



Call for Applications for the 2022 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Program

Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives (RASI) invites undergraduate students and faculty supervisors to submit applications for the 2022 NSERC USRA (Undergraduate Student Research Awards) competition by **Tuesday, February 1, 2022 by 4:30 p.m. CST.**

On or before this date, please e-mail a memo (signed by the Department Head) with an alphabetical list of the recommended applicant's names to undergraduate.research@usask.ca.

Notes for 2022 Competition

- The NSERC amount is **\$6,000**. It is understood that USRA funds are intended to offset a portion of the salary costs associated with hiring a USRA recipient.
- Faculty must commit funds to supplement the award to comply with Saskatchewan's provincial employment standards (minimum wage minimum). The faculty/institution are responsible for supplements and fringe benefits (EI, CPP, holiday pay) if applicable.
- Departments are responsible for hiring processes for awards (letters of offer, EJS hiring, pay negotiations).
- Please encourage Indigenous applicants to self-identify for the USRA competition. These applications may go forward to NSERC over and above the institutional quota.
- Faculty members must be **ELIGIBLE** to hold an active NSERC grant to supervise an NSERC USRA scholarship recipient.
- Students who will have completed their Bachelor's degree at the time of the award and have not yet started a Master's degree **are eligible to apply if they are registered in their undergraduate degree in February of 2022.**

Eligibility

Student Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for an award, the student must (as at February 1st 2022):

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected Person under the Immigrant and Refugee Protection Act;
- be registered, at the time of application, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university; and
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a **cumulative** average of at least second class (a grade of "B" or "B-," if applicable) in **all** courses taken, which is 75% at the University of Saskatchewan.

In addition,

- If the student already holds a bachelor's degree and is studying toward a second bachelor's degree, the student may still apply for this award.
- The student may hold only one USRA per year. At USask, we offer these scholarships from May 1 to August 20th annually (16 weeks).
- The student may hold a maximum of three USRAs throughout their university career.

To **hold** an award, the student must:

- have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms) of the student's bachelor's degree;
- have been registered in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- not have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering at any time; and
- be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award.



Supervisor Eligibility

Supervisors can nominate up to two new students for the **2022** competition. Supervisors with a student returning from the **2021** competition may nominate two new students in addition to their returning student (for a maximum of 3 nominations per supervisor). The supervisor must provide a supplement in addition to the NSERC base pay to offset salary costs in compliance with Saskatchewan provincial employment standards. NSERC emphasizes that this mandatory supplement is a minimum value but encourages universities to provide larger supplements.

Application Procedure

Students must fill out Form 202, Part I, and supervisors must fill out Form 202, Part II, using the NSERC [On-line System](#). Instructions on how to fill out Form 202, Parts I and II can be found [here](#).

The student should use the following list to make sure their portion of the application is complete.

Form 202 – Part I (to be completed by the student)

- Application Profile
- Personal Profile
- Addresses
- Academic Background
- Awards
- Transcripts (attachment)
- Forward your Reference Number to your supervisor

Important: Official transcripts of **all** post-secondary studies must be uploaded into the online application by the applicant. The transcripts must be ordered through the university's Registrar's Office and cannot be printed from a website. Each applicant must have a transcript confirming registration in the current session; therefore, before the student orders their U of S transcript, they must be registered for the Winter 2021 session. To order transcripts at the University of Saskatchewan, visit <https://students.usask.ca/academics/grades.php#Transcripts>.

Form 202 – Part II (to be completed by the university research supervisor)

The supervisor will need their student's Reference Number to complete this form.

- Project Profile
- Research Supervisor Profile or Organization Contact Profile
- Current Employment
- Address at Location of Tenure
- Outline of Proposed Research

Notification

Research Acceleration and Strategic Initiatives will inform applicants of its award decisions after it has completed the adjudicated selection process. For questions about the USask process, contact the USRA Liaison Officer at undergraduate.research@usask.ca.

Contact

For general information: Visit the NSERC USRA Scholarship [website](#). Email [NSERC](#)

Phone: 1-613-947-0428 (Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST)

For assistance with the On-Line Application system, use the [On-Line Services Support Request](#). Phone: 613-995-4273 Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST