2023 NSERC USRA & ENURA Information Session

George Bikopoulos & Stuart Macgregor

Research Officers
Faculty of Science
What is a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)?

• NSERC USRAs enable undergraduate students the opportunity to gain hands-on research experience under the supervision of one of York’s faculty members.

• These awards are meant to stimulate your interest in the natural sciences and engineering disciplines and encourage you to pursue graduate school and/or research-related industry careers.
What is a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)?

• **Amount & duration:**
  • $8,400 stipend over a CONSECUTIVE 16-week period (May 1st 2023 to August 18th 2023)
    • $6,000 from NSERC
    • $2,400 from your Supervisor

• **Application Deadline for Students:**
  • Faculty of Science: **February 27th 2023**
NSERC USRAs vs. FSc. ENURAs

• In addition to the USRAs, FSc. will be providing 16 additional awards made possible in part through a generous donation from FSc. Alumnus, Earle Nestmann. These are known as the Earle Nestmann Undergraduate Research Awards (ENURAs).
• ENURAs are for FSc. students **ONLY**. Check with your faculty to see if they have an equivalent award (i.e. LURAs)

FSc NSERC USRA and ENURA Website:
https://www.yorku.ca/science/nserc-usra-enura-summer-2023/
2023 Lassonde
LURA & NSERC USRA
Competition

Applications due by Monday February 13, 2023
*Will need supervisor to sign an endorsement form

Info session & drop-ins (via Zoom)
February 6, 2023, 6:00pm (Zoom session)
Meeting ID: 910 2770 5676; Passcode: 629659
February 13, 2023, 9:00am (zoom session)
Meeting ID: 626 139 1181; Passcode: 5987

Learn more
lassondeundergraduateresearch.com

Contact
resday@yorku.ca

Gain summer research experience working at a Lassonde professor’s lab!

- 4-month summer internship
- Up to $10,000 in funding
- Over 60 positions available
- Eligible for co-op
- LURA is open to international students
Important Dates:

- **Complete the Supervisor Endorsement Forms**: February 13, 2023
- **Application Deadline**: February 15, 2023

Submission guidelines and available projects:

- [http://lassondeundergraduateresearch.com/](http://lassondeundergraduateresearch.com/)

**Zoom Info Sessions and Drop-in Q&A Sessions**

- Info sessions to inform students about how to apply:
  - **February 6, 2023** – 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
    - Meeting ID: 910 2770 5676; Passcode: 629659
  - Drop-in Q&A only
  - **February 13, 2023** – 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
    - Meeting ID: 626 139 1181; Passcode: 5987

**Email:**

- General inquiries to resday@yorku.ca
USRA Supplements

- USRA supplement: Canadian Forest Sector Workforce Diversity undergraduate supplements

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<th>Value</th>
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<td>• $5,000 supplement to active USRA recipients</td>
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<td>• Up to 30 available per year, three year pilot (2020-2023)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<td>• Promote research opportunities and encourage postgraduate studies in areas of relevance to Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Sector (CFS)</td>
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<td>• To encourage diversity in the forest sector workforce, award priority is given to individuals from underrepresented groups in the forest sector workforce</td>
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<th>Application requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Applications are automatically considered by NSERC if the proposed project falls within the research areas of relevance to Natural Resources Canada – Canadian Forest Sector</td>
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USRA Supplements

- **USRA supplement: ECCC Atmospheric and Meteorological undergraduate supplements**

**Value**
- $1,000 supplement to active USRA recipients
- Up to 20 available per year

**Objectives**
- Stimulate research in the atmospheric and meteorological sciences in Canadian universities
- Encourage and support students to carry out research of interest to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Promote training of potential candidates for possible future graduate studies in the atmospheric and meteorological sciences and possible future employment at ECCC

**Application requirements**
- USRA holders must apply directly to ECCC by August 1 of the summer they hold the award
- If an award is held in the Fall or Winter, those students can apply the summer after they hold their award
Black Student Researchers

• **NEW in 2023**: Black applicants (self-identified) who meet eligibility requirements will be recommended for an award

• **For NSERC**: Institutions may recommend applications from self-identified black student researchers for USRAs beyond their allocation of awards
Indigenous Student Researchers

- Indigenous applicants (self-identified) who meet eligibility requirements will be recommended for an award

- **For NSERC**: Institutions may recommend applications from self-identified Indigenous student researchers for USRAs beyond their allocation of awards
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 1:
- Navigate to the NSERC homepage
- Click on Login
- Select On-line System
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 2:
• Scroll to the bottom of the page
• Click on On-line System Login

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

Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation
The Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation (FDSR) System is for academic institution officials who electronically transmit their annual financial data.

Date Modified: 2021-12-06
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 3:
• Login and click submit
Step 4:
• Scroll to the bottom of the page
• Click “Return to eConsole”

Step 5:
• Select “Forms – Student” under Forms Management
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 6
• Click on the drop down menu – “Select form to be created”
• Chose form 202 – Part 1
• Click “Create”

I have a form started which is why you don’t see it here in the drop down list
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 7
• Click on “Personal Profile”
How to Self-Identify (NSERC)

Step 8
- Follow on screen prompts to self-identify

Step 9
- Click “Save”
- Logout
Eligibility: *Students*

In order to apply, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You are a **Canadian citizen or permanent resident** of Canada
- You are **registered** (at the time you apply) in a bachelor’s degree program at an eligible university
- You have obtained, over the previous year(s) of study, a cumulative average of at least “B”. Please note, these awards are **extremely competitive**
- **At the start of the award**, you have completed the requirements for your first year of university study (two academic terms)
Eligibility: *Students*

You are **NOT** eligible if:
- You have previously received a total of **three** NSERC USRAs
- You are currently enrolled in an undergraduate **professional** degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN)
Eligibility: **Students**

If you are an International student, you are eligible for **ENURA** only

- You MUST Check off “Canadian citizen” to access Form 202 on the NSERC portal
- Indicate international student status in FSc **MachForm** submission (via FSc website)
Criteria

• Applications are assessed for each department according to:
  • Transcript (60%)
  • Research Statement (30%)
  • Quality of the training environment (10%)
Research Statement

1 page Research Interest Statement

- Why are you interested in working on this project?
- Why are you interested in working with this professor?
- What relevant research related experience will support this award, if applicable?
- How will this award support their future career goals?
How to apply:

- Students must identify a supervisor who is willing to support their application → Check website

- **FSc Applicants**: In addition to filling out the forms on the NSERC portal, an internal FSc MachForm must be filled out through the FSC website

  Form 202 must be completed using NSERC’s online system
  - **Part I**: completed by the student
  - A ‘Reference Number’ will be generated when you begin filling out Part I – this number must be forwarded to your supervisor
  - **Part II**: filled out by the supervisor
  - Transcripts will be provided by departmental Administrative Assistants (home dept.)
How to apply: Form 202 (Parts I & II)
How to apply:

• At this stage, you **DO NOT** need to upload your transcript. If your application is successful in the competition, you will be contacted with instructions
  
  **Please note: without your transcript uploaded, you will **NOT** be able to submit the application online – **this is OK**

• Once Form 202 Parts I and II are complete, a **electronic copy** must be submitted to the MachForm

Please check with the other Faculties/Institutions to confirm their internal deadline
FSc deadline: February 27th, 2023
The Decision Process

• Each department ranks the USRA applications they receive
• In Science, the awards will be granted based on:
  – Transcript 60%
  – Research Statement 30%
  – Quality of the training environment 10%
• Successful applicants will be notified in early/mid April, 2023
• Indigenous student applicants with a B GPA and supervisor are recommended to NSERC and not included in the University quota of awards.
• Black student applicants with a B GPA and supervisor are recommended to NSERC and not included in the University quota of awards.
The Decision Process

60% Transcript
30% Research Statement
10% Training Environment

Transcript
Actual GPA scores out of 9

Research Statement
Why is the student interested in the USRA/ENURA?
How will this award support their future career goals?
What relevant research related experience will support this award, if applicable?

Training Environment
Is the proposed research program well defined and appropriate for an undergraduate student?
What mentoring or training plans are in place to ensure the success and enhanced learning of the student?
Important Links

• NSERC’s website:
  http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

• NSERC’s on-line system:
  https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm

• NSERC registration:
  https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_register_e.htm

• Form 202 Instructions:
  http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/202/e.asp
Where to go for assistance

• Your proposed supervisor

• The Departmental office to which you are applying

• NSERC
  Email: usra-brpc@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
  Phone: 613-947-0428 (general questions)
  or
  613-995-4273
  (problems with the on-line system)
Where to go for assistance, cont’d.

- **FSc Research Services, Faculty of Science (FSc)**
  - George Bikopoulos & Stuart Macgregor (Research Officers)
  - Email: sciapps@yorku.ca

- **Lassonde School of Engineering (LE)**
  - Research/Awards Officers
  - Email: resday@yorku.ca

- **The Faculty of Health (HH and Glendon)**
  - Pina Guzzo-Foliaro (Administrative Assistant)
  - Email: hlthrsch@yorku.ca

- **The Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS)**
  - Namratha Chaganti (Grant Development Specialist)
  - Email: namratha@yorku.ca

- **The Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change (EUC)**
  - Rhoda Reyes (Research Officer)
  - Email: rreyes@yorku.ca

- **Schulich School of Business (SB)**
  - Farhana Shumu Islam (Research Officer)
  - Email: fsislam@schulich.yorku.ca
Questions