

Tri-Agency USRAs Faculty Information Session for 2025 Process

9 January 2025

Zoom



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.

Session Overview

**Overview of 2025
Application
Process**

**Adjudication Co-
Chair
perspectives and
Discussion**

Our Award Allocations for 2025

**NSERC
USRAs
61 Awards for
USask**

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

**NSERC
USRAs for
Black Student
Researchers
6 Awards for
USask**

**SSHRC USRA
For Black
Student
Researchers
3 Awards for
USask**

**CIHR USRA
for Black
Student
Researchers
3 Awards for
USask**

USask USRAs Summer 2025

Projects must be supervised by a USask professor.

Projects must be 14-16 weeks, for full time work (37.5 hours).

Students are paid \$15 – 20.41 / hour plus benefits. Student rate of pay is set by the faculty supervisor. The \$6,000 award pays part of the student wage.

Applications are due by 11:59 pm Friday January 24th 2025.

Student 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 2025).
- Have a cumulative average of at least a B- (or 70).
- You 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).**
- You 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).
- You can only hold 1 NSERC USRA per fiscal year (April 1 – March 31).
- You can only hold 3 NSERC USRAs during the undergrad career.
- If you already hold a bachelor's degree and are studying toward a second bachelor's degree, you may still apply to this program.

Student Eligibility – To Hold the Award

- Have completed at least two semesters of university.
- You can hold the award if you have completed your degree (for example if you convocated in the spring).
- You 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.

Student 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.

Faculty Eligibility

Supervisors must be eligible to hold the same Tri-Agency funding as the application.

Faculty must be able to provide the top-ups to pay the student wage for full-time work plus benefits.

Faculty may act as supervisors for additional applications for Black and Indigenous Students.

Faculty may only act as supervisor for up to three applications for NSERC USRAs.

Application Process

Applications Submitted Through Canvas (successful applicants will be required to submit to the NSERC Portal but will receive support to do this!). Students from other institutions will have to email their applications.

Students do not have to provide USask transcripts. If they have attended other universities, they will have to provide official transcripts for those institutions.

Minor updates to student application form from last year to add clarity. Some updates to faculty application form related to NSE Eligibility and Hiring Info (in case you are selected).

We Removed the Department Ranking Requirement

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.
- * Because we now have a quota for additional NSERC USRAs for Black Student Scholars, those applications will also be considered as part of the larger NSERC USRA adjudication.
- Students click on the link to add themselves to the Canvas Course for the Award they plan to apply for. Faculty should join the course as well.
- The Canvas Course includes the application forms and the rubric. It is where you will submit all parts of your application as an assignment by the deadline.

Application Canvas

Home

Announcements

Assignments

Grades

Modules

Panopto Video

Lucid (Whiteboard)

Macmillan LTI
Advantage Course
Tools

Macmillan LTI
Advantage Content

NSERC USRA applications



Welcome to USask's 2025 NSERC USRA application!

USask has been allocated 61 NSERC USRAs for our summer 2025 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.

 [View Course Stream](#)

 [New Analytics](#)

 [View Course Calendar](#)

 [View Course Notifications](#)

To Do

-  [NSERC USRA 2025 Application](#) 
NSERC USRA applications
50 points |
Jan 24 at 11:59pm

Application Forms

Student Application Form

1. Info related to eligibility, and contact info.
2. Awards (please list all)
3. Required questions re. experience and skills
4. Optional question to contextualize academic performance (this will be different from last year).

Faculty Application Form

1. Additional question re. eligibility.
2. Gathering hiring information to streamline award and hiring process.

NSERC Eligibility Criteria

When we submit our A list to NSERC, they can deny awards if the project/student does not meet the eligibility criteria. Because of the timing of when we receive their approval, we would have already hired students and be required to pay the \$6,000 NSERC Portion ourselves.

In our 2024 competition:

- a) 2 Students were ineligible due to holding Master of Science degrees
- b) 30 Projects / 165 were flagged re. NSE Criteria.
 - Faculty do not have to be current NSERC Award holders to supervise an NSERC USRA
 - Nov. 22 updates to the NSERC Addendum on Health Research: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/Addendum-Addenda_eng.asp

New Eligibility Question

Applications for an NSERC USRA must meet Natural Sciences and Engineering (NSE) eligibility guidelines and NSERC's addendum to health research. Projects that the USask Adjudication Committee believes do not meet the NSE Eligibility will be rejected.

If the proposed project could be seen as health research, please provide a short explanation that references the examples in the addendum that most closely represents the situation and explains how the project meets the criteria for NSERC eligibility.

Hiring Info

1. To streamline our hiring process, we are requesting the information that we will need to provide students with a letter of offer for their research position. This information will not be considered as part of the adjudication process.
2. The USRAs at USask are held as paid summer job positions (May through August), not as stipends, in compliance with the Canada Revenue Agency decision on summer assistantships.
3. If awarded; the Tri-Agency provides \$6,000 for a full-time 14 -16-week period of research-related experience for students. Faculty supervisors must supplement the USRA to comply with Saskatchewan's provincial employment standards (minimum wage minimum). Student wages at USask have increased to reflect this minimum and the current range is \$15.00 - \$20.41 per hour. Where students are performing more advanced research or working with more autonomy, faculty can also move into salary band three which caps at \$23.86. We are expecting updates to be made for required CPP and EI pay in January and will release our Student Wages Calculator then. To assist with planning, the range for the faculty contribution (using current student wages and last year's CPP and EI) would be \$3,605.00 - \$6,197.92 for 14 weeks or \$4,245.33 - \$7,940.48 for 16 weeks.

Application – Adjudication & Rubric

1. Academic Potential 30%

Not just grades but looking at improvement over time; awards; and any personal context that the student provides (this is optional).

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%. We will have a workshop in January on how to write about these skills. It's important that this section connects to the project description provided by the supervisor.

Results & Requirements for Successful Applicants

Our goal is to notify successful applicants as soon as possible. We are planning to combine the Award letter with the letter of offer for student summer positions.

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 UGRSAW Newsletters and expected to attend 4 workshops during the summer.

Advice for strong applications

1. Even though there is a student form and a faculty form – a strong application will have clear connections between the two forms.

2. Review the rubric and make sure the application clearly meets the criteria. We recommend updating the faculty section vs. cutting and pasting from other grants and reviewing the student application.

3. The Adjudicators do not know you / your work. Make it as easy as possible for them to see how the criteria are met! This includes following guidelines around word limits etc.

Conversation with Adjudication Committee Co-Chairs Dr. George Katselis and Dr. J.D. Johnston

What questions do you have?

What else would support you and your students to complete the application?

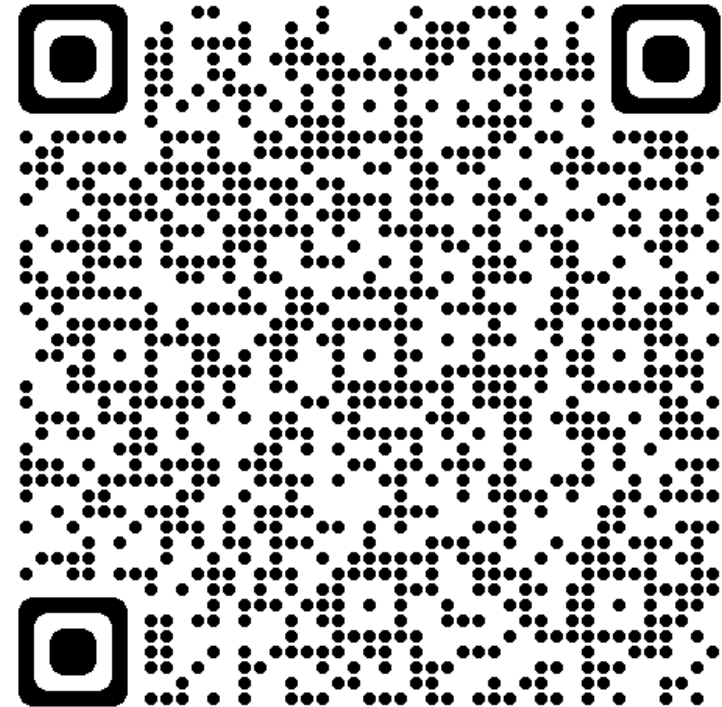
Contact Information

Questions? Send an email!

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Call for Adjudication Committee Members

