

# 2024 University of Toronto Excellence Awards (UTEA)

## 2024 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology invites applications from University of Toronto undergraduate students for the University of Toronto Excellence Award (UTEA) which allows students to engage in summer research in the natural sciences and engineering (NSE) or health and life sciences (HLS). The purpose of the UTEA award is to provide a valuable mentored research experience on a faculty-led project to augment formal research courses offered by the University of Toronto, to help students learn and appreciate investigative methodologies, and to foster an interest in and knowledge of careers in research.

Students accepted into the program will work on a specific research project under the supervision of a faculty member and may meet on a weekly basis for group seminars and discussion at the discretion of their supervisor.

All students are required to:

- Submit a written final report with a length of at least three double-spaced pages (not including references)
- Give a 10–15-minute presentation of their research at the end of July (date to be determined).
- 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, 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, 2024.
- The student must also submit a research report no later than October 1, 2024, to Cheryl Nash ([cheryl.nash@utoronto.ca](mailto:cheryl.nash@utoronto.ca)), Research Funding Officer. The report template will be distributed with the UTEA award letters.

**Students are responsible for contacting the professors of their choice to inquire about research projects and laboratory space.** A list of potential supervisors and their research interests is available by accessing the faculty list ([www.pharmtox.utoronto.ca/faculty](http://www.pharmtox.utoronto.ca/faculty)). Interested students should contact potential supervisors directly to arrange an appointment to meet. Most professors will ask the student to bring their academic record and a resume or curriculum vitae to the initial interview.

### Award Duration:

- Students are expected to engage in full-time research for 14 weeks in the summer beginning no earlier than May 1, 2024, and ending no later than September 30, 2024 to qualify for the full stipend of **\$7,500** (\$5,250 from RHSE; \$2,250 from the Departmental Research Supervisor).

### Eligibility:

- Be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, a foreign student (with valid student visa for the full summer work term).
- Be registered in a Bachelor's degree program at the University of Toronto either as 1) a full-time student, or 2) a part-time student **only** if the UTEA will be held during the student's final session and the student requires only a part-time courseload to complete their degree.
- Be registered either at the time of application or in the term immediately before the award start date; graduating students may hold an award in the term immediately following completion of their undergraduate degree, if they have not started a graduate program; and
- Have obtained a cumulative average of "B+". For students in higher years, this average can be applied to the best two years of study.
- Students are ineligible if they are enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., M.D., D.D.S., B.Sc.N.); hold a degree above a Bachelor's in NSE, HLS or are currently enrolled in graduate studies.
- Must be supervised by a faculty member of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology **who is campus-based** and either holds an active NSERC or CIHR grant or have a pending application with one of those agencies at the start date of the UTEA (May 1, 2024).
- Students may only submit one application to this program per year and each professor may only sponsor two students. Failure to comply with this rule may result in the application being denied.
- Students cannot accept multiple summer research awards at the same time.
- Be engaged on a full-time basis in research activities under the direction of an eligible supervisor.

- Preference will be given to 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who have an interest in future graduate training, a research career in pharmacology or toxicology and who have taken at least an introductory course in pharmacology or toxicology.
- No restrictions on research topics.

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 ASIP placement are eligible if all other criteria are met.

### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:**

The University of Toronto embraces Diversity and is building a culture of belonging that increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities.

### **Interested students should:**

1. Seek a position with a faculty member of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology who is campus-based and is willing to supervise you and complete the sponsorship agreement form providing a minimum of \$2,250 for the duration of the studentship program (i.e., 14 weeks between May to August).
2. Submit a complete application by **February 27, 2024**, including the application form, resume or curriculum vitae (CV), list of 2-3 references, copy of 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.

**University of Toronto Excellence Award (UTEA) Application Form  
PART I. Student Profile**

**Date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Student name (last name, first name, initials):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**CURRENT PROGRAM**

**Degree:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Faculty:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Department (if applicable):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Year and month of expected degree completion:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Grade point average (GPA) (cumulative/best two years):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**At the time of application, please indicate your student status:**

Full-time                       Part-time (final year of study/only part-time courseload is required)

**Have you previously held a UTEA award?**     Yes                       No

**If yes, please fill the section below for all years the award was held:**

**UTEA AWARDS RECEIVED (start with most recent)**

**Name of award:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Location of tenure:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Period held (YYYY/MM – YYYY/MM):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Citizenship:**

- Canadian citizen
- Permanent resident. Indicate date of landing as per Form IMM1000: Click or tap here to enter text.
- Foreign student with valid student visa for the full work term

**Current address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Permanent mailing address (if different from current address):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**If current address is temporary, indicate leaving date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Telephone number at permanent mailing address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Telephone number at current address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

## PART I. Student Profile

### SIGNATURE

I hereby agree to abide by the University of Toronto regulations governing awards, as described in the *Guidelines for the UTEA Program*.

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**Student's signature**

**University of Toronto Excellence Award (UTEA) Application Form  
PART II. Proposed Supervisor and Research Project**

The proposed supervisor must complete this application. In accordance with the *Privacy Act*, this information will be accessible to the student.

Read the accompanying instructions before you complete this application.

## **SUPERVISOR INFORMATION**

**Proposed supervisor name (last name, first name, initial):** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Proposed supervisor's department:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Email address:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Proposed award start date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Proposed award end date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

## **PROPOSED RESEARCH PROJECT**

**Title of proposed research project:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Outline of proposed research project.** Specify the student's role and provisions that will be made for alternative supervision of student during supervisor's absence.

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Provide the CIHR or NSERC Fund Number for the grant currently held, or MRA Application Number for the Tri-Agency grant currently applied for:** Click or tap here to enter text.

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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: University of Toronto Excellence Award (UTEA) Supervisor Agreement Letter**

I agree to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ for a University of Toronto Excellence Award (UTEA) Summer Research Studentship in my laboratory during the summer of 2024. I understand that I am only allowed to sponsor two students for this program.

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 14 weeks during the summer.

I also agree to provide a stipend of at least \$2,250 for this student, if the student is granted a UTEA Summer Research Studentship. The Departmental Research Supervisor will provide \$2,250 and the University of Toronto will provide the student with an additional \$5,250 for a total stipend of \$7,500.

Sincerely,

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Signature of Supervisor