

2023 NSERC USRA Summer Studentship Program Guidelines

The Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement (ORSCE) is accepting applications for the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Summer 2023 program (May-August). The NSERC USRA is designed to stimulate undergraduate interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering.

Program Updates

To help address the disproportionate underfunding of Black scholars at the undergraduate level the Tri-Agencies are implementing the **new USRA Black student researcher** funding. This funding will contribute to making Canada's research culture more equitable, diverse and inclusive; and will strengthen Canada's innovation potential.

Successful applications from self-identified Black student researchers for USRAs will be awarded outside of our institutional allocation of awards (the current process already in place for Indigenous students). Applicants must meet the agency's [program eligibility criteria](#).

Program Details

Institutional USRA Allocation: Only Supervisors that currently hold a NSERC Discovery Grant are eligible to apply to MRU's institutional allocation of awards. Supervisors may only submit one application to the institutional allocation.

Black and Indigenous USRAs: All full-time tenurable or tenured Mount Royal University faculty at the time of application are eligible to apply for Black and Indigenous USRA awards. Supervisors that currently hold a NSERC Discovery Grant are eligible to apply for Black and Indigenous USRA awards. There is no limit on the applications Supervisors may submit for the Black and Indigenous USRA awards.

All applicants must meet the agency's [program eligibility criteria](#).

The duration of the award is 14-16 weeks on a **full time basis** (35 hours a week). There is no possibility of extension beyond the May -August award period.

NSERC USRA awards must comply with provincial and/or federal employment standards and meet provincial minimum wage requirements. Successful applicants will be hired as [Research Assistants](#).

The ORSCE will provide \$1500 (maximum) of the institutional commitment* for each successful MRU applicant and **the Supervisor is responsible for providing the remainder of the institutional commitment**. The value of the award will vary based on the duration and amount of the Supervisor's contribution.

The below award calculation is approximate and based on Alberta's \$15/hr minimum wage. We encourage Supervisors to contribute more than minimum wage. This amount must be secured before the USRA is awarded.

Duration (35 hrs/wk)	Award Total (Wages & Benefits)	NSERC Max Contribution	ORSCE Max Contribution*	Supervisor Min Contribution
14 weeks	\$8,600	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$1,100
15 weeks	\$9,214	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$1,714
16 weeks	\$9,828	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$2,328

*ORSCE's contribution will be deducted if the student receives a [Canadian Forest Sector Workforce Diversity](#) supplement.

Application Deadline: **noon March 3rd, 2023** (NSERC application must be submitted, with transcripts, through the NSERC portal and Supplementary Application must be submitted submitted ROMEO)

Please contact the Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement (ORSCE) for all inquiries related to the program.

How to apply

1. Supervisor or student identify each other and a project that they wish to undertake.
2. Student and supervisor complete and submit Form 202 parts 1 and 2 through the [NSERC Online Portal](#) by the deadline – **noon March 3rd, 2023**.
 - Details on this program and how to apply can be found here: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp
3. Supervisors and student must submit a *NSERC USRA 2023 Supplementary Application (Allocation)* or a *NSERC Black and Indigenous USRA 2023 Supplementary Application* through [ROMEO](#) by the deadline **noon March 3r, 2023**
 - The review criteria is as follows
 - 50% academic record
 - 25% Student response (Part A)
 - 25% Supervisor response (Part B)

Things to remember

- Student applicants will require registrar-issued transcripts (non-official but issued by registrar is acceptable) from all undergraduate institutions attended – order these early.

Still have questions? Please contact mdeane1@mtroyal.ca for further assistance.