NSERC – Undergraduate Student Research Awards Program (USRA)

Value
$6,000 from NSERC and a top up contribution from CUE for a full 14-16 week period. NSERC's contribution is paid directly to the host university. Concordia will issue payment to you for the total value of the award in accordance with our pay procedures. Concordia will also issue a T4A slip to you at the appropriate time.

Eligibility
Undergraduate Student Research Awards are meant to stimulate your interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering. They are also meant to encourage you to undertake graduate studies in these fields. If you would like to gain research work experience that complements your studies in an academic setting, these awards can provide you with financial support through your host university. NSERC encourages qualified Indigenous students to apply for this award.

To be eligible to apply for an award, you must:
- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada;
- be registered, at the time you apply, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- have obtained over the previous years of study, an average of all earned credits of at least a 'B' on the equivalent Concordia University of Edmonton grading scale (for repeated courses, the last passing grade counts).

In addition:
- If you already hold a bachelor's degree and are studying toward a second bachelor's degree, you may still apply to this program.
- You may hold only one USRA per fiscal year (April 1 – March 31).
- You may hold a maximum of three USRAs throughout your university career.

To hold an award, you must:
- have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms) of your bachelor's degree;
- have been registered in the term immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- not have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering; and
- be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award.

You are not eligible for an award if:

- you are currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health science (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN); or
- you hold higher degrees in the natural sciences or engineering;
- once NSERC has approved your USRA for tenure at one particular institution, you may not transfer it to another institution.

Apply   All NSERC USRA applications need to filled out using the online application system.

To apply for these awards, you must complete and submit your application using NSERC's Online System. No hand written applications will be accepted as per NSERC guidelines. You must apply directly to the university where you would like to hold the award. However, please note that it is the university's choice whether to accept candidates from other institutions. Form 202 and its instructions are available as PDF documents on its website for reference.

- The student completes Part 1 of Form 202 in NSERC's On-line system.
- The supervisor completes Part 2 of Form 202 and submits the application electronically (on behalf of the applicant) by selecting 'Submit to LO'.
- The student, in cooperation with the supervisor, must submit a hard copy of Part I and Part II along with their official transcript to the Financial Aid and Awards Office by the deadline.
- NSERC does not require original signatures on applications or other documents submitted electronically through its On-line System. The electronic submission of applications through this system represents approval and replaces the traditional "wet" signature.
- Applications are vetted by the Department and recommended to the Scholarship and Awards Committee for approval.
- Successful applicants will receive NSERC notification mid-summer.

Awards Deadline: April 1

For more information, visit the NSERC website to review the "Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants and Proposed Research Supervisors", or contact the Financial Aid and Awards Office at 780-479-9220 or by email finaid@concordia.ab.ca