



NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards 2020 - 2021 Information for Students

Eligibility

FOR SUPERVISORS

Faculty Supervisors must:

- Be faculty members who are authorized to independently supervise students deemed by their home institution
 - **NOTE:** Supervisors no longer need to hold an eligible and active NSERC grant
- Ensure that the proposed research is in an area of natural sciences or engineering supported by NSERC. The eligibility guidelines in the [Selecting the Appropriate Federal Granting Agency](#) document have been updated to provide greater clarity in determining the eligibility of applicants' proposed research. As an additional reference, an [Addendum to the Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health](#) contains examples of eligible and ineligible research topics.

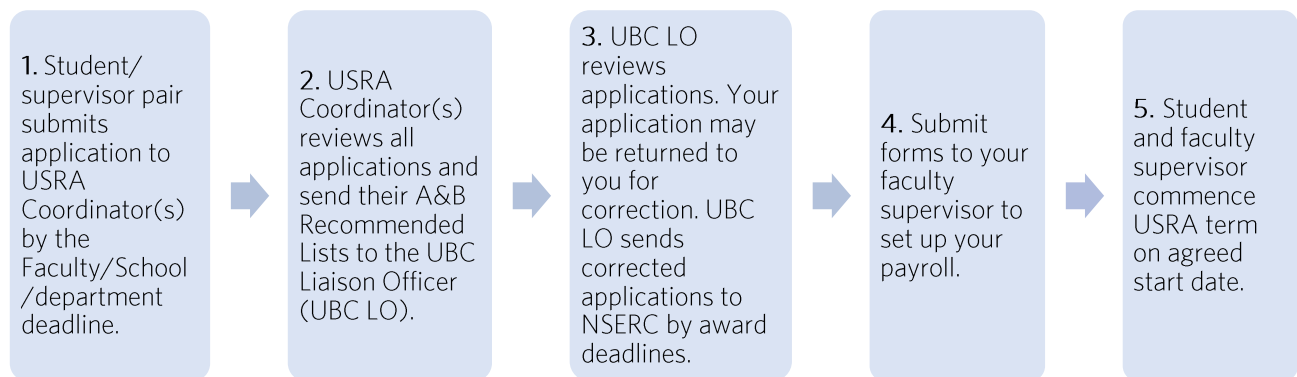
FOR STUDENTS

Detailed student eligibility is outlined on the Student NSERC USRA website which can be visited [here](#).

- The USRA research is a **full-time activity**. Students should not receive academic credits for the work done during the term of the USRA.
- Award holders may take a **maximum of one course** in addition to their USRA with the agreement of their supervisor.
 - If the course is during normal working hours, special arrangements with the supervisor must be made for the student to make up the time spent on the course.
- USRA holders are **not permitted to do thesis research during the term of the award**.
- In addition, the USRA program makes no provision for sick leave or other interruptions of awards. Please inform the UBC Liaison Officer immediately should a work term be interrupted or terminated early for any reason.



Application Procedures



The NSERC USRA is administered and coordinated through the Faculty/School/department USRA Coordinators. Each Faculty/School/department establishes procedures for identifying and ranking applicants and setting deadlines. Note that all applications are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Student's academic record
- Student's research aptitude
- Expected quality of the training to be received

1. To apply, both the faculty supervisor and student must complete and submit an [online NSERC USRA application Form 202](#) Part I (student) and Part II (supervisor) by clicking on "System Login" or, if you are a first time user, "Register".

- [Instructions](#) on how to complete the forms can be found on the [NSERC USRA website](#).
 - Please also review the *NSERC USRA Form 202 2020-21 Common Errors* for guidance on form completion.
- If you already have a faculty member you would like to work with, please share with them your **reference number** in order to link your applications together
- Students also need to upload, with their application form, a copy of their official transcripts from ALL post-secondary institutions attended (including transcript legend(s)).
 - These need to be attached in a **single** PDF.
 - ALL post-secondary institutions attended must be cited in the student's Academic Background.
- **NSERC will not accept hardcopy forms so the official application must be completed and submitted electronically.**

2. Once completed online, a copy of the forms (Part I and Part II, as well as the student's transcripts) have to be submitted to your Faculty/School/department USRA Coordinator for review.



3. The UBC Liaison Officer checks the supervisor and student USRA application forms before they are submitted to NSERC USRA. The Liaison Officer will review and confirm all applications via NSERC's online portal for Summer USRAs in April, Fall USRAs in August, and Winter USRAs in December.
 - If there are any errors/omissions or the application is incomplete, the Liaison Officer will **RETURN** the application and send an email with details about the error or missing information, steps on how to make edits to their application and how to re-submit online.
4. Your faculty supervisor will be notified of the award decisions for the competition cycle. If students are awarded the USRA, the faculty supervisor must submit a payroll appointment form to HR Management System by the deadline. Students must give all applicable documentation to the supervisor.
5. Students and supervisors will begin their USRA term as per the agreed start date.
 - **Note:** It's usually the case that students will start work on their USRA before awards are actually confirmed by NSERC.
 - Award letters for the summer term will be issued directly to students in July. Award letters will be issued directly to students one month after the university term starts in Fall and Winter.

Integrating an International Component into the NSERC USRA

Students may spend a portion of their NSERC USRA undertaking research at a university abroad.

Benefits:

- Have your student access resources or equipment not available at UBC during their research.
- Have your student work directly with collaborating researchers at another university.
- Student gains international research experience and expanded academic network.
- Students are eligible for \$2,000 in funding through the UBC Go Global Award to support travel costs.
- Go Global can assist with logistical planning, student pre-departure preparation and administration.

Requirements:

- Host University must be an accredited university.
- International component must be a minimum of 4 weeks in length and a maximum of 8 weeks
- UBC NSERC USRA Supervisor must maintain prime supervision of the student and ensure a coherent research experience.



- There must also be an identified co-supervisor at the host institution to ensure student support and access to resources.
- Basic student travel costs (flights and accommodations) must be covered by UBC and **not** by the student or their USRA minimum salary.
 - For example, they may be covered through a combination of the Go Global award (\$2,000) and additional funding from the supervisor and/or department of Faculty/School.
- UBC degree-seeking student in good standing

Questions about integrating an [international component](#) into the USRA?

- Contact Laurinda Tracey, Advisor, Student Safety Abroad at go.global@ubc.ca.

Questions?

You are encouraged to contact your Faculty/School/department USRA Coordinator in case you have any further questions. As a second resource you can also contact:

UBC NSERC USRA Liaison Officer / UBC Centre for Student Involvement & Careers / nserc.usra@ubc.ca