

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

**2021 APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

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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.

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 in August. Both the report and 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, 2021**.

**Duration:**

- Students are expected to engage in full-time research for 16 full consecutive weeks between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>, as agreed upon with the supervisor. The full stipend is a minimum of **\$7,500** (\$6000 from NSERC + a minimum of \$1,500 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 a faculty member who is 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 providing a minimum of \$1,500 for the duration of the studentship program (i.e., minimum 16 consecutive weeks).
2. Submit a complete application by **March 15, 2021** including the application form, resume or curriculum vitae (CV), list of 2-3 references, official academic transcript(s), and the student/supervisor certification form. 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 and notified, the student and supervisor will need to complete the [NSERC online application](#) by **April 2, 2021**

Full program details can be found on the [NSERC website](#).

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APPLICATION FORM

| <b>STUDENT INFORMATION</b> |                        |                         |                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>First Name:</b>         | <b>Last Name:</b>      | <b>Student #:</b>       |                 |
| <b>Address:</b>            |                        |                         | <b>Unit #:</b>  |
| <b>City:</b>               | <b>Province/State:</b> | <b>Postal/Zip Code:</b> | <b>Country:</b> |
| <b>Telephone #:</b>        |                        | <b>Email:</b>           |                 |

| <b>ACADEMIC BACKGROUND</b>  |                    |                       |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Program of Study:</b>  | <b>University:</b> | <b>Year of Study:</b> |
| <b>Pharmacology/Toxicology courses that you have taken</b> (Course Name / Course Code / Course Mark): |                    |                       |
|   |                    |                       |
| <b>Statement of research interest and future goals:</b>   |                    |                       |
|   |                    |                       |
| <b>Previous research and/or other relevant experience</b> (attach another page if necessary):         |                    |                       |
|   |                    |                       |

## SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| First Name:                                 | Last Name:                                   |
| Telephone #:                                | Email:                                       |
| Name of Laboratory Business/Grants Officer: | Email of Laboratory Business/Grants Officer: |

## PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Expected Start Date:  | Expected End Date:  |
| Research Topic:   |   |
| 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: \$6,000<br>SUPERVISOR (minimum \$1,500): \$<br>TOTAL FUNDING FOR STUDENT: \$ |
| Student Signature: _____  | Supervisor Signature: _____   |
| Date: _____   | Date: _____   |

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Please attach:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé or curriculum vitae (CV)<br><input type="checkbox"/> List of 2-3 references with their contact information (professors or employers)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Up-to-date academic transcript<br><input type="checkbox"/> Completed Student/Supervisor Certification Form | <b>Submit applications to:</b><br><a href="mailto:undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca">undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca</a><br><br><b>Application Deadline:</b><br>March 15, 2021 |
|--|--|

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 2021  
Supervisor Agreement Letter**

I agree to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ for an Undergraduate Student Research Award in my laboratory during the summer of 2021.

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 \$1,500 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 \$6,000 for a total stipend of \$7,500.

Sincerely,

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

**University of Toronto**  
**NSERC USRA 2021 COMPETITION**  
**STUDENT - SUPERVISOR CERTIFICATION**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ (student name) is eligible under NSERC's eligibility criteria and regulations as outlined in the *Program Guide for Students and Fellows* ([http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/index\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/index_eng.asp)), to be included as a potential Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) holder in the 2020 Competition.

**Students:**

By completing and submitting your application, you are certifying that:

- You will comply with the terms and conditions of the NSERC USRA grant.
- You have provided true, complete, accurate information in your funding application and related documents, and you have represented yourself, your research and your accomplishments in a manner consistent with the norms of the relevant field.
- You are currently eligible to apply for and/or hold funds from NSERC, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), or the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), or any other research or research funding organization worldwide and are not in breach of any of the aforementioned funding bodies' policies on responsible conduct of research, including ethics, integrity or financial management policies. If at any time you become ineligible, you agree to advise your Research Services Office and NSERC immediately in writing.
- You have read, understood and agree to comply with the Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (<http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/>) both in the submission of your application and in carrying out the research related to this award.
- If you are or have been (at any time during the past 12 months) a federal public servant in Canada, you have complied with and will continue to respect the *Values and Ethics Code for the Canadian Public Service*.
- You understand the *Access to Information Act* and the *Privacy Act* and the *Use and Disclosure of Personal Information Provided* to NSERC as they pertain to your information.
- You consent to the sharing among the three federal granting agencies (NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR) and with any academic institution to which you are, or may become, affiliated, of any and all information, including personal information, in any way related to the application and to the award.
- In the event of any change in your eligibility status, you will inform NSERC and your institutional officials immediately (e.g. the Undergraduate Coordinator in the department where the grant is established, and the University of Toronto's Research Office), in writing.
- You acknowledge and accept that NSERC reserves the right to defer or cancel the award instalment if the continued need for funds is not demonstrated, if the program objectives and eligibility criteria are not being met, or subject to the availability of funds.

**Supervisors:**

- You will comply with the terms and conditions of the grant/award.
- You have read, understood and agree to comply with the *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible*

*Conduct of Research* (<http://www.rcr.ethics.gc.ca/eng/policy-politique/framework-cadre/>) both in the submission of your application and in carrying out the research related to this grant/award.

**Consent to Disclosure of Personal Information:** You understand that maintaining public trust in the integrity of research is fundamental to building a knowledge-based society. By submitting an application or by accepting funding from CIHR, NSERC and/or SSHRC, you affirm that you have read and you agree to respect all the policies of these agencies that are relevant to your research, including the *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research*. In case of a serious breach of agency policy, the agency may publicly disclose your name, the nature of the breach, the institution with which you were affiliated at the time of the breach and the institution with which you are currently affiliated. You accept this as a condition of applying for, or receiving, agency funding, and you consent to such disclosure. If you do not agree to the disclosure of your personal information, you cannot participate in this application.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date