

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

2023 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology invites summer studentship applications for the Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA). The USRA provides research experience that complements the degree program which will encourage students to consider graduate studies and pursue careers in the natural sciences and engineering. New this year, students who self-identify as Black or Indigenous will be funded by NSERC above and beyond the department's allocation for USRA provided that the application is approved by the agency.

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 a copy of the final report must be submitted to the Program Coordinator by **August 31, 2023**.

Duration:

- Students are expected to engage in full-time research for 16 full consecutive weeks between May 1st and September 1st, 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. A student is still eligible if they already hold a bachelor's degree, as long as they are currently studying towards a second bachelor's degree in the natural sciences or engineering.
- 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 meets [NSERC's Eligibility Criteria for Faculty](#) and is able to independently supervise students as per their appointment with their university.

Students participating in this program cannot receive a course credit (e.g., PCL472Y or PCL474Y) for this work. However, students on an ASIP placement are eligible if all other criteria are met. Award holders are permitted to take up to a maximum of two courses during the award term.

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, 2023** including the application form, resume or curriculum vitae (CV), list of 2-3 references, official academic transcript(s), and the sponsorship agreement 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](#) and successful supervisors must complete an [MRA](#) by **March 24, 2023**.

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APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION			
First Name:	Last Name:	Student #:	
Address:			Unit #:
City:	Province/State:	Postal/Zip Code:	Country:
Telephone #:		Email:	
<p>Students who self-identify as Black or Indigenous are funded by NSERC above and beyond the department's allocation for USRA, provided that the application is approved by the agency. If you would like to be considered for the USRA Black or Indigenous student research award stream, please select the appropriate option below.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> USRA Black Student Research Award Stream <input type="checkbox"/> USRA Indigenous Student Research Award Stream</p>			

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND		
Program of Study:	University:	Year of Study:
Pharmacology/Toxicology courses that you have taken (Course Name / Course Code / Course Mark):		
Statement of research interest and future goals:		
Previous research and/or other relevant experience (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:
Proposed Research Project and Student's Role: (please provide a project description, including objectives, outputs and/or deliverables and specify the student's roles/tasks/responsibilities in the project)	
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:	
FUNDING SOURCES	NSERC: \$6,000 SUPERVISOR (minimum \$1,500): \$ TOTAL FUNDING FOR STUDENT: \$
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____	Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Please attach: <input type="checkbox"/> Current résumé or curriculum vitae (CV) <input type="checkbox"/> List of 2-3 references with their contact information (professors or employers) <input type="checkbox"/> Up-to-date academic transcript <input type="checkbox"/> Completed Supervisor Agreement Letter	Submit applications to: undergrad.pharmtox@utoronto.ca Application Deadline: extended to March 15, 2023
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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 2023
Supervisor Agreement Letter**

I agree to sponsor _____ for an Undergraduate Student Research Award in my laboratory during the summer of 2023. I confirm that I meet [NSERC's Eligibility Criteria for Faculty](#) and am able to independently supervise students as per my appointment with the university.

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