



## UVIC SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARDS (SERA – GRADUATE STUDENTS)

### Overview of award

#### Introduction

The Science Emerging Research Award – Graduate Students (SERA – Grad) is intended to provide an opportunity for students who are members of a group with historical and/or current barriers to equity to gain a research experience or learn a new skill that might not otherwise be available.

For example, visiting a collaborator's lab for a collaborative research experience or learning a new research technique, supporting a field research experience (that would not otherwise be supported by the supervisor). This research experience could be a part of the graduate degree program (and a part of the thesis/project) or it could be in addition to the degree program.

A student holding the award must perform research under the supervision or co-supervision of a regular member of the Faculty of Science at UVic. If co-supervised, both supervisors must be specified and sign the application. It is expected that the student works full-time on the project for four months over one academic term, prior to continuing graduate studies in a subsequent term. A student may take up the award in the Summer (May-Aug), Fall (Sep-Dec), or Winter (Jan-Apr) term, as agreed between the student and their supervisor. The awards are not intended to support a student performing research on a part-time basis, or for research performed outside the term during which the student is to be engaged in their research project.

#### Value of awards

The SERA – Grad Award provides \$6000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$3000 from the research supervisor.

#### Who is eligible for an award?

To be eligible for a SERA – Grad Award, at the time of application a candidate must:

- self-identify as a member of group with historical and/or current barriers to equity:
  - First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
  - members of groups that currently or historically experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
  - persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities;
  - persons who identify as women; and
  - persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.
- be registered as a full-time graduate student for a master's or doctoral program in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April), and be in good standing;
- intend to continue full-time graduate studies in the term immediately following the research project, and
- Students must **not** hold an NSERC, CIHR, or other major ( $\geq$  \$15000) scholarship as of the term in which the awards will be announced.

## How are students selected for the award?

Four SERA – Grad Awards are available every year.

Students will submit their application to their home Department/School. Each Department/School will recommend a maximum of two applications to the Dean's Office. A faculty member from the Department/School's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee will serve on the relevant committee of the Department/School to ensure EDI principles are upheld during the nomination process.

Applications recommended to the Dean's Office will be adjudicated by the Faculty of Science Research Advisory Committee.

Applications will be evaluated based on two main criteria:

- applicant's potential as a scientist in their field (50%) as evidenced by a combination of academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities described in the CV, letter of support by a STEM faculty member, and information provided in the application form (Parts 1 and 2).
- a description of how success has been achieved in light of the barriers that the applicant has faced in their academic career (50%), described in the letter from the applicant.

Preference is given to new applicants and applicants with intersectional identities. Preference is also given to applicants proposing a new skill or research experience that would not otherwise be part of their degree program.

## How and when do you apply?

To apply for this award, students must complete and submit the following documents to the general office of the supervisor's home department:

- 1) SERA – Graduate Students application form
  - Students should complete parts 1A and 1B, save the application on their computer and email the completed electronic form to their proposed project supervisor(s). The project supervisor should in turn complete part 2. The application must be signed by the student and the supervisor before being submitted.
- 2) Letter written by the applicant describing their successes in light of the barriers they have faced in pursuit of their academic degree. This letter does not need to be shared with the student's supervisor. The applicant's profile and personal information is kept confidential within the adjudication committee. Applicants do not need to share personal details but should instead focus on their achievements in spite of experiencing barriers.
- 3) Letter of support by any STEM faculty member familiar with the student (not necessarily the primary supervisor). The letter(s) should discuss the potential as a scientist in their field and academic accomplishments.
- 4) A CV (maximum 2 pages, 11-12pt font, single spaced) including:
  - Education
  - Relevant research/work experience
  - Awards and honours
  - List of peer-reviewed journal articles with full citation (published or accepted)
  - Submitted journal articles with full citation (include arXiv link or manuscript ID)
  - Other published works or patents
  - Presentations (full description including title, date, organization/venue)
  - Other relevant information

## Application Deadline

The deadline for students to submit their application is set by the Departments/School of the Faculty of Science. Please monitor [their respective websites](#) for details.



SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)
Part 1A - Student Application

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Given name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student #: V0 \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Program (e.g. MSc Chemistry): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicants must arrange to have a letter of support sent to home department. Letter writer: \_\_\_\_\_
Surname, Given Name

Intended term to take up award (Summer, Fall, or Winter): \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility: Please indicate all statements that apply to you:

- I was registered as a full-time graduate student for a MSc or PhD degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the Winter Session (Sept-April)
I intend to continue full-time graduate studies in the term immediately following the research project
I have applied to other major awards. (If yes, list the award, the value of the award, the supervisor and the dates)

Empty rectangular box for additional information.

Self-identification: Please indicate all statements that apply to you:

- I am a member of a group with historical and/or current barriers to equity, including but not limited to:
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
- members of groups that currently or historically experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
- persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities; and
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.
I am a Canadian Indigenous student
I am an International Indigenous student
I identify as a woman
I have more than one identity (race, gender, sexuality, disability, etc.) that experiences historical and/or current barriers to equity.

I have discussed this opportunity with my primary supervisor and they support my application.

Primary Supervisor Name

Primary Supervisor Signature

Student Signature

Date



**SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)  
Part 1B - Student Application**

In 300 words or less, describe why you wish to do a research project.

\_\_\_\_\_

Print name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Student signature



**SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)  
Part 2A – Project Supervisor**

Student Information:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #: V0 \_\_\_\_\_

Project Supervisor Information:

Co-Supervisor information (if applicable):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dept & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

External grant funding used for matching contribution:

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Information:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

1) In 300 words or less, describe the proposed summary project, including the project timeline.



**SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)**  
Part 2B – Project Supervisor

2) In 300 words or less, describe the student's role in the proposed project

3) Funding commitment to student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-supervisor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*By signing this form, the Faculty Member agrees to contribute a minimum of \$3000 to the student award.*