



NSERC UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE RESEARCH AWARDS (NSERC-USRA)

UVIC SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)

UVIC SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARDS (SERA)

Information for supervisors and administrators

NSERC USRA (Undergraduate Student Research Award)

A variable number of awards per academic unit (determined by Office of Research Services). Note additional awards for Indigenous and Black students are available beyond the academic quota. Nominees are selected by each unit. The award provides \$6,000 from NSERC plus a contribution from the research supervisor. The award plus the supervisor's contribution must be equivalent to, or more than, current British Columbia minimum wage requirements. Since the Canada Revenue Agency considers these fellowships as employment income, Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Employment Insurance (EI) deductions will apply.

SURA (Science Undergraduate Research Award)

Six undergraduate awards (one selected by each unit). One additional award to a self-declared Canadian or International Indigenous student, selected by the Faculty of Science Research Advisory Council (RAC). The award provides \$4,000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$4,000 from the research supervisor.

SERA (Science Emerging Researcher Award)

- Six undergraduate awards (one selected by each unit). The award provides \$5,500 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$3,500 from the research supervisor.
- Four graduate awards across the Faculty, selected by the RAC. The award provides \$6,000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$3,000 from the research supervisor.

A student may concurrently apply for an NSERC USRA, BC Cancer Studentship, BIOCAN Rx Studentship, or other research award as well as a SURA or SERA. However, a student cannot hold other research awards in that competition year starting in May. Students applying for multiple awards with questions concerning eligibility should contact their home department/school.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

- Use the form below for SURA and SERA applications. Part 1 of the application must be completed by the student, Part 2 of the application must be completed by research supervisor and co-supervisor (as necessary).
- SURA application deadline for students is set by the Department/School and recommendation from the Department/School to the Dean's office are due on March 1 (maximum one per unit). Units will submit their nomination for the Indigenous award (maximum one per unit) to the Dean's office by March 1 and the Research Advisory Council will adjudicate this award.
- SERA application deadline for undergraduate students is set by the Department/School and recommendation from the Department/School to the Dean's office are due on March 1 (maximum one per unit).
- NSERC USRA application deadline is set by the Department/School. Applications must be submitted on the NSERC application form. Recommendation from the Department/School to the Office of Research Services are due on March 15.
- A faculty member from the Department/School EDI committee will serve on the Awards committee of the Department/School to ensure EDI principles are upheld during the adjudication process.
- A student who is eligible for the SERA, SURA, and/or the NSERC USRA, should be given the opportunity to decide which award they wish to hold.



UVIC SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)

UVIC SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARDS (SERA)

Research is an important and enjoyable component of an undergraduate experience and can be a helpful guide in planning a career. The Faculty of Science administers a number of scholarships to enable undergraduate students to engage in research projects on campus under the supervision of a Member of Faculty (research-stream or teaching-stream) in the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy, or the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences. An adjunct Member of Faculty in any of these academic units can be a co-supervisor.

A student submitting an application may be considered for any of the scholarships listed below, depending on their eligibility, but may only accept one of the awards offered. In accepting an award, 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 undergraduate students holding an award would use the award to work full-time on a research project for a term of 14-16 consecutive weeks over one academic 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.

To be eligible for an undergraduate award, at the time of application, a candidate must:

- be registered as a full-time student for a BSc degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April) and be in good standing;
- have completed at least 30 units of course credits toward a B.Sc. degree by the end of the Fall term prior to submitting an application;
- have a cumulative GPA of 6.0 or higher for all courses completed at the time of application.

NSERC USRA (Undergraduate Student Research Award)

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). See website (https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp) for information and eligibility. The award provides \$6,000 from NSERC plus a contribution from the research supervisor. Please note that additional awards for Canadian Indigenous students (First Nations, Inuit or Métis peoples) and Black students are available beyond the base UVic allocation. A B- GPA is required for NSERC applications.

SURA (Science Undergraduate Research Award)

A fund endowed by the estate of the late Eva Moody provides a number of research awards each year to undergraduate students, including one additional SURA for a self-declared Canadian or International Indigenous student. The award provides \$4,000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$4,000 from the research supervisor.

SERA (Science Emerging Researcher Award)

An anonymous donor has provided funds for awards to students, with emphasis on supporting members 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;
- persons who identify as women; and
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Students will have shown potential as a scientist in their field as evidenced by a combination of academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, 1) a letter of support by at least one STEM faculty member familiar with the student, and 2) a letter from the student discussing their successes in light of the barriers they have faced. Preference is given to students with intersecting identities.

The award for undergraduate students provides \$5,500 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of \$3,500 from the research supervisor.

No handwritten applications will be accepted. Student applicants should complete parts 1A and 1B, save the application on their computer and email the completed electronic form to their proposed supervisor. The supervisor should in turn complete part 2. The application must be signed by the student and the supervisor(s) before being submitted to the general office of the supervisor's home department. The contact information of the six Faculty of Science departments can be found here: <https://www.uvic.ca/science/departments/index.php>.

The deadline is set by the Departments/School of the Faculty of Science. Please monitor their respective websites for details. Students and supervisors will be notified as soon as possible thereafter as to whether their applications have been successful.



**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)
SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA)**

Application

Part 1A - Student Applicant

(no handwritten applications will be accepted)

Surname: _____

Given name: _____

Student #: Voo _____

Email: _____

Program (e.g. BSc Chemistry): _____

Year and month of expected degree completion: _____

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

Which awards are you applying for? (it is possible to apply for both): SURA SERA

In order to determine your eligibility for the awards, indicate which of the following statements apply to you:

- I am registered as a full-time student (12 units or higher) for a BSc degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April), **OR**
- I am registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning for an accommodated workload for a bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April). I have attached a copy of my "Letter of Accommodation" to this application.
- I have completed at least 30 units of course credits toward a B.Sc. degree by the end of the Fall term prior to submitting this application.
- I intend to continue full-time undergraduate studies in the term immediately following the research project.
- I have a cumulative GPA of 6.0 or higher for all courses completed at the time of application.
- I am a Canadian Indigenous student.
- I am an International Indigenous student.
- I identify as a woman
- 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 identify as having an intersectional identity



**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)
SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA)**

Application (continued)
Part 1A - Student Applicant
(no handwritten applications will be accepted)

I have previously held a research award at UVic. *(If yes, list the award, the supervisor, and the dates)*

I have applied for other research awards:

- NSERC-USRA
- BIOCAN RX Studentship
- BC Cancer Studentship
- Other research award: _____



**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)
SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA)**

Application

Part 1B - Student Applicant

(to be filled out by student – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

In 300 words or less, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe why you wish to do a research project.

SERA applicants must provide a letter discussing their success in light of the barriers they have faced, and must arrange to have a letter of support from a STEM faculty member sent to their home department.

Support Letter writer: _____
Surname, Given Name

Student Signature

Date

Print name



**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)
SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA)**

Application

Part 2A – Faculty Research Supervisor

(to be filled out by supervisor – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

Student Information:

Surname: _____

Given name: _____

Student #: Voo_____

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, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe proposed summary project, including the time course



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Application

Part 2B – Faculty Research Supervisor

(to be filled out by supervisor – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

2) In 300 words or less, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe the student’s role in the proposed project

[Large empty box for describing the student's role in the proposed project]

3) Funding commitment to student: _____

Supervisor Signature

Co-supervisor Signature

Date

Print name

Print name

Date

By his or her signature, the Faculty Member agrees to at least match the financial contribution of the SURA to the student and/or to contribute a minimum of \$3,500 to the student for the SERA award.



**SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)
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Application

Part 3 – Administration
(to be filled out by Dean's Office)

Surname: _____ Given name: _____

Student #: Voo _____ Dept: _____

Student applied to SURA SERA Other research award : _____

Canadian Indigenous student International Indigenous student

Student is member of a group with historical and/or current barriers to equity with an intersectional identity

Student registered in _____ units in the current Winter Session.

Student has completed _____ units of course credits toward BSc by the end of the Fall term prior to applying.

Last completed term _____

Proposed term to take up SURA/SERA: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

SERA Letter of Support attached

SERA Applicant letter attached