

2026 DARE Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards Guidelines

The Undergrad Training and Mentorship Awards will support the University of Saskatchewan (USask) faculty (within the first five years of their academic appointment) to gain experience, training and mentoring students in research and scholarly work. **The awards contribute \$6000 to the hiring of an undergraduate student assistant over the summer for full-time work, with a project grounded in the social sciences, humanities or fine arts.** In addition to the traditional award, the DARE and the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research ([SCPOR](#)) will co-fund 4 Patient-oriented Research (POR) projects.

DARE: Discovery, Achievement, and Research Excellence at USask is an initiative out of the Office of the Vice-President Research. DARE provides targeted programming for faculty who are new to USask to help launch their research programs and build cross-campus connections to give USask researchers a competitive edge.

SCPOR: Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research is a partnership of organizations that support and advance patient-oriented research in Saskatchewan. POR is a continuum of research that engages patients as partners, focuses on patient-identified priorities, and aims to improve patient outcomes. This research, conducted by multidisciplinary teams including patients, researchers, health system decision makers, and other relevant stakeholders, aims to apply the knowledge generated to improve healthcare systems and practices. To learn more about POR, please see the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research](#). Projects must meet a minimum of '2' in each category of the [Patient-Oriented Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PORLET\)](#), indicating students will engage with Patient Partners during their project. If a Patient-oriented research project engages an Indigenous community, it must meet a minimum of '2' in each category of the [Patient-Oriented and Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PaIRLET\)](#).

This year, we have two award streams:

- 1) **SSHFA Stream** – open to faculty who do Social Sciences, Humanities, and Fine Arts research, scholarly, or artistic work;
- 2) **SCPOR Stream** – open to faculty who do Patient-Oriented Research (POR) within Social Sciences, Humanities, and Fine Arts.

Eligibility

Awards are open to faculty within five years from the start date of their USask appointment, minus the length of any eligible delays in research (e.g., illness, maternity, parental) with a preference for Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Applicants must be able to hold and administer research funding, per university policy.

Award Details

- Available funding: Eight SSHFA Stream, Four POR Stream
- Individual grant amount: \$6,000
- Deadline to apply: February 6, 2026
- Award duration: 14-16 weeks from May to August (2026)

Terms of Award

- Students are required to work full-time (37.5 hours/week).
- DARE and/or SCPOR provides \$6000 for the award and faculty recipients will be required to pay a contribution, ranging approximately \$3,216 - \$6,680 for 14 weeks or \$4,533 - \$8,492 for 16 weeks (this is an estimate based on the 2025 amounts and may change minimally for 2026).
- Faculty do not need to have a specific student identified at time of application.
- Successful faculty may use the funds to hire any USask undergraduate student that is eligible to work in Canada.
- All students funded with this award will be signed up for the Student Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) and expected to participate in at least 4 workshops to help to build and support the skills that they need to be a student assistant.
- Students have the opportunity to present their research at the SURE Summer Symposium in August.
- Any unused funds must be returned to the DARE or SCPOR program.
- Award recipients must acknowledge the DARE or DARE/SCPOR program in their project materials.
- SCPOR- funded students are required to comply to the [SCPOR Trainee Terms of Reference](#)

Criteria

Funding will be awarded following a review process by a USask adjudication committee, and additionally a Patient Partner Review Committee for those applying to the POR stream. Adjudicators are guided by the following criteria:

- Proposed student research project
- Clear outline of student's role
- Expected quality of training and mentorship to be received.
- The [Patient-Oriented Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PORLET\)](#) for POR applicants or the [Patient-Oriented and Indigenous Research Level of Engagement Tool \(PaIRLET\)](#) for applicants engaging Indigenous patients in POR.

Application Process

1) All applications will be submitted by email to dare.rasi@rasi.ca by 4 pm, on February 6, 2026. The application includes:

a. Completed Application Form:

Stream 1: SSHFA Form

Stream 2: SCPOR Form

b. A 1-page biosketch including your name, education/ training, research funding, and most significant contributions that relate to the proposed research project.

Notification & Holding the Award

1. Results will be shared in mid-March 2026.
2. Faculty will be responsible for hiring their own students.
3. Any unused funds must be returned.

Contact Us!

For questions about this award, contact Patrick Chassé at dare.rasi@usask.ca.

If you have questions about the eligibility of your project or how to conduct POR, please contact scpor@usask.ca.