



Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada **UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS PROGRAM**

Undergraduate Research Awards for SUMMER 2026 > 14 to 16 weeks of full-time employment

To be ELIGIBLE TO APPLY for an award, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected Person;
- be registered, at the time you apply, in a bachelor's degree program;
- have obtained a cumulative average of at least 75% in your previous university academic year (college transfer students and Year 1 students must have at least a 75% average at the end of the current year);
- hold up to a maximum of three USRAs during your undergraduate career.

To HOLD an award, you must:

- be registered in a bachelor's degree program;
- 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 a bachelor's degree program in the term immediately before holding the award;
- work under the supervision of a faculty member authorized to supervise students;
- have a proposed research project that clearly lies within natural sciences and engineering;
- be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during tenure of the award (Duration: 14-16 weeks with no provision for sick leave or other interruptions of the award);
- not take more than two courses during the tenure of the award; and,
- **are not** currently registered or previously started a graduate studies program in the same field of study

NOTE: USRAs may be held during co-op placements

LEARNING EXPERIENCE: Successful students will be invited to present a poster summarizing their research at a research fair held in the August at Lakehead University. Gain experience creating a poster, presenting findings and add it to your resume!

ELIGIBLE DEPARTMENTS / FACULTIES

Anthropology Applied Life Sciences Biology Business Administration Chemistry Computer Science Chemical Engineering	Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Mechanical Engineering Software Engineering Geography Geology Kinesiology	Mathematical Sciences Natural Resources Management Physics Psychology Sustainability Sciences Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute
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PROCEDURE:

Contact your Faculty/Department administrative assistant or award representative for a list of researchers in your discipline.

DEADLINES:

Check with your faculty/department for the earlier internal faculty/department deadline.

Application packages & faculty/department recommendation due January 31, 2026



APPLICATION STEPS

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Program- Summer 2026

DEADLINES:

Student packages to Faculty/Department: deadlines vary- see faculty/department

Fac/Dept packages uploaded to Student Awards & Financial Aid: January 31, 2026

FOR STUDENTS- maximum 3 university USRAs in undergraduate university career

- a. Contact a proposed researcher or your program faculty/department administrative assistant for a listing of potential researchers if needed.
- b. [Login to the NSERC USRA website](#) and complete **Form 202 Part I** online, uploading a copy of your unofficial transcript. Download a copy of the form to include in your package. NOTE: An official transcript with fall grades and winter registration (minimum 1 year university level) will be required for successful recipients in February. First year or college transfer students require a transcript with two terms.
[Link to NSERC USRA Program Information](#)
- c. Forward the NSERC reference number to your proposed researcher.
- d. Request a copy of NSERC **Form 202 Part II** from the researcher to include in your package.
- e. Download **Research Interest & Goals Form**- In 250 words maximum (double spaced), outline your research interest and goals. Additional essay if you have previously held an NSERC USRA Award.
- f. Submit your portion of the application package to your program faculty/department by their deadline. Inquire how the administrative assistant would like to receive your NSERC materials:
 - i. Form 202 Part I: save as LAST NAME, First – Form 202 Part I
 - ii. Form 202 Part II: save as LAST NAME, First – Form 202 Part I
 - iii. A copy of your unofficial Lakehead University Transcript that includes fall grades: save as LAST NAME, First – Transcript
 - iv. Research Interest & Goals: save as LAST, First – Research Interest & Goals
- g. **NSERC USRA Student Reference Form** – Download from the Lakehead website and complete the 'Student Profile and Deadline' section. Forward to a professor that will not be your NSERC supervisor (max 2 references) that can speak to your interest in research and your potential. Your second reference can be your NSERC researcher. Ensure that your department contact info and deadline is in the email so that it can be forwarded by your professor before the faculty/department's internal deadline date.

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h. **NOTE:**

Students may take a maximum of two courses during the tenure of the award if they have their research supervisor's approval. Requests for these exceptions should be submitted by the supervisor in writing to Cheryl Ellis to be forwarded to NSERC. Students can not be registered for more than 2 courses. Credits obtained for a co-op placement during the USRA are permitted.

Researcher - authorized to supervise students with a proposed research project that clearly lies within natural sciences and engineering

If you would like to work with a student that may be granted a NSERC USRA Award (subsidy), complete the following:

- a. [Login to the NSERC USRA Online Services](#) and complete **Form 202 Part II** online.
The following information is required:
 - i. Student Name and Form 202 Part I Reference Number
 - ii. Proposed Research Project Outline

Please refer to this [link for assistance](#) in completing Form 202 Part II:

- b. Email completed Form 202 Part II to the student.

NOTES: The USRA program does not have a provision for sick leave or other interruptions of the award. Kindly consider the number of students that can be supervised at one time.

Should you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Ellis at cellis@lakeheadu.ca.
Thank you for your interest in undergraduate research at Lakehead University!