2026 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 2026 program (May-August). The NSERC USRA is designed to stimulate undergraduate interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering.

Program Details

Institutional USRA Allocation: MRU's institutional allocation is 8 awards. NSERC's black students funding is included in the Institutional Allocation. Supervisors must be full-time tenurable or tenured Mount Royal University faculty at the time of application and currently hold a major NSERC grant or are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2026 - 2027 academic year:

- Supervisors who hold a major NSERC grant must provide the institutional contribution.
- Subject to the availability funds, the institutional contribution will be provided for supervisors who do not hold a major NSERC grant and are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2026 - 2027 academic year.
- Supervisors who are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2026 - 2027 academic year will need to provide the details on the grant they intend to apply for.
- The selection will prioritize student applicants without a prior USRA award.
- Supervisors may only submit one application to the institutional allocation.

NOTE: FHCE applicants who do not currently hold a major NSERC grant, must contact their Acting ADR to confirm institutional contribution prior to submitting an application.

Indigenous Scholars USRAs: Supervisors must be full-time tenurable or tenured Mount Royal University faculty at the time of application and currently hold a major NSERC grant or are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2025 - 2026 academic year:

- Subject to the availability of funds, the institutional contribution will be provided to Supervisors who currently hold a major NSERC grant or are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2026 - 2027 academic year.
- Supervisors who are planning to apply for a major NSERC grant in the 2026 - 2027 academic year will need to provide the details on the grant they intend to apply for.
- There is no limit on the applications Supervisors may submit for the Indigenous USRA awards.

All applicants must meet the agency's program eligibility criteria**.**
The duration of the award is 14-16 consecutive 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 value of the award will vary based on the duration award. The below award calculation is approximate and based on $17.48 /hr wage. (Research Assistant Level 1 - Grade 12)

Duration (35 hrs/wk)	Award Total (Wages & Benefits)	NSERC Max Contribution	Institutional Contribution
14 consecutive weeks	$9,800	$6,000	$4,100
15 consecutive weeks	$10,600	$6,000	$4,800
16 consecutive weeks	$11,300	$6,000	$5,500

Application Deadline: **noon March 2nd, 2026** (NSERC application must be submitted, with transcripts, through the NSERC portal and Supplementary Application must be 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 2nd, 2026.**
   - 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 2026 *NSERC USRA Allocation Supplementary Application* or a 2026 *NSERC Indigenous USRA Supplementary Application* through ROMEO by the deadline noon **March 2nd, 2026**
   - The review criteria is as follows:
     - 30 % academic excellence
     - 35 % research potential
     - 35 % quality of the training and mentorship

Things to remember

- Students must register in ROMEO to jointly complete the Supplementary Application with their Supervisor. The Supervisor is the Principal Investigator and the student is included in the Project Team tab. **Applications where the student has not registered in ROMEO will be returned as ineligible.**

- 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 research@mtroyal.ca for further assistance.