



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

USask Faculty

Introduction to the Tri-Agency USRAs



November 20th, 2025

Presented by:

Leah Houseman, Programs Officer

Jordan Epp, Undergraduate RSAW Coordinator

Land Acknowledgement

As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the 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.

Adjudication Committee

The USask NSERC USRA Committee (the Committee) adjudicates applications to the NSERC USRA competition and recommends funding decisions.

- Meets between January and February to review process and calibrate
- Have at least 1 week (often 2+) to assess assigned applications
- Meeting in February to discuss rankings/contentious applications

Eligibility:

- Must qualify to apply for NSERC/Tri-Agency funding at USask, with a preference given to those who have held Tri-Agency funds in the past
- Demonstrate a commitment to mentoring and training undergraduate student researchers
- Must be affiliated with USask in a tenure, tenure track, or term position

**Interested? Contact Leah Houseman at
undergraduate.research@usask.ca**



What are USRAs?

USRAs provide **paid, full-time work** for undergrad students over the summer on a research project under the supervision of a **USask faculty member**



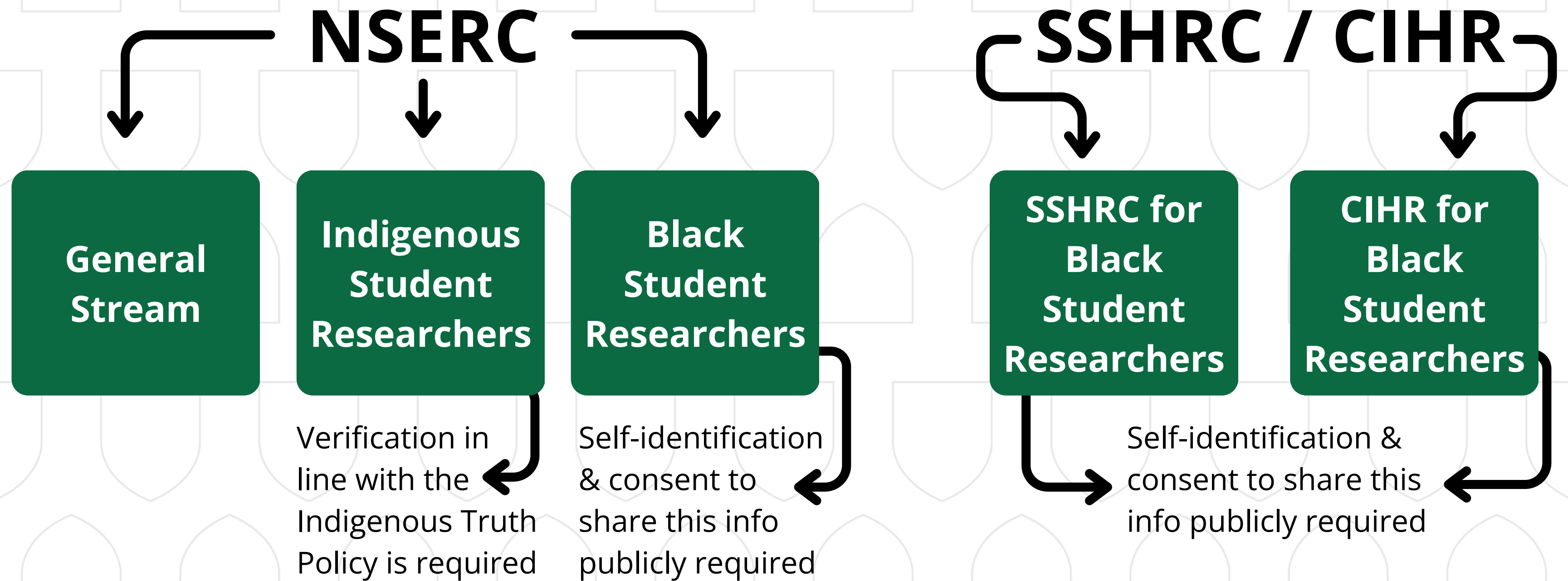
Length and wage decided by you
and student

- 14 -16 Weeks from May to August 2026, 37.5 hrs/wk
- \$15.35 - \$21.12 / hour*
*2025 wages, may change in 2026
- Vacation time paid out, hiring processed by RASI
- \$6000 paid by award, remainder comes from the faculty supervisor top-up

2026 Timeline



Award Streams



Eligibility Criteria (faculty)

- ✓ Must be eligible to apply for, and hold the same Tri-Agency funding their student is applying for
- ✓ Must have a top up fund source that allows for student employment expenses (does not need to be a Tri-Agency grant). Top ups are approx. between \$3875 and \$8950.
- ✓ Provide a NSE Eligibility justification (if applicable)
- ✓ Submit no more than 3 applications as a faculty supervisor
- ✓ Be available to provide quality supervision and mentorship to your USRA student if awarded

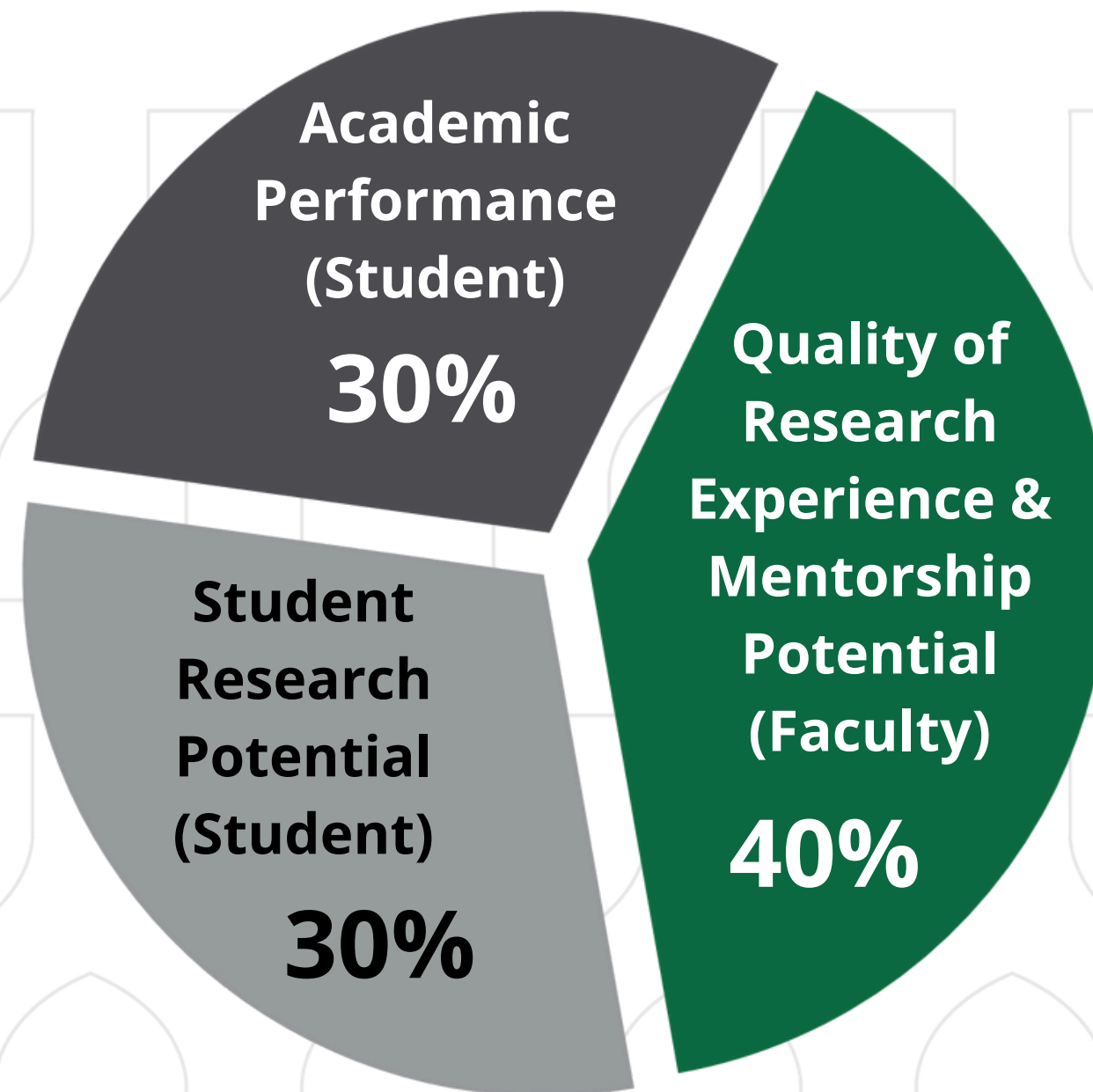
Eligibility Criteria (student)

- ✓ Be a Canadian Citizen, Permanent Resident, or have Protected Status.
- ✓ Cannot be enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the human health sciences (MD, DDS, or BScN) to hold an NSERC or SSHRC USRA (does not apply for CIHR USRAs).
- ✓ Be registered in a bachelor's degree program at the application deadline. OK if they will graduate this spring.
- ✓ Must have completed 2 semesters of university before the award starts, cumulative average of at least 70%

2 Part Application

**Students and
faculty supervisors
must apply
together!**

**Applications will be evaluated
based on the following criteria:**



2 Part Application

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Student

Academic Performance 30%:
evaluated based on GPA and GPA by year, transcripts, and awards listed on student application.

*If a student has experienced extenuating circumstances they believe have impacted their academic performance, they should also answer question the question on the student application form, as that response will be considered in adjudicating academic performance.

**Academic
Performance
(Student)**

30%

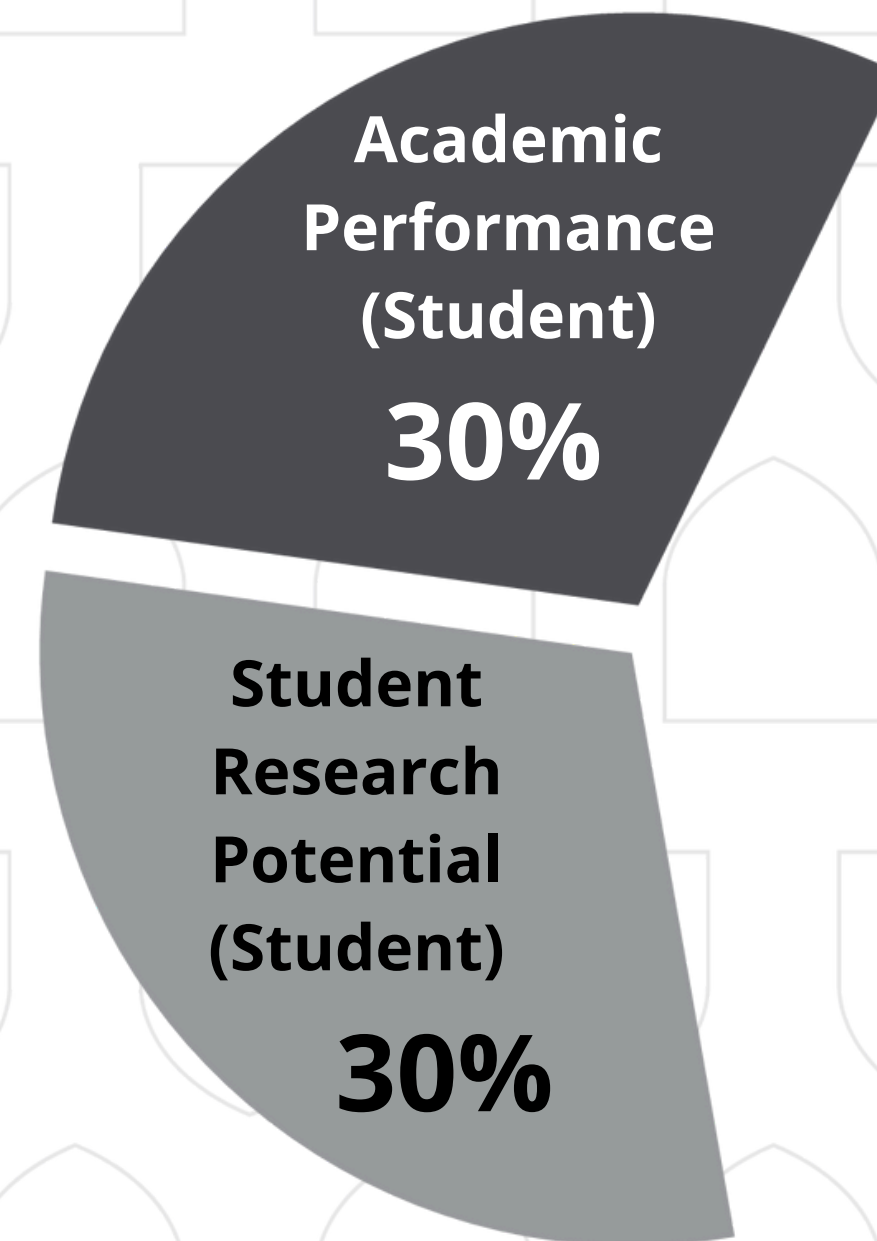
2 Part Application

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Student

Student Research Potential 30%:
evaluated based on answers to questions on student application form
Using specific examples - and up to 2500 characters each:

- describe their experiences and skills
- explain how the USRA will help them to develop and practice research skills
- outline how the opportunity will contribute to their future education and/or career goals



2 Part Application

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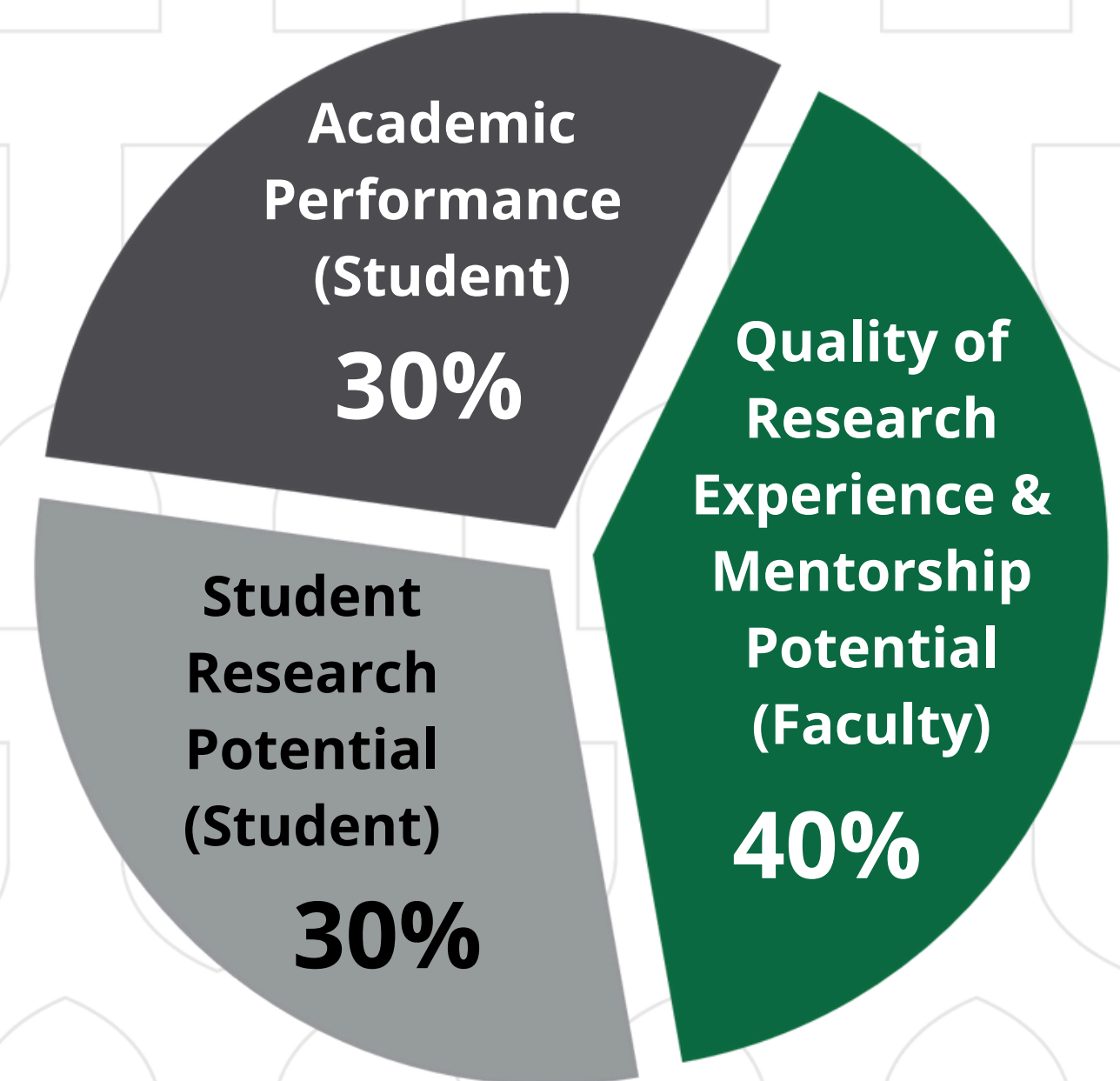
Faculty

**Quality of the Research Experience
& Anticipated Mentorship 40%:**
evaluated based on Faculty Mentor
Application form.

The faculty supervisor provides the outline of:

- the proposed student research project (the project abstract)
- the student's role
- the expected quality of training and mentorship you will receive

**Applications will be evaluated
based on the following criteria:**



Your Role as a Faculty Supervisor

- Your role as a faculty supervisor is important
 - Application Process
 - Once Awarded
- 40% of your student's score is your responsibility
- Your application is not read by someone from your department
 - Write in lay terms
- NSE Eligibility

Faculty Benefits...

- Mentorship and Training experience in support of Tenure Promotion
- HQP training and experience
- Showing initiative to be applying for grant funding
- Tri-Agency funding (NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR)
- Productivity for your research project
 - UGR energy/curiosity
 - Out of the box questions and approaches
- Retention and training of domestic and international students
 - Mentoring research assistants that can support you as they transition into graduate studies

Next Steps...

UPCOMING EVENTS & SUPPORT

Dec. 3 | 1:30 - 2:30 | Zoom

Tri-Agency USRAs 2026 Application Process Workshop: Faculty and Student Roles

Dec. 17 | 2:00 - 3:30 | Murray Library Room 102 & Zoom

Tri-Agency USRA Application Drop-In Session #1

Jan. 14 | 1:30 - 3:00 | Murray Library Room G3

Tri-Agency USRA Application Drop-In Session #2



Email us for support:

undergraduate.research@usask.ca

Next Steps...

Application forms and portals will
open on December 2nd!

Tri-Agency USRA Webpage

<https://vpresearch.usask.ca/students/undergraduate/undergrad-research-opportunities/tri-agency-usras.php#TriAgencyUSRAs>

Contacts:

Leah Houseman - Programs & USRA Officer

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Questions?

Pop them in the chat
or raise your hand and
unmute

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