



# Faculty Information Session USask's NSERC USRA Process for 2024

19 December 2023

Dr. Mandy Fehr with Dr. Julia Boughner

# Territory Acknowledgement

As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the traditional Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

The Undergraduate Research Initiative is committed to reconciliation in our research, scholarly, and artistic work. This means always learning and relearning, supporting work that is led by Indigenous peoples and communities, and committing to work that is beneficial and accessible to Indigenous communities.

# Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Summer 2024

**NSERC  
USRAs  
60 Awards for  
USask**

**NSERC  
USRAs for  
Indigenous  
Student  
Researchers  
Unlimited  
Awards**

**NSERC  
USRAs for  
Black Student  
Researchers  
Unlimited  
Awards**

**SSHRC USRA  
For Black  
Student  
Researchers  
1 Award for  
USask**

**CIHR USRA  
for Black  
Student  
Researchers  
1 Award for  
USask**

# Student Award Eligibility – To Apply

- Be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or have Protected Status. **International Students are not eligible for this award program.**
- Be registered in a bachelor's degree program at the application deadline (January 31st 2024)
- Have a cumulative average of at least a B- (or 70).
- Cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (MD, DDS, or BScN) to hold an NSERC. **(Does not apply for CIHR USRAs).**
- Cannot have been registered at any time in a graduate program in the same field of study (for example, you cannot have started a graduate program in the natural sciences or engineering and apply for an NSERC USRA).
- Can only hold 1 NSERC USRA per fiscal year (April 1 – March 31)
- Can only hold 3 NSERC USRAs in their undergrad career.
- Can apply if already have a bachelor's degree and are currently studying towards an additional bachelor's degree.

# Student Award Eligibility – To Hold the Award

- Have completed at least two semesters of university.
- Can hold the award if the student has completed their degree (for example, if the student will graduate in the spring).
- Students are expected to engage on a full-time basis in research and development activities during the tenure of the award.
- Award recipients may take a maximum of two courses during the tenure of the award if special arrangements to make up the time have been made with the supervisor.
- Students meet the eligibility criteria listed above and the proposed research project must be for **14-16 weeks of full-time work** in a subject matter appropriate to the award.



# Award Eligibility- USRAs for Black Student Researchers

CIHR and SSHRC USRAs are, at the present time, exclusively for Black student researchers. To be considered for these awards or the NSERC USRA for Black Student Researchers, you must self-identify as Black. Applying for this award means that you self-identify as Black and that you consent to this information about your identity being shared with NSERC and, if awarded, publicly.

# Award Eligibility- NSERC USRA for Indigenous Student Researchers

Only Indigenous Students may apply for the NSERC USRA for Indigenous Student Researchers. Only First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada are eligible for this award. Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship at the University of Saskatchewan is led and determined by the [deybwewin | taapwaywin | tapwewin: Indigenous Truth policy](#) and Standing Committee in accordance with the processes developed to enact the policy. [Verification of Indigenous Membership/Citizenship with documentation](#) is a condition of receiving this award.

# Requirements for Faculty Supervisors & Departments

Supervisors must be eligible to hold same Tri-Agency Funding

Faculty may act as a supervisor to no more than 3 applications for NSERC USRAs

Faculty may act as supervisors for additional USRAs for Indigenous & Black Student Researchers

Faculty contribution is \$2,410.68-\$4,188.94 (14 weeks) or \$3,612.20-\$5,644.50 (16 weeks).

Departments required to submit a list of ranked student applicants in terms of academic performance (NSERC USRAs).



# Changes for 2024

**Applications Submitted by student through Canvas (successful applicants will be required to submit to the NSERC Portal)**

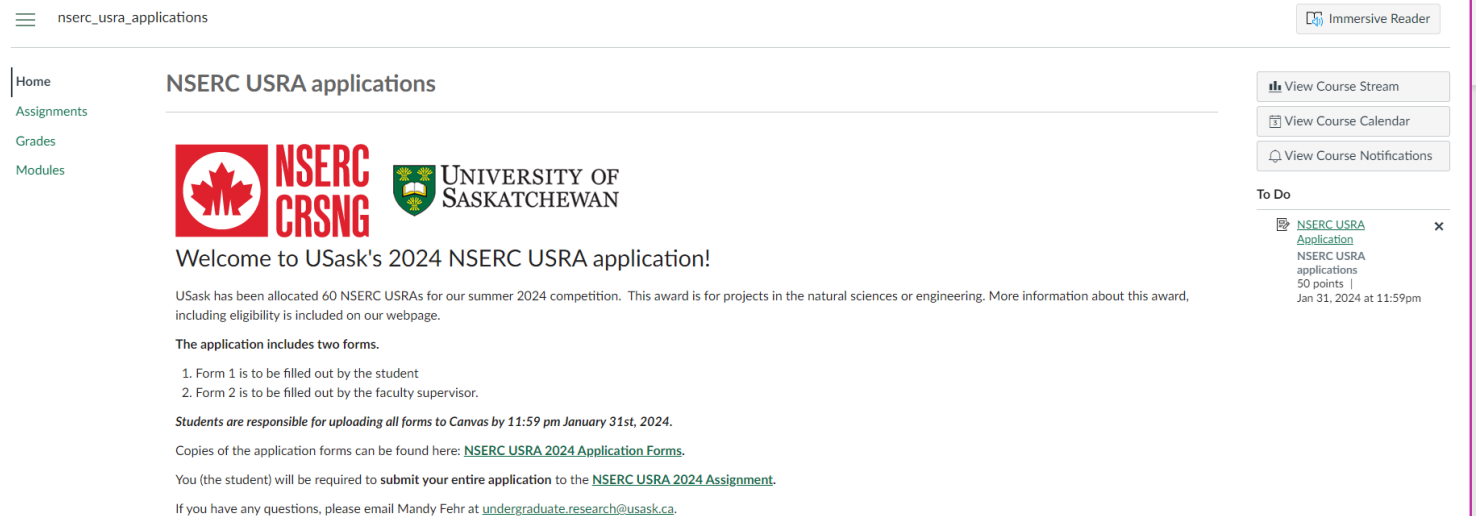
**Students do not have to provide USask transcripts. They must provide official transcripts for any other university they have attended.**

**Changes to Student Application Form to combine into one form. The statement of interest component is now broken down into specific questions.**

**The evaluation weighting is the same as last year, but a more detailed rubric has been developed.**

# Application - Canvas

- The application portals for each award are separate. Students should select the award that is the best fit for them and only apply for one award.
- Students click on the link on the website to add themselves to the Canvas Course for the Award they plan to apply for.
- The Canvas Course includes the application forms and the rubric (also available on the website).
- Students submit their application as an assignment by 11:59 pm on 31 January 2024.



nserc\_usra\_applications

Immersive Reader

View Course Stream

View Course Calendar

View Course Notifications

To Do

NSERC USRA Application

NSERC USRA applications

50 points | 1

Jan 31, 2024 at 11:59pm



Home

Assignments

Grades

Modules

## NSERC USRA applications



### Welcome to USask's 2024 NSERC USRA application!

USask has been allocated 60 NSERC USRAs for our summer 2024 competition. This award is for projects in the natural sciences or engineering. More information about this award, including eligibility is included on our webpage.

The application includes two forms.

1. Form 1 is to be filled out by the student
2. Form 2 is to be filled out by the faculty supervisor.

Students are responsible for uploading all forms to Canvas by 11:59 pm January 31st, 2024.

Copies of the application forms can be found here: [NSERC USRA 2024 Application Forms](#).

You (the student) will be required to **submit your entire application** to the [NSERC USRA 2024 Assignment](#).

If you have any questions, please email Mandy Fehr at [undergraduate.research@usask.ca](mailto:undergraduate.research@usask.ca).

# Application Canvas

- Home
- Assignments
- Grades
- Modules

## NSERC USRA Application

Start Assignment

**Due** Jan 31, 2024 by 11:59p.m.    **Points** 50    **Submitting** a file upload    **File Types** doc, docx, and pdf    **Available** until Jan 31, 2024 at 11:59p.m.

### Submit Application for NSERC USRA

Please submit your application here. Your application should include:

1. Student Application Form.
2. Faculty Application Form (Form 202 Part II).
3. *If applicable:* If you attended a university or universities other than USask, you will need to upload official transcripts from those universities. If you only attended USask, you do not need to attach USask transcripts.
  - Please **attach all required files in one submission attempt (Use + Add Another File)**.
  - You may submit files as .doc; .docx. or .pdf
  - For information on how to submit an assignment and how to add multiple files to the same assignment submission see: [How do I upload a file as an assignment submission in Canvas?](#)

NSERC USRA 2024 Competition Rubric							
Criteria	Ratings						Pts
Academic Performance	<b>15 to &gt;12.0 pts Exceptional</b> The student's overall academic performance is exceptional for their program and year of study; or has maintained an exceptional average over for the past two years - showing improvement. Or a student	<b>12 to &gt;9.0 pts Excellent</b> The student's overall academic performance is excellent for their program and year of study; or has maintained an excellent average over for the past two years - demonstrating improvement. Or a	<b>9 to &gt;6.0 pts Good / Satisfactory</b> The student has a good overall average for their program and year of study; or has maintained a good average over for the past two years - showing improvement. The student shows	<b>6 to &gt;3.0 pts Needs Improvement</b> The student almost has a 70 % average; or has started to show improvement in grades but has not sustained improvement for 2 years. The student shows a	<b>3 to &gt;0.0 pts Unsatisfactory</b> The student almost has a 70 % average; The student does not show improvement and may or may not provide an	<b>0 pts Missing</b>	

# Application Forms

## Student Application Form

1. This year combined into one form.
2. Info related to eligibility, and contact info.
3. Awards (please list all).
4. The student statement of interest is now 3 questions and an optional 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Faculty Application Form

1. Completed by Faculty Supervisor
2. The same questions as NSERC Form 202 (Part II)
3. Submitted by the student through Canvas.

## Student Application Form – Updated Questions for Statement of Interest

1. What experiences (academic, work, extracurricular, volunteering) or skills do you have that would support you to complete your summer research project. Please provide specific examples.
2. How will your summer research project help you to practice and develop research skills and other competencies? Please provide specific examples.
3. Why do you want to complete your research project and how will it contribute to your future education or career? Please provide specific examples
4. Optional. Is there anything else that you would like our adjudicators to know to help them to evaluate your academic performance (grades and awards)? This could include explaining any challenges that you have faced or explanations for lower grades. It could also include letting us know about your successes, such as maintaining an excellent average while having extra responsibilities such as work or volunteering. This question can help our adjudicators to understand your academic story and can be factored into their evaluation of your academic excellence.

# Application – Adjudication & Rubric

## 1. Academic Potential 30%

Not just grades but looking at improvement over time; awards; the context of different departments / programs; and any personal context that the student provides (for example, challenges).

## 2. Quality of the Research Experience & Anticipated Mentorship (40%)

This is based on the Faculty Application Form. It includes the quality of the research experience; the feasibility of the research experience; the outline of the student's role, and the quality of the training/mentorship.

## 3. Student Research Potential (30%)

Based on student answers to the 3 required student statement of interest questions on the Student Application Form. Each question is worth 10%.



# Results

**All applicants will be notified of results during the February break. Successful waitlisted applicants will be notified by early March.**

**All students will receive their score and general feedback.**

**Successful applicants will be required to submit their application to the NSERC Portal (there will be workshops / supports).**

**Successful applicants will be signed up for SURE Newsletters and expected to attend 4 workshops during the summer.**

# Conversation with Dr. Julia Boughner

# Q and A

# Student Events / Resources

<b>Introduction to USask's NSERC USRA Program - Recording</b>	Recorded	Recording
<b>SURE How to Talk to a Professor About a Research Position - Recording</b>	Recorded	Recording
<b>Identifying your Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Skills – In Person with Pizza</b>	Tuesday January 9 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30 am – 12:50 pm	Thorv 110 <a href="#">Register Here</a>
<b>Identifying your Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Skills – Virtual Session</b>	Thursday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> 4:30 pm – 5:50 pm	Zoom <a href="#">Register Here</a>
<b>NSERC Application Support Sessions for Students</b>	January – Date TBD	In-Person, Room TBD

# Contact Information

**Questions? Send an email!**

Mandy Fehr

Coordinator, Undergraduate  
Research, Scholarly, and Artistic Work

[Undergraduate.research@usask.ca](mailto:Undergraduate.research@usask.ca)

<https://vpresearch.usask.ca/students/undergraduate/undergrad-research-opportunities/nserc-usras.php>

