



Rubric for the NSERC USRAs for 2023 USask

Academic Excellence – 30%

This section will be assigned pre-determined scores. Committee members will be given the information used to determine the score and what the score is for each applicant. This rubric aims to calibrate across new and experienced undergraduate researchers.

- GPA – 20 pts
 - Cumulative average over last 2 years will be determined
 - GPAs will be ordered from highest to lowest with the highest score received the most pts. Point range will be determined by the GPA range and assessed each year accordingly.
- Scholarships and Awards held – 5 pts
 - 3 or more = 5 points
 - 1-2 = 3 points
- Previous USRAs held – 5pts
 - no awards=5pts, one award=4pts, two awards=3pts

Research Potential & Expected Quality of the Training and Mentorship to be Received – 40%

This section will be adjudicated by the committee based on Form 202 Pt II

- Outline of proposed research project – 20pts
 - Considerations:
 - Project is within natural sciences and engineering eligibility criteria and contains original research that expands the discipline
 - Project is focused through the time constraints (16 weeks) and suited to the growth goals for the student (not just a cut/paste from a different grant)
- Outline of the student's role – 10 points
 - Clearly describe where the student fits within the larger research project
- Expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received – 10 points
 - Indicators of expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received: exposure to research team; training in research techniques, skills; Expected contributions to research output; proposed supervisor's past supervisory experience.

Research potential of the student – 30%

Does the applicant show interest in the project and/or aptitude for research? As demonstrated in their Student Statement of Interest – 30 points

- Indicators of research potential: Academic training; previous research/work experience (can include co-op terms) (eg previous USRAs held); relevance of work experience and academic training to field of proposed research; judgement and ability to think critically; Ability to apply skills and knowledge; Enthusiasm for research; relevant community involvement and outreach; initiative and autonomy; research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with the applicant's academic experience. Has the applicant demonstrated interest and gained skills in other environments? How much?

Other Considerations (bonus marks) at the judge's discretion – up to 5 points

- Should this student and/or project receive additional consideration for reasons of equity, diversity, and inclusion in research?