

**DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY**  
**NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)**

**2020 APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology invites summer studentship applications from undergraduate students. The Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) provides UofT and non-UofT undergraduate students with an opportunity to gain valuable research experience during the summer session. **New this year**, supervisors are no longer required to hold an active NSERC grant to supervise a USRA student.

The student is required to submit a written final report with a length of at least three double-spaced pages (not including references) and give a 10-15 minute presentation of their research to the department in August. Both forms of presentation should address the nature of research conducted by the student including: the scientific background relevant for the research topic, objectives/hypotheses, methodology, results, and discussion and conclusions. The supervisor should provide the student with feedback on the report and presentation, and must submit a copy of the final report to the Program Coordinator by **August 31, 2020**.

**Duration:**

- Students are expected to engage in full-time research for 16 full consecutive weeks between May 1 and September 30, as agreed upon with the supervisor. The full stipend is a minimum of **\$5,625** (\$4,500 from NSERC + a minimum of \$1,125 paid by the sponsoring professor).

**Eligibility:**

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- Registered either full-time or part-time (at the time of application) in a bachelor's degree program in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award. NSERC, however, expects that most awards will be held by full-time students.
- Must have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of B or B-).
- Must have completed, at the time of application, a minimum of two academic terms/semesters. Note that current first-year students are therefore not eligible.
- Graduating students may hold the award in the term immediately following the completion of their undergraduate program requirements, as long as they have not started a program of graduate studies.
- A student may hold only one USRA per fiscal year and may hold a maximum of three USRAs throughout their university career.
- Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the award tenure.
- Are supervised by faculty members who are currently eligible to hold an NSERC research grant or held one at the time the student applied for the award.

Students participating in this program cannot receive a course credit (e.g., PCL472Y or PCL474Y) for this work. However, students on a co-op work term or PEY placement are eligible if all other criteria are met.

**Interested students should:**

1. Seek a position with a faculty member of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology who is willing to supervise you and to complete the sponsorship agreement letter providing a minimum of \$1,125 for the duration of the studentship program (i.e., minimum 16 consecutive weeks).
2. Submit a complete application by **March 18, 2020** including the application form, a resume or curriculum vitae (CV), a list of 2-3 references, an official academic transcript(s), and the sponsorship agreement letter. Only complete applications received by the deadline date from students meeting the eligibility criteria will be reviewed.
3. After the top-ranked applicant has been selected, the student and supervisor will need to complete the NSERC online application by **April 6, 2020**

Full program details can be found on the NSERC website:

[https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp)



## SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

(Must be a Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Faculty Member)

<b>First Name:</b>	<b>Last Name:</b>
<b>Telephone #:</b>	<b>Email:</b>
<b>Name of Laboratory Business/Grants Officer:</b>	<b>Email of Laboratory Business/Grants Officer:</b>

## PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT

<b>Expected Start Date:</b>	<b>Expected End Date:</b>
<b>Research Topic:</b>	
It is the responsibility of the supervisor to ensure that the student has the appropriate safety / ethics training. List all relevant protocol numbers under which the student will be working:	
<b>FUNDING SOURCES</b>	NSERC: \$4,500 SUPERVISOR (minimum \$1,125): \$ TOTAL FUNDING FOR STUDENT: \$
<b>Student Signature:</b> _____	<b>Supervisor Signature:</b> _____
<b>Date:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

<b>Please attach:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé or curriculum vitae (CV)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> List of 2-3 references with their contact information (professors or employers)</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Up-to-date academic transcript</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Completed supervisor agreement letter</li></ul>	<b>Submit applications to:</b> Undergraduate Program Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology Medical Sciences Building 1 King's College Circle, Room 4207 Toronto, ON M5S 1A8 <a href="mailto:undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca">undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca</a>
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**Application Deadline:**

**March 18, 2020**

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Date

Undergraduate Program  
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
Medical Sciences Building  
1 King's College Circle, Room 4207  
Toronto, ON M5S 1A8

Dear Awards Committee:

**RE: NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Summer 2020  
Supervisor Agreement Letter**

I agree to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ for an Undergraduate Student Research Award in my laboratory during the summer of 2020.

I agree to assign a suitable research project, to supervise this student throughout the summer program, and to ensure that the student has the appropriate safety / ethics training. I understand that the student is expected to work for an agreed upon duration of at least 16 consecutive weeks during the summer.

I also agree to provide a stipend of at least \$1,125 for this student, if the student has been granted an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA). The NSERC funds administered by the Research Services Office will be used to provide the student with an additional \$4,500 for a total stipend of \$5,625.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Supervisor