

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards in Chemistry

NSERC USRA & endowed awards (Tsui, Cunningham, Sobey, Laing, Warr, Witherspoon, Pantalone)

Application Submission Deadline: January 28, 2022

Undergraduate summer research awards in the Department of Chemistry are intended to stimulate student interest in chemistry research and encourage the pursuit of graduate studies and/or careers in chemistry. Awardees will receive financial support to conduct research during the summer months under the guidance of a Department of Chemistry faculty member who holds an NSERC research grant.

Eligibility

- Registered (at the time you apply) as a full-time student in a **Science program**
- **NEW:** Have completed (by May) at least 52 credit hours of university courses
- **NEW:** Have no more than one PASS grade for credit-bearing courses during Winter and Summer 2020, and no more than one PASS grade during Fall/Winter 2020-21
- Available for full-time employment in scientific research activities for 16 weeks during tenure of the award (May to August)
- Canadian citizenship/permanent residence required for (for NSERC USRA only)
- International students eligible for all endowed awards; two awards set aside for international students
- Cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher; note that students with GPA>3.3 should consult their Department Coordinator if they fall into one of the following groups: sustainability focus, marine/oceans focus, Indigenous, African descent
- Students will not be funded to work in the same research lab for more than 2 summers

For additional USRA rules and eligibility see:

http://www.nserc-crsng.qc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp

Value & Duration

Awards are for a period of 16 weeks (May to August). Stipends for the Department of Chemistry will be distributed monthly, for an overall total minimum value of \$9,000.

Host laboratory eligibility

- Supervisor must hold an active research grant (tri-council or other) through Dalhousie
- Supervisor must have an appointment or cross-appointment in the Department of Chemistry
- For NSERC USRA awards, the research project must be in an area normally funded by NSERC.

To Apply

Dalhousie students:

1. Meet with at least 3 (5 recommended) potential supervisors and use Appendix B to rank your preferred choices for supervisor.
2. Complete Part 1 and Part A1(if applicable) of the attached application form. No transcript is required, but if you are registered in any X/Y courses, you will have to obtain a signed statement from the professor(s) indicating your mid-year grade for each X/Y class.
3. Send your application including midyear X/Y grades, to Cheryl Stanton (Cheryl.Stanton@dal.ca) in the Chemistry Main Office by **January 28, 2022**.

Non-Dalhousie students: Identify and contact a summer research supervisor in the Dept. of Chemistry at Dalhousie University. Complete Part 1, Part A1(if applicable) and Appendix B of the attached application form. Send the application form and a transcript (scanned copies are acceptable) to Cheryl Stanton (Cheryl.Stanton@dal.ca) in the Chemistry Main Office by **January 28, 2022**.

Questions? Contact Cheryl Stanton in the Chemistry Main Office (Cheryl.Stanton@dal.ca or 1-902-494-3305).

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards in Chemistry

How to Find a Summer Research Supervisor

Undergraduate summer research award recipients in Chemistry will conduct research during the summer months under the guidance of a Chemistry faculty member. As such, an application will not be considered until a potential supervisor agrees to host a student in their laboratory, should the student receive a USRA. In order to facilitate this, prior to submitting a USRA application, *Dalhousie students* must contact a minimum of **3** Chemistry professors (as this is a very competitive award, it is highly recommended that applicants contact up to **5** professors) whose labs they are potentially interested in joining for the tenure of the USRA, should one be awarded. *Non-Dalhousie students* are only required to contact one Chemistry professor, but are encouraged to contact more. The discussion between you and the Chemistry professor is meant to serve as a brief and informal information session – an opportunity for students to learn about the research projects available with different professors, and for potential supervisors to learn about the interests and ambitions of student applicants.

To meet with potential research supervisors in Chemistry:

- (1) Visit <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/chemistry/USRA.html> for a list of Chemistry professors who are offering undergraduate summer research projects in 2022. Project descriptions and contact information are provided for each professor.
- (2) E-mail professors to make appointments for meetings with them. Specify that you are interested in applying for a USRA in Chemistry and would like to find out more about their research. Know your schedule so that you can suggest some possible meeting times. Estimate that each appointment will last an average of 20 minutes.
- (3) In preparation for your meeting:
 - consider printing off an unofficial transcript of your grades to bring along, especially if you have not had a class with the professor you are about to meet
 - think about why you are interested in pursuing a summer research project in chemistry and what you hope to learn in the process
 - think of some questions to ask – be courteous, but don't be shy! Scientists are curious people! For example, you might want to ask about details of projects that are available for undergraduate summer students in their lab.
 - consider what you are hoping to learn from your summer research experience.
- (4) If something comes up and you cannot make a scheduled meeting, it is important that you notify the professor and attempt to reschedule. It is very unprofessional to not show up on time or to skip a meeting altogether.

In order to avoid a last-minute rush, it is strongly recommended that students initiate this process before the end of the Fall final exam period.

Meeting with a faculty member in no way commits a student applicant to working with that supervisor, nor does it commit a faculty member to accepting a student. While all attempts will be made to match awardees with projects in their indicated area of interest, this cannot be guaranteed. Once students have met with all potential research supervisors, the students must rank the potential supervisors on a numerical scale where 1 indicates their top choice of supervisor.

APPLICATION FORM for Summer 2022

Faculty of Science Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

USRA – TSUI - JOY M CUNNINGHAM - FAYE SOBEY - WARR - LAING - WITHERSPOON – ROB STEWART -
Faculty of Science

This form is to be used by students enrolled in a Faculty of Science program who are applying to work with a supervisor who has an appointment in the Department of Chemistry.

**Completed form and transcripts go Cheryl Stanton in the Chemistry Main Office
(Cheryl.Stanton@dal.ca) by the January 28, 2022 deadline.**

Part 1: To be completed by student

Student name _____ Canadian citizen/permanent resident*

BANNER number _____ Born in Nova Scotia

E-mail _____ Indigenous

Credit hours completed (as of May 2022) _____ Of African descent

Current Major(s): _____ Intend to graduate in May**

Previous summer research award(s)***

Award _____ Supervisor _____ Year _____

Award _____ Supervisor _____ Year _____

Provide academic transcripts from all universities attended (Dal BANNER printouts and photocopies of transcripts from other universities are acceptable). Full year courses for which no fall grades is available will not be included in the GPA calculation.

* International students are encouraged to apply for a summer research award. While not eligible for USRA (NSERC), they are considered for all other awards.

** Complete **Appendix A** in addition to this form if you have applied to graduate this May

*** Maximum 3 awards per student. May not work with the same supervisor more than 2 summers

APPENDIX A

Faculty of Science Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

Complete this page ONLY if you plan to graduate this May

Part A1: To be completed by student

Graduating students are eligible to compete for undergraduate summer research awards if they intend to begin a thesis-based graduate program in fall.

Student name _____

Describe your plans* for graduate school next year

School(s)/department _____

Graduate supervisor name _____

Application status _____

Additional information (attach letter if you like)

APPENDIX B: Potential Supervisor Ranking

To be completed by all students and submitted with your application.

Awardees will conduct research during the summer under the guidance of a Chemistry professor. Your application will not be considered until a potential supervisor agrees to host you in their laboratory, should you receive a USRA.

Dalhousie Students

Prior to submitting this application, Dalhousie students must meet with a minimum of **3** Chemistry professors (as this is a very competitive award, it is highly recommended that you contact up to **5** professors) whose labs you are potentially interested in joining for the tenure of the USRA, should one be awarded to you. This meeting is meant to serve as a brief and informal information session – an opportunity for students to learn about the research projects available with different professors, and for potential supervisors to learn about the interests and ambitions of student applicants. Once you have met with all potential research supervisors that you are interested in, please rank them on a numerical scale where 1 indicates your top choice of supervisor.

Non-Dalhousie Students

Non-Dalhousie students should contact at least one potential supervisor by e-mail and arrange to discuss potential research projects. It is encouraged, however, that more than one potential supervisor should be contacted. Any potential supervisors of interest should be listed below and ranked on a numerical scale where 1 indicates your top choice of supervisor.

Please Note:

Meeting with a faculty member in no way commits a student applicant to working with that supervisor, nor does it commit a faculty member to accepting a student. All attempts will be made to match awardees with their top ranked supervisor. However, because of availability this is not always possible and an alternate supervisor may have to be selected.

In consideration for the USRA in Chemistry, I have met with the following professors:

		Student's
		Ranking
Name: _____	Date: _____	_____
Name: _____	Date: _____	_____
Name: _____	Date: _____	_____
Name: _____	Date: _____	_____
Name: _____	Date: _____	_____