

Collaborative Mentorship Pilot Program Overview

The Collaborative Mentorship Pilot Program matches new, NSERC-stream faculty with experienced undergraduate researchers. The program provides a paid Research Assistant position for the student during the Fall 2026 and Winter 2027 semesters, fully funded through the **Discovery, Achievement, and Research Excellence** (DARE) and **Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Works** (uRSAW) initiatives. The program creates enriching mentorship opportunities for new faculty and undergraduate researchers.

Each faculty-student pair will work together on research initiatives and collaboratively develop an **NSERC USRA** application for the 2027 application cycle. They will also participate in a mentored community of practice, supported by DARE and uRSAW staff and a Research Coach.

Benefits

Faculty will:

- Get to work with proven undergraduate researchers
- Network with peers and learn best practices for student mentorship
- Receive support and guidance selecting, hiring and training undergraduate students
- Co-create a competitive NSERC USRA application to support their summer 2027 research goals

Students will:

- Work with new USask faculty engaged in exciting new research as a paid research assistant
- Build on their research skills
- Co-create a competitive NSERC USRA application for the summer 2027 competition
**pending eligibility*
- Create a strong relationship with a potential mentor

Eligibility

Faculty: Up to 10 NSERC-stream faculty members with a USask start date in 2026.

- Faculty participation is on a first-come basis, based on the date of registration.

Students: Experienced undergraduate researchers with recent applied research experience.

- First-year undergraduate students are ineligible. If you are completing a second undergraduate degree, please reach out to clarify if you are eligible.
- Students must be eligible to work in Canada.
- Students must be registered in a bachelor's degree or professional undergraduate degree program.
- Students are selected based on experience and fit with a faculty member's program.

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact DARE at dare.rasi@usask.ca.

Program Details

- Faculty receive one fully funded undergraduate Research Assistant position
- The undergraduate student will be hired as a research assistant, and the faculty member will serve as the research assistant's supervisor
- Program Duration: October 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027
- Research Assistant funding: \$ 4600 (approx. 219 paid hours for Research Assistant)
- Breakdown of 219 hours:
 - October 2026: 9 hours of student training
 - Nov. 1 – April 30: 18 hours of student training facilitated by uRSAW (3 hours / month)
 - Nov. 1 – April 30: 192 hours for the Research Assistant role, supervised by a faculty member
- DARE and uRSAW will oversee student applications, matching and hiring
- Faculty will select their preferred candidate from a pool of applicants with assistance from the program
- uRSAW will lead student training with a community of practice, research coach and training sessions, including support for their NSERC USRA applications
- Program participants must acknowledge DARE and uRSAW in their project materials

Program Expectations

Faculty:

- Supervise an undergraduate Research Assistant and provide meaningful research experiences
- Participate in a mentorship training workshop and an NSERC USRA workshop
- Collaborate on the development of a competitive NSERC USRA Application with their research assistant for submission to the summer 2027 competition

Students:

- Apply research skills and work with new faculty as a paid Research Assistant
- Participate in Community of Practice workshops and events
- Collaborate on the development of a competitive NSERC USRA Application for submission to the summer 2027 competition

Application Process

To apply, please fill out the relevant student or faculty application form. This will help us to match students and faculty. **The deadline to apply is 4:00 PM on August 28th, 2026.**

**Student
Application Form**

Student Application Form:

[Collaborative Mentorship Program: Student Application](#)

**Faculty
Registration Form**

Faculty Registration Form:

[Collaborative Mentorship Program: Faculty Registration](#)

Matching & Selection Process

DARE and uRSAW will review the pool of applicants, using information provided by eligible faculty and undergraduate applicants, to select a small number for each faculty to review. Faculty will have the opportunity to meet selected candidates and make a final selection. DARE and uRSAW will facilitate this interview process. Matching will occur throughout September 2026. Final placements will be completed by October 2026.

Upon final selection of a candidate, DARE and uRSAW will oversee the hiring process.

Contact Us!

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