

Hi students:

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:**

**MBB DEADLINE for students and supervisors:**

**By January 25, 2016 at 4:00 pm** NSERC USRA applicants must submit their online application to NSERC and a paper copy to the MBB office, and VPR USRA applicants must submit their paper application, to the MBB office. **Note** that this include uploading transcripts and having a supervisor complete form 202 (Part II).

**NOTE:** The MBB department has a different process and deadlines are different from what is posted on the Dean of Graduate Studies website. **ENSURE** you follow the MBB process and deadlines in this email. Interested students have to find a supervisor first and then apply. Make sure to email your supervisor to complete Part II of Form 202 before you submit your final application to NSERC and the MBB office.

**About the Awards**

These awards are meant to stimulate interest in research in the natural sciences and engineering and to encourage undergraduate students to undertake graduate studies and pursue a research career in these fields.

The Vice-President, Research (VPR), will again be supporting VPR USRAs for many of the applicants who are only eligible for a VPR USRA or B-listed for an NSERC USRA . The VPR USRA Sciences is an internal award and only SFU students are eligible.

**Value & Tenure of Award (both the NSERC USRA and the VPR USRA)**

**The value of both awards remains at \$4,500 for the 16-week period of the award.**

**What the student receives**

The USRA award-holder (NSERC and VPR USRA Sciences) receives a minimum of \$5,852 over the 16-week period (\$4,500 USRA award + a minimum \$1,352 Faculty Supplement). The increase in the Faculty Supplement is due to the increase in the hourly wage in British Columbia, effective September 2015.

**For SFU students:** The NSERC or VPR portion of the USRA will be paid to SFU students as an award through the SFU Student Information system (go.sfu.ca). SFU students will receive the \$4,500 award as one lump sum payment within the first month of their appointment. The funds will be paid into their SFU account and will pay any fees owing for the term. Leftover funds will be refunded to them via cheque or direct deposit which will be processed by SFU Accounts.

**For non-SFU students:** They will receive their award in two equal lump sum payments via cheque requisitions. They will receive \$2,250 in the first month and \$2,250 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of their 16-week appointment. We will inform students once the cheques are ready for pick-up.

Students will receive a T4A slip (instead of a T4 slip) for the NSERC or VPR award portion (\$4,500).

**Student Eligibility:**

**Quick Summary**

	<b>NSERC USRA</b>	<b>VPR USRA</b>
Can International students apply?	No	Yes
Can non SFU students apply?	Yes	No
Does funding held by the Supervisor have to be an NSERC grant?	Yes	No
Can the student take courses while holding award?	No	No

## Student Eligibility: NSERC USRA

- Full eligibility criteria are outlined at [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp)
- and on the Graduate Studies website at <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/undergraduate-awards/undergraduate-research-awards.html>
- If you are eligible to apply to the NSERC USRA you need not apply to the VPR awards. If you are B-listed and not successful at NSERC you will be considered for the VPR award.
- Applicants who only apply to the VPR award need only provide unofficial transcripts. **Make sure you choose UNOFFICIAL and NOT Advising transcript when printing your transcripts.**
- When submitting the paper copy of your application to the MBB office you need only provide a copy of your official transcripts. You can keep the original for your records.
- **Regarding transcripts:** The NSERC website states: "Official, up-to-date transcripts for all university programs must be provided. In this context, official transcripts are those that show the name of the institution, the program in which you are enrolled, your complete course of study, your marks and the legend explaining acronyms etc. Therefore, you need to request official transcripts. Be sure to also upload the legend on the back of the transcripts - you only need to upload the legend once at the end of your transcripts.
- **For NSERC USRA:** applicants must email the selected supervisor to complete Form 202 Part II well in advance of the deadline date; the supervisor will need to know the applicant's reference number to do so. The proposed supervisor must complete Form 202 Part II online. The supervisor submits their form online.
- **For VPR USRA:** applicants and the supervisor complete and print the form found at: <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/undergraduate-awards/sciences-awards.html>

## Student Eligibility: VPR USRA Sciences

If students do not meet the eligibility criteria for an NSERC USRA, they may be eligible for a VPR USRA. (For example, international students, or students wishing to work with a faculty member whose research support is not from NSERC). All rules for holding the award remain the same and eligibility criteria and application process can be found on our website. <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/undergraduate-awards/sciences-awards.html>

Note that non-SFU students are not eligible to apply.

## Interdisciplinary Students

Interdisciplinary students (i.e., students who have not yet declared their major or who are applying to a department which is not the department of their major) are permitted to apply. If a student is considering working with more than 1 supervisor on different research projects they are permitted to submit two applications. Furthermore, students with a supervisor who holds a joint faculty appointment can apply to both of the departments in which the faculty member holds the joint appointment. Ultimately, the student can only hold 1 USRA.

## How to Apply

Students eligible for both awards should create an NSERC Online Account and complete the application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award Form 202 (Part I)

Students who are only eligible for a VPR USRA must complete the application form found on the DGS site: <http://www.sfu.ca/dean-gradstudies/awards/undergraduate-awards/sciences-awards.html>

**Eligibility (for the Supervisor/Co-supervisor)**

To ensure the best possible research experience, students holding USRAs must be supervised by faculty members holding NSERC research grants. Supervisors must either have held an active research grant at the time a student applied for the award or have an active research grant at the time the student holds the award. Researchers holding only Research Tools and Instruments, and/or Infrastructure Grants, are not eligible.

Contact time between the USRA holder and supervisor is the key to the program's success. The supervisor must be accessible in person on a regular basis. The proposed supervisor affirms that he/she will comply with these requirements by electronically submitting Form 202 Part II. NSERC allows USRA students to work under the supervision of two NSERC grantees as long as they work on a "genuine" research project allowing them to be exposed to all aspects of the research process. However, students must not move between laboratories on different projects over the 16-week period since this would dilute the value of the experience. One NSERC grantee must be designated as the student's official supervisor. Co-supervision by a non-NSERC grantee is not accepted.

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Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,  
Mimi