



NSERC USRA and other Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities (2027)

Prof. Remus Tutunea-Fatan
Graduate Chair
(rtutunea@eng.uwo.ca)

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

- Provides undergraduate students an opportunity to gain research experience by participating in research activities in a research lab under the supervision of a faculty member
- Duration: 16 consecutive weeks (full-time) from May to August
- Financial support is provided
- Part-time hours and vacation leave are not allowed

Types of Awards

- NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Scholarship (USRA) \$9856
- Western Undergraduate Student Research Internship (USRI) \$9856
- Dean's Award \$7500
- Summer Research Award \$7500
- **amounts subject to change each year**

- All awards provide similar summer research experiences for undergraduate students
- Minimum financial support is \$8,680 for the 16-week period for USRA and USRI, \$7,500 for Dean's award and Summer Research Award.
- Students often receive more than the minimum amount
- Some differences in eligibility
- Do not consider it as a summer job but rather a funded opportunity to gain research experience
- A great opportunity to try out research...UG thesis? Grad school?

What is NSERC USRA?

- A Student Award provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- Allows Undergraduate students an opportunity to participate in Research activities, and stimulates students' research interest
- Provide financial support for research experience through the host university
- NSERC encourages qualified Indigenous students to apply to this program

Eligibility

- Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident
- Registered full-time student in the term immediately before the award
- Do not hold higher degrees in natural science or engineering
- Minimum cumulative 78% (B+)
- Have not begun a graduate program prior to the tenure of award
- Not enrolled in a professional degree (M.D., D.D.S., B.Sc.N.)

Western Undergraduate Student Research Internship (USRI)

- A student award provided by Western Research
- Same value as NSERC USRA
- Programming is similar to NSERC USRA, enhanced by additional professional development opportunities hosted by Student Experience and Western Libraries
- Program concludes with an exhibition event held at the end of the summer

Eligibility

- Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident, and international students may be considered
- Registered full-time student in the term immediately before the award
- Do not hold higher degrees in natural science or engineering
- Minimum cumulative 70% (B-)
- Have not begun a graduate program prior to the tenure of award
- Not enrolled in a professional degree (M.D., D.D.S., B.Sc.N.)

Dean's Award

- Similar programing as NSERC USRA
- Open to Canadian citizens/permanent residents and international students
- Minimum cumulative average of 70% (B-)
- This award is paid with a combination of funds from the student's supervisor and the Faculty of Engineering

Summer Research Award

- Similar programing as NSERC USRA
- Open to Canadian citizens/permanent residents and international students
- Minimum cumulative average of 70% (B-)
- This award is paid by the student's supervisor

Before Applying for Summer Research Awards

- Most of these awards are competitive and the selection criteria is primarily based on the academic average
- Ensure that your academic average is at or above the required minimum average
- A Faculty Supervisor is **required** who is willing to serve as the research supervisor
- Reach out to faculty members whose research fields are of interest to you
- Arrange a meeting with them and discuss about potential summer project(s)
- Before applying, ensure that you have the confirmation and agreement of a Faculty Supervisor

How to Apply

- The Faculty of Engineering will administer a SINGLE APPLICATION for students to be considered for all summer award competitions ([**APPLICATION LINK TO BE UPDATED**](#))
- Domestic students who are interested in being considered for NSERC USRA must also be required to submit an application through the [NSERC USRA website](#)

NOTE: Any application submitted to NSERC without the endorsement of the Faculty Graduate Office will NOT be considered.

Application deadline: TBA