

National Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)

Undergraduate Student Research Awards
(USRA)

January, 2022

Western Research

Agenda

- What are USRAs?
- Eligibility: Students / Supervisors
- Award Allocation and Award Decisions
- How to apply
- Support / Resources
- Additional Information

What are USRAs?

- A 16-week research award (consecutive weeks)
- USRAs –
 - Provide financial support for a **natural sciences and engineering** (NSE) research placement
 - **\$6000** from NSERC + supervisor supplement*
 - Help students gain research experience in an academic setting
 - Stimulate interest in research in NSE
 - Encourage students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields

**Total value of award is for student's personal use at their discretion.*

Do I qualify?

To apply

By application deadline:

- ✓ Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- ✓ Have obtained a (min) cumulative B or B- average over previous years of study*
- ✓ Be registered in a bachelor's program at NSERC-eligible university

To hold award

- ✓ Have completed all course requirements of at least 1st year of university study for your bachelor's degree
- ✓ Be registered in at least one of the 2 terms immediately before holding the award (i.e. Fall and/or Winter terms for a Summer award)
- ✓ Be engaged on full-time basis in research activity in NSE for tenure of award

**Competitive program; minimum average doesn't guarantee an award*

Do I qualify? (cont'd)

Indigenous students:

- ✓ Individuals who self-identify as Indigenous, meet the program criteria and are recommended by their university, do not count toward the university's allotted quota of awards

Other:

- ✓ An individual -
 - Can't hold more than 1 USRA in a fiscal year (i.e. April 1 to March 31)
 - Can't hold more than 3 USRAs during their university undergrad career

Who does NOT qualify?

Students who –

- have started a graduate program
- hold higher degrees in NSE
- are enrolled in a professional degree program (ie. MD, DDS, BScN)
- Are/will be enrolled in courses full-time for the term in question*

**You can take a maximum of 2 courses concurrent to your USRA. Supervisor and student must make arrangements to make up the time.*

Supervisor requirements

Supervisor* –

- Must hold a faculty position that makes them eligible to supervise students

**As of Summer 2020, supervisors no longer need to hold NSERC funding to qualify.*

University award allocations

- Universities are given a yearly allocation of USRAs by NSERC
 - **94** for Summer 2022
- Allotted awards are distributed across Western faculties (based on a formula)

Ranking students

- Universities are responsible to establish their own selection criteria within the broad guidelines that NSERC provides
 - Criteria are determined at **faculty level** at Western and may be stricter than NSERC's guidelines
- At Western, **faculties** rank and select students according to their established criteria
- Rankings are typically based on:
 - *academic record*
 - *aptitude for research, and*
 - *expected quality of the training to be received*

Award decisions

- Faculties will inform applicants of their award decisions after selection process is complete*
- Awards are non-transferable
- Award funds are provided monthly to award holders through Western's HR system

**NSERC will also email successful applicants (students) an award letter after the award has started.*

How to apply/re-apply

- Application is done through [N SERC's Online System](#)
- NSERC online form is completed by both student and supervisor
 - Student – Form 202 (*Part I*)
 - Supervisor – Form 202 (*Part II*)
- If you've applied for a USRA previously, use the **same form** and update the information, transcript (don't start a new form)

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca

Canada

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On-line Services

Our on-line services are designed to give you easier access to NSERC's on-line systems.

Update on NSERC's Research Portal
As of spring 2013, researchers and institutional administrators will use the Research Portal and the Canadian Common CV to apply to some NSERC programs and to review/approve applications. For more information, please consult the [Resource Centre](#).

Accessibility Notice
If you cannot access the following content, please contact the On-line Services Helpdesk by e-mail at webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca or by telephone at 613-995-4273. Indicate the e-mail address and telephone number where you can be reached.

PILOT SITE NOTICE
Our Pilot Site is no longer available. The On-line System may be used for training purposes; however, test applications must not be submitted to NSERC.

For Authorized Institutional Representatives: Before you register to access the On-line System or the Financial Data Submission and Reconciliation (FDSR) System, ensure that you have completed, signed and emailed the pertinent registration form to NSERC and read the instructions and the frequently asked questions provided. You will find the forms, instructions and frequently asked questions, for one or the other system, at the [On-line System Overview](#) and [FDSR Overview](#) pages.

On-line System Users
Select **On-line System Login** to create or access an application.

- First-Time User? Please [Register](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Forms in PDF Format and Instructions](#)

[On-line System Login](#)

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

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Proactive Disclosure

- [Proactive Disclosure](#)

Security, Privacy and Use and Disclosure of Information

Before using NSERC's On-Line System, please read the following documents and register your acceptance below:

- NSERC's [Security Statement](#) and details on the retention periods of the data;
- NSERC's statement on the federal [Access to Information Act and Privacy Act](#);
- For applicants and co-applicants: [Use and Disclosure of Personal Information Provided to NSERC](#); and
- For Referees: [Instructions to Referees on the Privacy Act, Confidentiality and the Use and Disclosure of Information](#).

When you login and use this system, it means that you understand and accept that these policies and conditions apply.

Login

You will be automatically logged out of the system if there has not been any activity (e.g., Save, Preview, etc.) for an extended period of time. To avoid having to login again, we recommend that you select **Save** every 10 to 15 minutes.

Account name (User ID) (30 chars)

[Forgot your Account name?](#)

Password

[Forgot your Password?](#)

Must be 8-10 characters long, must contain at least one special character (!@#\$%^&*()+={}|<>~.-[]/?) and no spaces, may contain numbers (0-9), lower and upper case letters (a-z, A-Z). Please note that your password is case sensitive. (10 chars)

https://ebiz.nserc.ca/nserc_web/nserc_login_e.htm

How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part I – Student

- Upon completion of Part I, the system generates a **Reference #** that you provide to your supervisor so they can complete Form 202 Part II
- NSERC **PIN** – leave field blank if this is your 1st application to NSERC (the system will assign you a PIN)
- “Official” transcripts not required for students registered at & intending to complete their USRA at Western. However, transcripts must meet *specific requirements*. Western’s “**Academic Record**” is acceptable



How to apply (cont'd)

Form 202 Part II - Supervisor

- Links to *Part I* by logging into the Online System and entering the **Reference #** the student provides
- Provides:
 - a description of the project* (must be NSE focused)
 - a clear description of the student's role, and
 - the expected quality of the training to be received
- 'Submits' in Online System to *Western Research*

Note: USRA holders cannot do **thesis research during the term of the award*

Form 202 – Student

 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada		Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada		
FORM 202 - PART I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award				
Reference No. 433415		System-ID 381102381		
Family name of student Kilianski		Given name Louise	Date 2019/11/13	
		Initial(s) of all given names E	Personal identification no. (PIN) Valid 485208	
ACADEMIC BACKGROUND (including ongoing postsecondary degree)				
Degree	Name of discipline	Institution	Department	Year and month of expected degree completion
Bachelor's	Biology	Western Ontario	Biology	2022/04
At the time of application, you are attending a postsecondary institution? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> full time? <input type="checkbox"/> part time?				
Have you ever held a USRA or Experience Award (previously IUSRA) in the past? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER AWARDS RECEIVED (start with most recent and include NSERC awards)				
Name of award	Location of tenure		Period held (yyyy/mm - yyyy/mm)	
Best Dressed	Western Ontario		2018/01 - 2018/01	
OTHER INFORMATION				
Citizenship <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canadian citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent resident (indicate date of landing as stated on official immigration document)				
Language of correspondence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French		Consent to sharing information for joint-funding opportunity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Current address 1393 Western Road SSB 5150 London ON N6G1G9 CANADA		Permanent mailing address (if different from current address) 555 Main Street Hamilton ON A1A1A1 CANADA		
If current address is temporary, indicate leaving date		Telephone number at permanent mailing address 519-5555555		
Telephone number at current address 519-6612111		E-mail address louise.kilianski@uwo.ca		
Form 202-1 (2016 W) 		Personal information collected on this form and appendices will be stored in the Personal Information Bank for the appropriate program.		Version française disponible
PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED				

Form 202 - Student

Reference number

FORM 202 - PART I Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or Experience Award		System-ID 381102381
Reference No. 433415		Date 2019/11/13

Form 202 - Supervisor



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[Project Profile >](#)

Form

Form 202 Part II - Project Profile

- Project Profile
- Supervisor Profile
- Current Employment
- Address at Location of Tenure
- Outline of Proposed Research Project
- Preview Student's Form (Part I)
- University Comments

Program Undergraduate Student Research Awards

Student name

Student Reference Number

Proposed work term **Year** yyyy

Title of proposed research project (100 chars)

Research subject code

Application language English French

Institution that will administer the award

Department

Save	Preview	Portfolio	Instructions	Logout
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Birthdate: Sex: M Residency: Canadian/Native

Permitted transcript
 type for UWO
 students
 "Academic Record"
 accurate to
Dec. 31, 2021

---RESIDENCY INFORMATION:

GRAD 1208 CDN

---UWO PROBLEM INFORMATION: NONE FOUND

---UWO REGISTRATION CONDITIONS: NONE FOUND

---UWO PERSONAL DATA:

APPTYFE: HAS DEG: ATTEMPTS: 0.0

---UWO ACTIVE SERVICE INDICATORS: NONE FOUND

---UWO COMMENTS: NONE FOUND

---BASIS OF ADMISSION:

W 2016 Ontario Secondary School Diploma 2016
 3 2020 BEng Western University 2020

---ADVANCED STANDING: NONE FOUND

---HIGH SCHOOL COURSE INFORMATION:

External Org:

LVL	Subject	Description	Source	Units	Grade
12	LAW	CLN4UA	OUP	1.0	091
12	ENGLISH	ENG4UA	OUP	1.0	082
12	WRITING	EWC4UA	OUP	1.0	082
12	MATH	MCV4UA	OUP	0.0	081
12	MATH	MCV4UA	OUP	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MDM4UA	OUP	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MHP4UA	OUP	0.0	080
12	MATH	MHP4UA	OUP	1.0	NMR
12	BIOLOGY	SBI4UA	OUP	1.0	081
12	CHEMIST	SCH4UA	OUP	0.0	067
12	CHEMIST	SCH4UA	OUP	1.0	NMR
12	PHYSICS	SPH4UA	OUP	0.0	083
12	PHYSICS	SPH4UA	OUP	1.0	NMR
12	MATH	MCV4UA	OUP	1.0	097
12	MATH	MDM4UA	OUP	1.0	094
12	MATH	MHP4UA	OUP	1.0	097
12	CHEMIST	SCH4UA	OUP	1.0	092
12	PHYSICS	SPH4UA	OUP	1.0	098
12	MATH	MCV4UA	OUP	1.0	099
12	MATH	MDM4UA	OUP	1.0	096

---ADMISSION AVERAGES:

00989482 0 ESBES B:FIN T:FIN O:Y
 FIRST 92.0000 MIDYR 93.3333 FINAL 94.0000
 GR11 82.6000
 00989482 1 HSHS4 B:FIN T:FIN O:Y
 FIRST 92.0000 MIDYR 91.5000 FINAL 92.1667
 GR11 82.6000

---UWO ADMISSION COMMENTS: NONE FOUND

---SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS:

---DEGREE INFORMATION: NONE FOUND

---ACADEMIC PROGRAM HISTORY:

Program: Faculty of Engineering Status: Active in Program
 Plan: 13702WPI B.E.Sc. Civil/w Prof Intern DEG
 Subplan: Environmental w Int'l Dev Opt

---Undergraduate Record:

--2016 Fall/Winter: Prog:ESBES Lv:1 Ld:F

Plan:B.E.Sc. Engineering Sc DEG

Course	Description	Units	Grade
APPLMATH 1411A	001 LNR ALG NUM ANALYSIS FOR ENG	0.5	087
ENGSCI 1021B	001 PROPERTIES OF MATERIALS	0.5	080
ENGSCI 1036B	001 PRGRMNG FUNDAMNTLS FOR ENGRS	0.5	070
PHYSICS 1401A	001 PHYSICS FOR ENG STDNTS I	0.5	083
PHYSICS 1402B	001 PHYSICS FOR ENG STDNTS II	0.5	073
ENGSCI 1022Y	001 ENGINEERING STATICS	0.5	071
CHEM 1302A	001 DISCOVERING CHEMICAL ENERGETIC	0.5	073
ENGSCI 1050	002 INTRO ENG DESIGN & INNOVTN STU	2.0	075
APPLMATH 1413	003 APP MATH FOR ENGRS I	1.0	080
BUSINESS 1299E	006 BUSINESS FOR ENGINEERS	1.0	075
Term AVG: 76.46 Pass: 7.50 Term Totals:		7.50	
Good Standing. May proceed in Engineering			
Eligible for Civil Engineering			
SPCL AVG: Sessional: 76.47 DHL: 76.47			
Cum AVG: 76.46 Pass: 7.50 Cum Totals:		7.50	

--2017 Fall/Winter: Prog:ESBES Lv:2 Ld:F

Plan:B.E.Sc. Civil Opt DEG

Course	Description	Units	Grade
EARTHSCI 2281B	001 GEOLOGY FOR ENGINEERS	0.5	075
CEE 2202A	001 MECHANICS OF MATERIALS	0.5	064
CEE 2220A	001 INTRO TO STRUCTURAL ENG	0.5	077
CEE 2221B	001 STRUCTURAL THEORY & DESIGN	0.5	085
CEE 2224	001 ENGINEERING FLUID MECHANICS	1.0	086
CEE 2217A	001 INTRO TO ENVIRONMENTAL ENG	0.5	078
STATS 2141A	001 APPL PROB & STATS FOR ENGINEER	0.5	064
CEE 2219B	001 COMPUTATNL METHD FOR CIV ENG	0.5	094
APPLMATH 2270A	001 APPLIED MATH FOR ENGINEER II	0.5	081
APPLMATH 2277B	001 APPL MATH CHEM & CIVIL ENG III	0.5	082
WRITING 2130G	002 BETTER COMMUNICATION BRIDGES	0.5	075
Term AVG: 78.91 Pass: 6.00 Term Totals:		6.00	
Good Standing. May proceed in Engineering			
SPCL AVG: Sessional: 78.92 DHL: 78.92			Prior Year: 76.47
Cum AVG: 77.55 Pass: 13.50 Cum Totals:		13.50	

--2018 Summer: Prog:ESBES Lv:3 Ld:F

Plan:B.E.Sc. Civil Opt DEG

Course	Description	Units	Grade
ENGSCI 2250	001 ENGINEERING SUMMER CO-OP	S 0.0	SAT
Term AVG: 0.00 Pass: 0.00 Term Totals:		0.00	
Good Standing. May proceed in Engineering			
Cum AVG: 77.55 Pass: 13.50 Cum Totals:		13.50	

--2018 Fall/Winter: Prog:ESBES Lv:3 Ld:F

Plan:B.E.Sc. Civil Opt DEG

Subplan:Environmental w Int'l Dev Opt

Course	Description	Units	Grade
EARTHSCI 3340A	001 WATERSHED HYDROLOGY	0.5	080
CEE 3348A	001 PROJECT MGMT & ENGINEERING CASES	0.5	085

N SERC application support

- NSERC has a short, helpful **Online Tutorial** (~8 minutes)
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/usra-brpct_eng.asp
- Visit Western's [USRA web page](#)

Western deadline

- Form 202, Parts I & II must be completed and submitted online by: **Friday, Feb. 18, 2022**
- Don't submit online until you've attached the **Academic Record** (accurate to Dec. 31, 2021)

Additional information

Holding a USRA at another university

- You can hold an award at another university
- The other university will handle the application, adjudication and awarding processes; you need to contact them

Travel allowance

- No longer provided by NSERC

Corrections/changes to a submitted application

- Research Services must **return** the application to the supervisor in the Online System. When changes are made, the supervisor **re-submits**, creating a new “snapshot” of application that NSERC can see

Unable to complete the USRA award term?

- Supervisor/student must notify faculty USRA contact immediately



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