

## 2024 Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Competition Overview

<b>TMU Quota</b>	37 NSERC USRAs (+ unlimited awards for Black and Indigenous student researchers), 1 CIHR USRA and 3 SSHRC USRAs – exclusively for Black student researchers.
<b>Award Details</b>	\$6,000 from the Agency plus the supervisor's contribution (top-up). The duration of the award is 14-16 weeks on a full-time basis.
<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>See Faculty deadlines</b>
<b>Student Eligibility</b>	<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the <i>Immigration and Refugee Protection Act</i> (Canada) as of the application deadline.</li> <li>• Be registered in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university as of the application deadline.</li> <li>• Have obtained a cumulative GPA equivalent to a B (3.0 at TMU) over the previous years of study.</li> <li>• Have completed all the course requirements of at least your bachelor's degree's first year of university study (2 academic terms). *</li> <li>• Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in your proposed field of research during the tenure of the award.</li> </ul> <p>You may hold a maximum of 3 USRAs throughout your (undergraduate) university career. *Preference will be given to students entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of study.</p> <p><b>NOTE</b> – you are <b>INELIGIBLE</b> if you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN) (<b>does not apply to CIHR USRAs</b>) or</li> <li>• Currently registered or have been previously registered, at any time, in a graduate program in the same field of study.</li> </ul> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed #ccc;"/> <p><b>For CIHR and SSHRC:</b> At present, CIHR and SSHRC USRAs are exclusively for Black student researchers. To be eligible to apply for these awards, you must self-identify as Black by checking the relevant box within application Form 202. <b>Note:</b> this self-identification information will be shared with the institution to which you are applying and, if awarded, publicly.</p>
<b>Application Process</b>	Application submission is via Google Forms. See Application Instructions for details.
<b>Faculty Contact</b>	<p>Please email your faculty contact and include “USRA Program” in the subject line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts: <a href="mailto:aying@torontomu.ca">aying@torontomu.ca</a></li> <li>• The Creative School: <a href="mailto:nirva.saatjian@torontomu.ca">nirva.saatjian@torontomu.ca</a></li> <li>• Faculty of Community Services: <a href="mailto:sarah.bukhari@torontomu.ca">sarah.bukhari@torontomu.ca</a></li> <li>• Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science: <a href="mailto:swaldman@torontomu.ca">swaldman@torontomu.ca</a></li> <li>• Faculty of Science: <a href="mailto:srio@torontomu.ca">srio@torontomu.ca</a></li> <li>• Ted Rogers School of Management: <a href="mailto:mpaidi@torontomu.ca">mpaidi@torontomu.ca</a></li> </ul>

## 2024 Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) Competition Application Guidelines

The Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) program supports more than 3,000 students annually and is administered jointly by Canada's three research granting agencies: the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

Information about the awards is available at [the NSERC USRA website](#).

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

See Faculty Deadlines

### STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

You must:

- Be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada, or a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada)* as of the TMU application deadline date.
- Be registered and in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university as of the TMU application deadline.
- Have obtained a cumulative GPA equivalent to at least a B over the previous years of study.
- Have completed all the course requirements of at least your bachelor's degree's first year of university study (2 academic terms). \*
- Be employed on a full-time basis in eligible research and development activities in your proposed field of research during the tenure of the award.
- **For CIHR and SSHRC:** At present, CIHR and SSHRC USRAs are exclusively for **Black student researchers**. To be eligible to apply for these awards, you must self-identify as Black by checking the relevant box within the application Form 202.  
**Note:** this self-identification information will be shared with the institution to which you are applying and, if awarded, publicly.

You may hold a maximum of 3 USRAs throughout your (undergraduate) university career.

\*Preference will be given to students entering their 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of study.

**NOTE** – you are INELIGIBLE if you are:

- Currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN) (**does not apply to CIHR USRAs**) or
- Currently registered or have been previously registered, at any time, in a graduate program in the same field of study.

## ELIGIBILITY OF PROPOSED SUPERVISOR

- 1) **Supervisor eligibility**  
Supervisors no longer need to hold an active grant but must be authorized by their university to independently supervise students. [TMU eligibility: **TFA members only**].
- 2) **For NSERC only:** The proposed research **project** must clearly lie within the natural sciences and/or engineering (NSE).

**\*It is not necessary for the proposed supervisor's research program to be exclusively within the NSE.**

The university will evaluate the suitability of the research project as part of the award selection process. Projects deemed outside of the NSE will be deemed ineligible, and the application will be withdrawn from the competition.

## 2-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1) **TMU Google Forms Application by Faculty deadline**
  - a. **Find and secure an eligible supervisor.**  
Find a supervisor/faculty member working in the research area you want to explore, discuss the proposed project with them, and secure their agreement to sponsor your application.
  - b. **Complete and submit the Google Forms application.**
- 2) **Form 202 on the NSERC On-Line Services Portal – ONLY required if selected for an award.**  
If selected for a USRA by the Faculty, the student and supervisor will need to complete Form 202 on the [NSERC On-Line Services Portal](#) by May 1, 2024 (instructions will be provided).

## SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCEDURE

Applications will be reviewed/ranked using the following criteria:

- 1) **Academic Excellence** – As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions.
- 2) **Research Potential** – As demonstrated by the applicant's research history, their interest in discovery and year of study.
- 3) **Expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received** – As demonstrated by the proposed supervisor's plan for the student.

The university will allocate a number of USRA awards to each Faculty, who will recommend USRA awardees up to their allocated quota. There will be a limited waitlist.

### **For CIHR and SSHRC only:**

Due to the limited number of awards, these applications will be assessed and awarded at the university level using the above criteria.

## COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

Faculties will notify students and supervisors of the competition results.