



## NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)

### GUIDELINES & APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Students that wish to apply must contact a faculty member and get agreement from the faculty member to supervise the student. Students should select their potential supervisor carefully because they will not be allowed to change supervisors once awarded the USRA. If the faculty member is not currently funded by NSERC but has applied for an NSERC Grant in the current competition, then the student must also submit a letter from a faculty member who would be willing to supervise the student should the student's first choice supervisor fail to be awarded an NSERC Grant.

Faculty members can support the applications of several students. However, a faculty member must support applications from only the number of students that he/she can afford to hire. By supporting the application, the faculty member is committing to hiring the student for at least 16 weeks and topping up the salary should the student be awarded a USRA. Faculty members will not be allowed to pick and choose amongst successful applicants.

The student is responsible for accessing and completing Part I of Form 202, available on the [NSERC website](#) and for submitting official transcripts. Students must register and create a login before creating Form 202 (Part I). Once the form is complete, the NSERC online system will generate a reference number. The student must then forward Part I, his/her registration number, and the transcripts to the proposed supervisor, who will complete Part II of Form 202.

**\* Please note: unofficial UBC transcripts will be accepted with the application; successful students will need to submit official UBC transcripts later. OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS ARE REQUIRED WITH THE APPLICATION from all other universities.**

In addition, FoS requires:

- **A 250-word statement** from the student describing their interest in research and how the USRA would benefit their career. The statement must be signed off by the potential supervisor
- **The potential supervisor** will provide a reference letter clearly outlining the project and its goals, the role of the student in the project and the academic and research potential of the student. In addition, the potential supervisor must complete Part II of Form 202.
- **No other reference letters are required.**

**The student must submit the complete application package to the Coordinator in the Irving K. Barber Faculty of Science, ASC 413, by the published deadline.**