

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards 2018 Competition

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE APPLICANTS

This document is intended to provide assistance to students interested in applying for the award.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) has established a program of research awards for undergraduates. While ultimate selection of award recipients lies with NSERC, the university has been given the responsibility of forwarding a list of recommended candidates.

Information about the awards is available at:

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp.

You can go on-line from this site to complete an application form (Form 202):

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/Index_eng.asp.

Award Eligibility

To be eligible to **apply and hold** 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 a cumulative GPA of 3.5**
- Have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (2 academic terms) of your bachelor's degree;
- Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award

Academic Record (i.e., Grade Point Average - GPA)

NSERC specifies that eligible students must have "obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of 'B') as defined by your university." However, it is at the University's discretion to create its selection criteria. For Ryerson, due to the historically high caliber of applicants for this competition, the **minimum cumulative GPA** that we will be accepting this year is **3.5**. As with any award of this sort, the odds are that the higher your marks, the better your chances of being recommended for an award. However, GPA is not the only criterion used in the selection process. Therefore, if your marks are high enough to qualify and you feel positive about other selection criteria, do not hesitate to apply.

Prior NSERC Undergraduate Awards

Part of the NSERC mandate is “to stimulate your interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering. They [the awards] are also meant to encourage you to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields.” We consider these NSERC undergraduate awards a very important part of the development of future research scientists. Consequently, we would like to see as many students as possible have an opportunity to participate in what is a unique experience at the undergraduate level. **All other factors being equal, we would recommend a candidate who has never had an NSERC award over one who has previously received one.**

Choosing a Supervisor

You must work under the supervision of a Ryerson University faculty member who holds an active research grant from NSERC (e.g., Discovery, CREATE, or Strategic Partnership grant), either at the time you submit the application or when you hold the award.

Multiple Applications

Whether or not you have applied for an award at another university, or for an industrial USRA, has no bearing on your Ryerson application. However, **we will accept only one application form per student within Ryerson for the 2018 competition.** In other words, you cannot apply through more than one supervising professor at Ryerson.

Research Project Description

A brief description of your proposed summer research is required on Form 202. You should fully understand the contents of this outline and we assume collaboration between student and professor in preparing this part of the application. There **must** be a statement of your involvement in the project. Your research outline should include:

- An outline of the possible methodology for your proposed research project.
- A statement of the purpose of your research - i.e., what you hope to achieve/potential impact.
- An outline of the your (the student) role in the project (the application is not complete without this).

Student Statement

In order to assist the selection committee rank the NSERC USRA applicants, each applicant is asked to submit a 250-500 word statement, along with your completed Form 202 Part I, that describes your research interests and how the NSERC USRA will benefit your academic/career goals. If you have previously held an NSERC USRA (or have previous research experience), please describe what your role in the previous project was and what you learned from the experience. This is to be written by you alone, not in collaboration with your supervisor.