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Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are intended to:

Stimulate student interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering; Encourage students to undertake graduate studies;

Encourage students to consider a research career in natural sciences and engineering. Applications are evaluated based on stu and interest in research, and evidence of the quality of research training provided by the supervisor.

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The faculty supervisor must hold an NSERC research grant (PI or Co-applicant) as of May 1, 2024.

ECR supervisors who do not currently hold NSERC funding but have their first NSERC application pending, can supervise a USRA student provided they have the funding to support the student.

For supervisors who are in the final year of their grant, if sufficient funds to support a USRA are remaining to be transferred to an automatic extension year, no alternate supervisor is required.

For all other supervisors who do not currently hold NSERC funding but have an application pending, a letter from an alternate supervisor who holds NSERC funding is required. The letter should state that the alternate supervisor is willing to supervise and fund the student if the applying supervisor funded. An alternate supervisor is required if the supervisor will have insufficient funds to support a USRA.

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A \$6000 award payment is provided by NSERC, and a minimum 25% of the NSERC portion (\$1500) must be provided by the faculty supervisor. As the USRAs are prestigious awards, we strongly encourage funding well above this amount. For 2024, the institution mandates a recommendation of approximately \$9000. The student may receive a larger amount if the student receives another award that requires the total award amount provided by NSERC and the faculty supervisor to be higher than the UW mandated amount. Faculty members can apply for internal funding to help supplement the USRA salaries.

Students who receive the NSERCUSRA are encouraged to present their research at institutional workshops, poster competitions, and conferences. They are also encouraged to attend and present at the USRA luncheon during the summer.

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Students and supervisors must follow the instructions on the NSERC website to complete Form 202 Part I (i.e., student) and Part II (supervisor). An electronic copy of both parts

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