

- 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

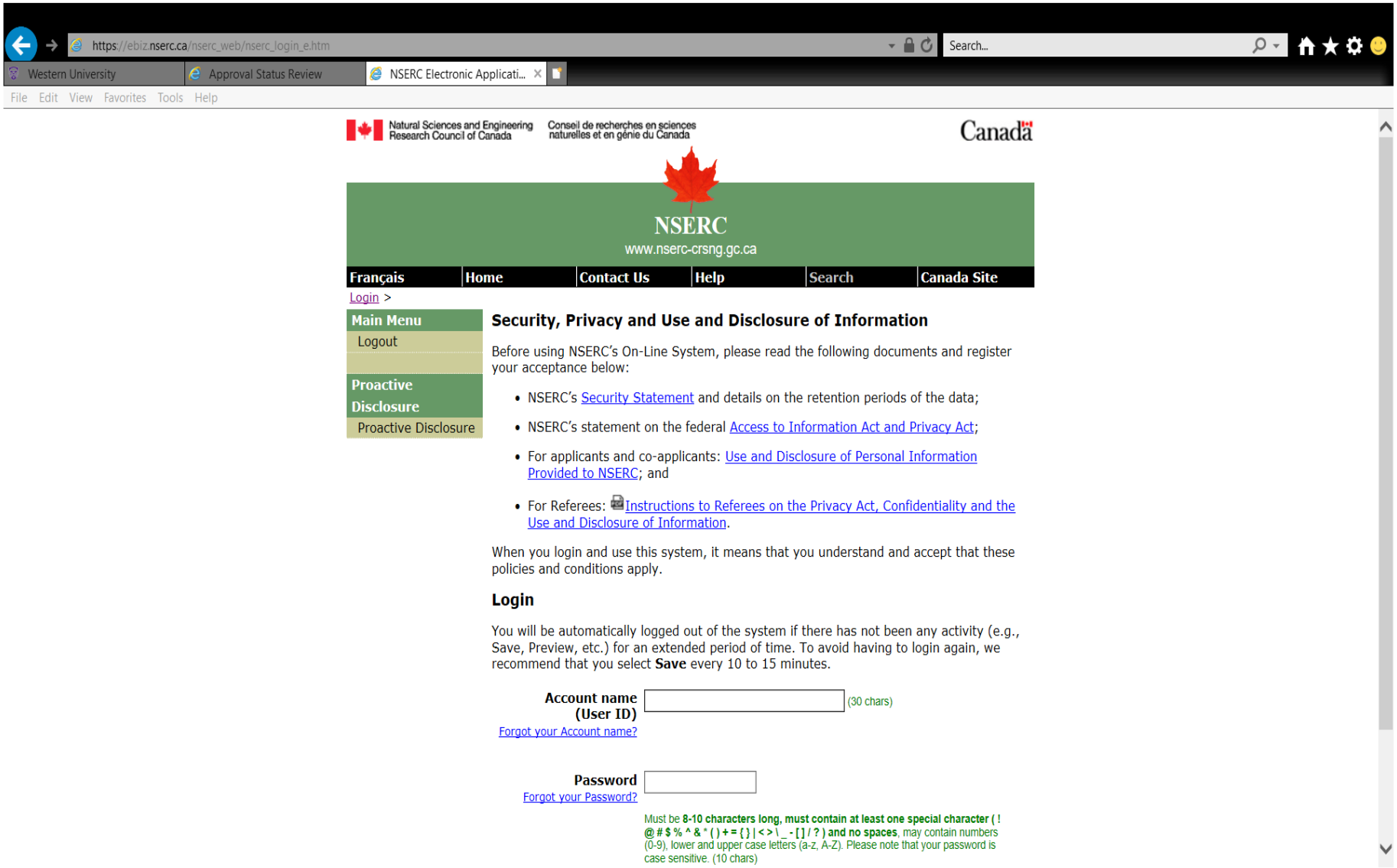
**NSERC will also mail successful applicants (students) an award letter after the award has started.*

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



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



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

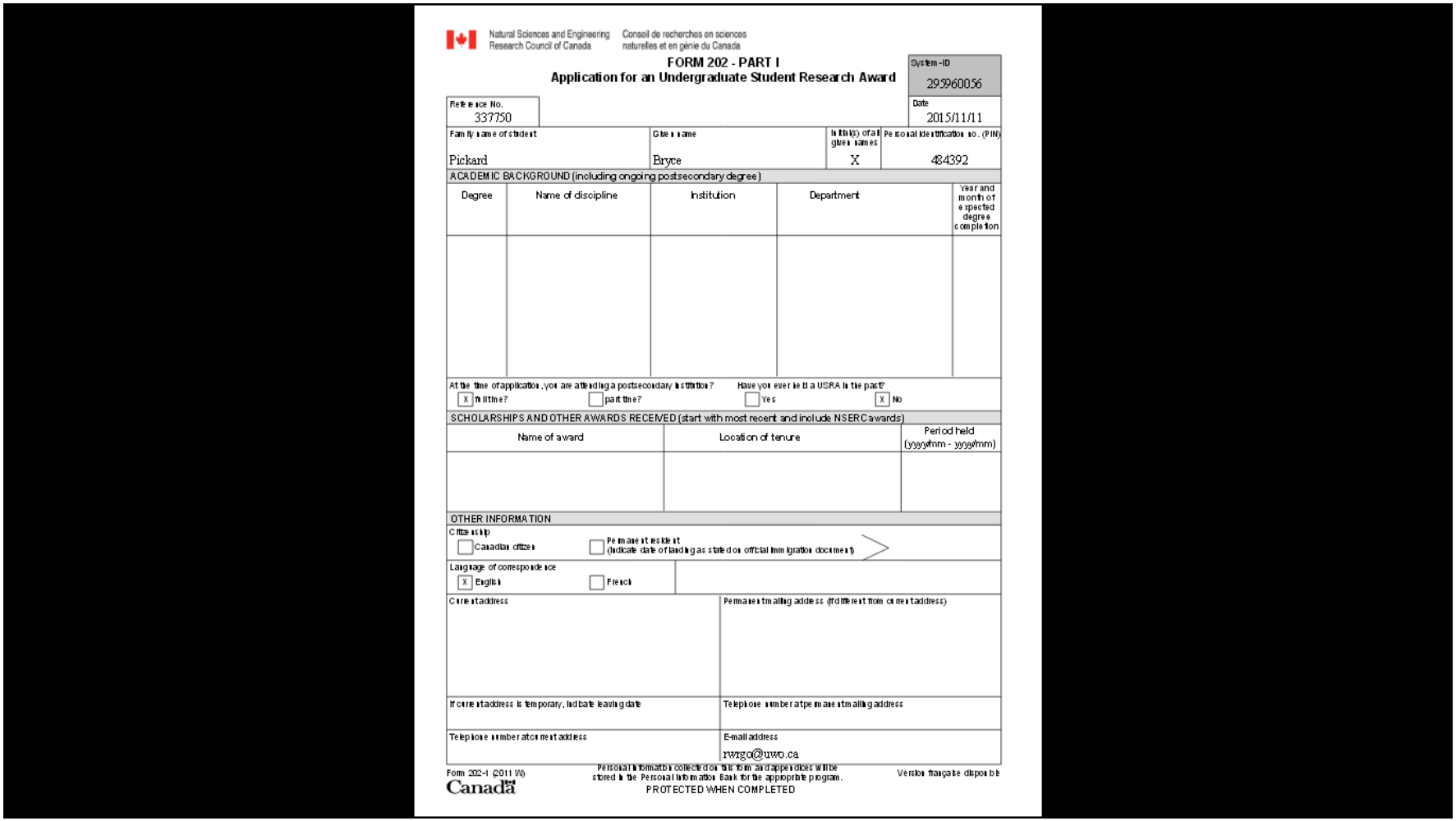
** Western's **"Academic Record"** format meets NSERC's standard for transcripts. You can obtain this through your faculty USRA contact.*

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: 299960056

Reference No.: 337750

Date: 2015/11/11

Family name of student	Given name	Initial(s) of all given names	Personal identification no. (PIN)
Pickard	Bryce	X	484392

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)

Degree	Name of discipline	Institution	Department	Year and month of expected degree completion

At the time of application, you are attending a postsecondary institution? [X] full time? [ ] part time?

Have you ever held a USRA in the past? [ ] Yes [X] 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

Citizenship: [ ] Canadian citizen [ ] Permanent resident (indicate date of landing as stated on official immigration document)

Language of correspondence: [X] English [ ] French

Current address	Permanent mailing address (if different from current address)
If current address is temporary, indicate leaving date	Telephone number at permanent mailing address
Telephone number at current address	E-mail address: rwigo@uwo.ca

Form 202-I (2011/W)

Canada

Personal information collected on this form and appendices will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.

PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED

Version française disponible

Form 202 - Student

Reference number

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada

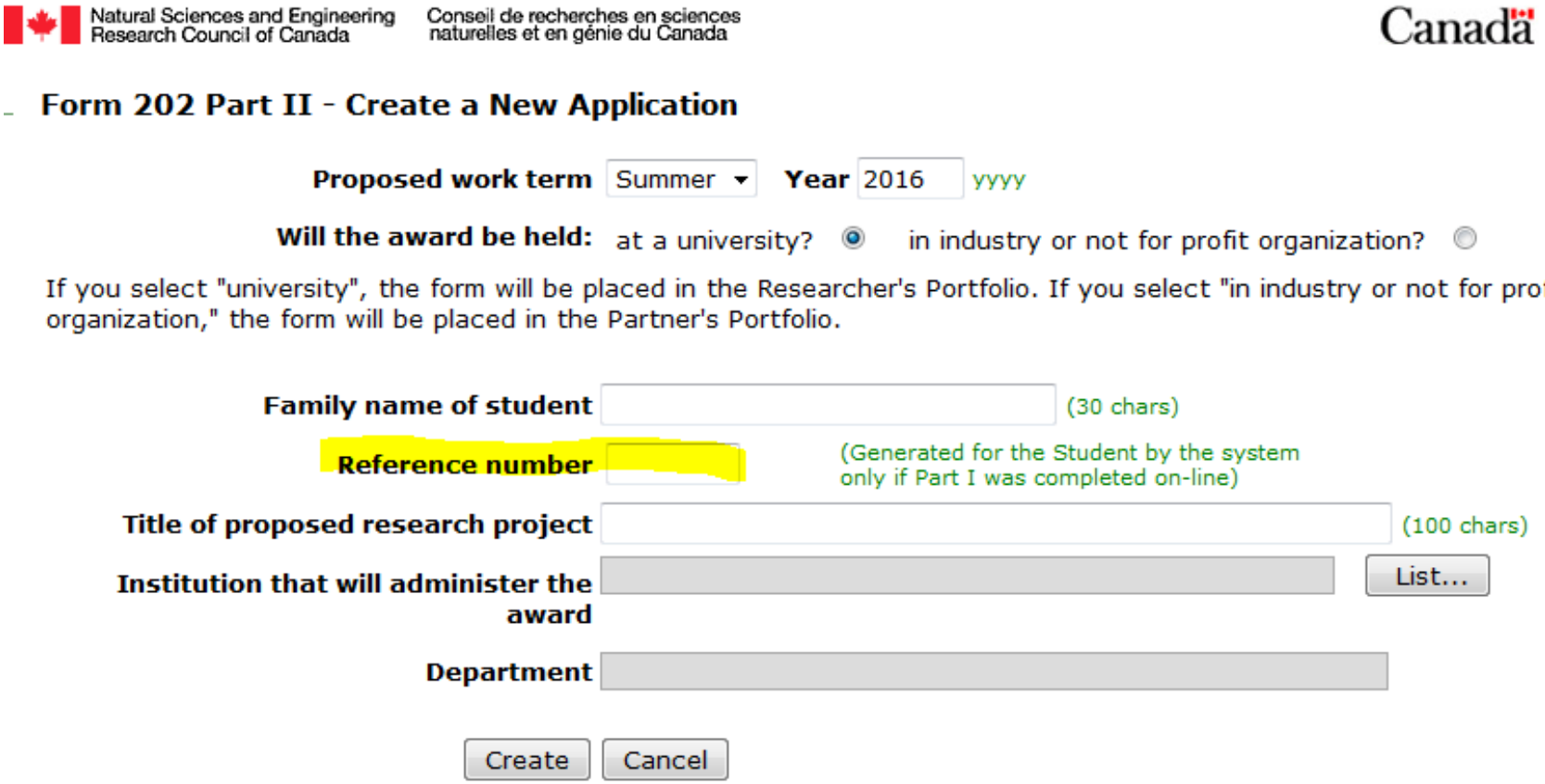
FORM 202 - PART I

Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award

System-ID	295960056
Reference No.	337750
Date	2015/11/11

Family name of student	Given name	Initial(s) of all given names	Personal Identification no. (PIN)

Form 202 - Supervisor



[redacted] THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ACADEMIC RECORD AR Date: 2017-OCT-31 02:09:27 PM
****NOT A UNIVERSITY TRANSCRIPT**** Page: 1

[redacted] Birthdate: [redacted] Sex: M Residency: Canadian/Native

---RESIDENCY INFORMATION:
[redacted]

---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

---BASIS OF ADMISSION:
W 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	BOH4MR	OUP	1.0	086
12	ENGLISH	ENG4UO	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MCV4UO	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MDM4UO	OUM	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MHF4UO	OUP	1.0	096
12	BIOLOGY	SBI4UO	OUM	1.0	091
12	CHEMIST	SCH4UO	OUM	1.0	086
12	ENGLISH	ENG4UO	OUP	1.0	080
12	INTERDIS	IDP4UR	OUM	1.0	075
12	MATH	MCV4UO	OUP	1.0	093
12	MATH	MDM4UO	OUP	1.0	084
12	PHYSICS	SPH4U1	OUM	1.0	090
12	INTERDIS	IDP4UR	OUF	1.0	082
12	BIOLOGY	SBI4UO	OUF	1.0	088
12	CHEMIST	SCH4UO	OUF	1.0	086
12	PHYSICS	SPH4U1	OUF	1.0	090

External Org: Other Secondary School/Not Home School

LVL	Subject	Description	Source	Units	Grade
12	PHYSICS	SPH4UP	OUM	1.0	NMR

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

---UWO ADMISSION COMMENTS: NONE FOUND

---SCHOLARSEIPS AND AWARDS:
[redacted]

---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

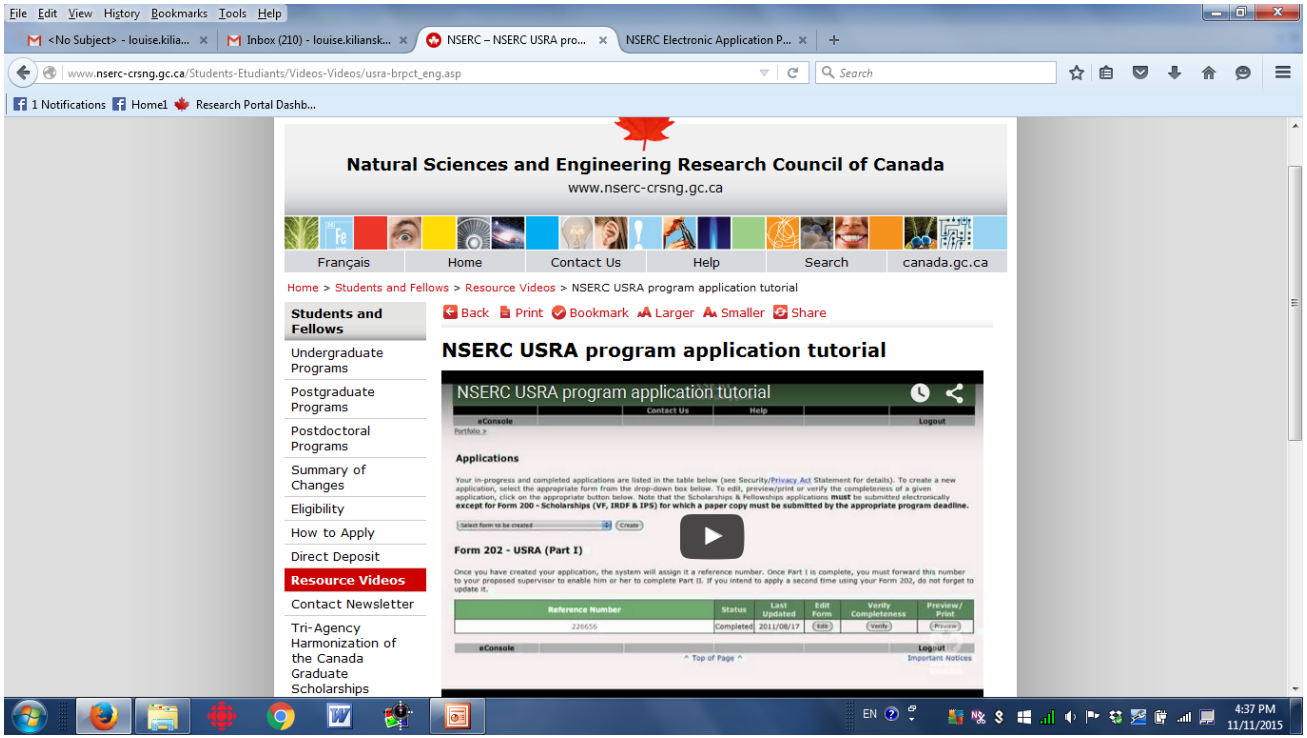
--2014 Fall/Winter: Prog:SBMS1 Lv:2 Ld:F
Plan:Medical Sciences First Entry DGM

Course			Description		Units	Grade
BIOLOGY	2382B	001	CELL BIOLOGY		0.5	070
BIOLOGY	2290G	006	SCIENTIFIC METHOD BIOLOGY		0.5	076
CHEM	2213A	002	ORGANIC CHEMISTRY		0.5	084
CHEM	2223B	001	ORGANIC CHEM BIOLGCL 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

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



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

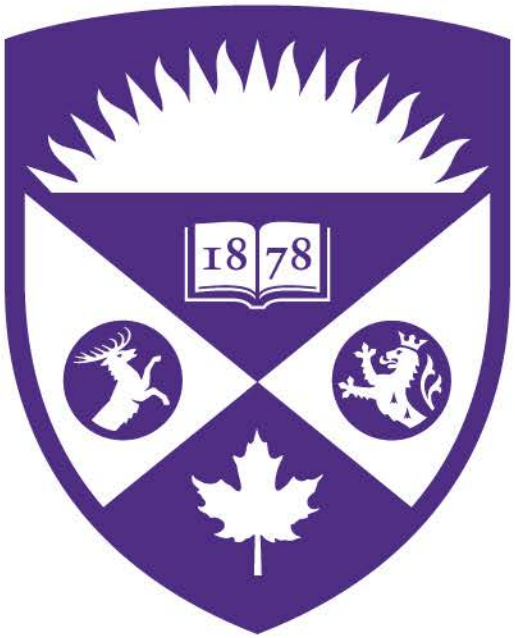
- If you plan to apply for and hold a USRA at a university *other* than the one where you are registered, you may qualify for a travel allowance; details available through the other university

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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