

# ISSP/NSERC USRA Guidelines – Deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022

## Award Mandate

Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are intended to:

- ✓ Stimulate student interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering;
- ✓ Encourage students to undertake graduate studies;
- ✓ Encourage students to consider a research career in natural sciences and engineering.

Applications are evaluated based on students' academic record, evidence of research potential and interest in research, and evidence of the quality of research training provided by the supervisor.

## NSERC and The University of Winnipeg strongly encourage eligible Indigenous students to apply

## Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must:

- ✓ **Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;**
- ✓ **Have a minimum B average (3.0 GPA)**

A 3.0 GPA score is not the determining factor in the selection process, and scores close to the requirement will still qualify, so we encourage you to apply. Please contact Dylan Jones ([d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca)) or Dr. Melanie Martin ([m.martin@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:m.martin@uwinnipeg.ca)) and they will assist you in including other important information to your application;

- ✓ **Have completed a minimum of 30 credit hours** at the time of application;
- ✓ **Be registered part-time or full-time** in 2021-22 academic year and attend school in at least 1 of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- ✓ **Be a participant in the ISSP.**
- ✓ **Identify a primary supervisor to guide their research project.** The supervisor must hold NSERC funding. See "Supervisor Eligibility" below for more details.
- ✓ **Receive research training for a full 16 weeks**, normally from May to August. Students and their supervisors are to devise a plan that is suitable for the research project;
- ✓ **Submit a transcript.** Transcripts printed from WebAdvisor are preferred. An official transcript will be required for successful applicants; As per NSERC regulations, **a student may hold no more than three NSERC USRAs throughout their academic career.** To ensure opportunities for as many excellent students as possible, at the University of Winnipeg, all else equal, preference may be given to students applying for their first or second USRA.
- ✓ Applications from students registered at other universities will be accepted but, all else being equal, **preference will be given to current University of Winnipeg students.**

## Supervisor Eligibility

- ✓ **The faculty supervisor must hold an NSERC research grant (PI or Co-applicant) as of May 1, 2022.**
- ✓ **For supervisors who do not currently hold NSERC funding but have an application pending, a letter from an alternate supervisor who holds NSERC funding is required.** The letter should state that the alternate supervisor is willing to supervise and fund the student if the applying supervisor's proposal is not funded.
- ✓ **For supervisors who are in the final year of their grant, if sufficient funds to support a USRA are remaining to be transferred to an automatic extension year, no alternate supervisor is required. An alternate supervisor is required if the supervisor is already in an automatic extension year, or will have insufficient funds to support a USRA at the end of the grant term.**

## Salary and Training

- ✓ \$6000 is provided by NSERC, and a **minimum 25% of the NSERC portion (\$1500) must be provided by the faculty supervisor.**
- ✓ As the USRAs are prestigious awards, **we strongly encourage funding well above this amount.** For reference, based on PSAC rates, a student hired as a research assistant would normally be paid **~\$8554 for 16 weeks of full-time work.** Faculty members can apply for internal funding to help supplement the USRA salaries.
- ✓ Students who receive the NSERC USRA are encouraged to present their research at institutional workshops, poster competitions, and conferences. They are also encouraged to attend and present at the NSERC USRA luncheon during the summer

## How to Apply

- ✓ Applicants should first approach, and discuss a possible project with a potential supervisor. Once a potential supervisor agrees, they should register and login via NSERC's online system. Students and supervisors must follow the instructions on the NSERC website to complete Form 202 Part I (i.e., student) and Part II (supervisor). An electronic copy of both parts of Form 202, and an unofficial transcript, should be **compiled into one, single PDF file and then emailed** to Dylan Jones [d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca) before 5:00PM on April 1, 2022.

### **Application Checklist (Students and Supervisors – Please combine all parts of the application into a single PDF file):**

1. Part 1 of Form 202 (Student)
2. Part 2 of Form 202 (Supervisor)
3. Unofficial transcript (WebAdvisor grade statement is preferred)

### **Please Note:**

- ✓ NSERC reviews the university USRA submissions during June and July, well after the student has begun the summer research project.
- ✓ The committee will do their utmost to ensure that only students meeting NSERC's eligibility requirements are put forward.
- ✓ In the rare case where NSERC deems a student to be ineligible to participate in the NSERC USRA program, the Research Office and faculty supervisor will work together resolve the issue.