

# 2018-19 NSERC UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

## Program Goals and Scope

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) subsidizes eligible professors to hire domestic students to work on their research projects through the Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program. These merit-based awards are meant to stimulate interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering, encourage students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields. In 2018/19, UBC received 224 awards (valued at \$4,500) for both campuses (UBC-V & UBC-O) which were distributed across 14 faculties/schools.

## Award Allocations by Faculty/School

Faculty/School	NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards Used
Applied Science (UBC-V & UBC-O)	51
Arts	18
Dentistry	1
Education	1
Forestry	11
UBC-O Health & Social Development	5
UBC-O IKB School of Arts & Science	14
Kinesiology	6
Land and Food Systems	8
Medicine	36
Pharmaceutical Sciences	3
Sauder School of Business	3
Science	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>243</b>

## Facts & Figures

Total Number of Student Participants	243
Aboriginal Students	15
Visiting Students	31
Female	118
Male	125
Summer (May – Aug)	235
Fall (Sep – Dec)	5
Winter (Jan – Apr)	3

Faculty/School	Female	Male	Aboriginal	Total
Applied Science (UBC-V & UBC-O)	17	34	2	51
Arts	12	6	3	18
Dentistry	-	1	-	1
Education	1	-	-	1
Forestry	5	6	1	11
UBC-O Health & Social Development	1	4	2	5
UBC-O IKB School of Arts & Science	7	7	3	14
Kinesiology	4	2	3	6
Land and Food Systems	7	1	-	8
Medicine	21	15	-	36
Pharmaceutical Sciences	3	-	-	3
Sauder School of Business	-	3	-	3
Science	40	46	1	86
<b>Total Student Participants</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>243</b>

## Student Learning

Students agreed or strongly agreed with the following statements about their USRA experience:

- 81% influenced their confidence in interacting with faculty members
- 74% influenced my confidence in speaking about my career plans

My USRA has helped me develop the following competencies:

- 92% strengthened their ability to communicate with others
- 92% increased their understanding of complex issues
- 98% developed the ability to see different perspectives on controversial issues

My NSERC USRA role ....	% students agree or strongly agree
Helped me gain practical experience to feel more prepared for my future	84
Helped me reflect on my academic and career goals	84
Helped me successfully manage career related challenges	82
Provided me with mentorship, encouragement, and support	81
Helped me gain skills to apply my academic learning to a professional environment	86



Students reported developing or improving these top 4 skills through their NSERC USRA position:

- 88% research skills
- 88% initiative and motivation
- 88% analysis and problem solving
- 82% organizational skills

What students like BEST about their NSERC USRA position

“Collecting data in the field - learning by doing and by being physically present and part of a project from start to finish”

“The flexibility and the amount of new things I learned. I liked that my project was able to be completed and I felt accomplished at the end of my position”

“All the opportunities to meet and talk to graduate students and faculty members, and the exposure to research as a potential future for me!”

Gain valuable help in furthering your research and support students in their learning.

Contact your Faculty/School/Department Coordinator to learn more about hiring a student.

