

# NOTICE:



## NSERC USRA Competition

**To:** Chairs, Departments with NSERC eligible researchers  
Deans, Faculties of Arts, Science, Veterinary Medicine

**From:** Rabin Bissessur, NSERC USRA Liaison Officer

**Subject:** **2018 Competition - Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)**

**Date:** January 11, 2018

Dear Colleagues,  
The call for applications for the UPEI 2018 NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) is out. Please note that the NSERC USRA applications will be submitted on-line, and the UPEI deadline for on-line submission of COMPLETE applications is no later than 4pm on **February 16, 2018** ([see attached ads to post in your department or unit](#)). UPEI's quota for 2018 has not yet been released and will be circulated as soon as this information is made available.

**Department Chairs: Please**  
**Post the information about the competition and eligible faculty supervisors and otherwise notify any interested students**

### [Information for Students and potential supervisors:](#)

**Please make this information available to eligible supervisors (see attached list) and interested students.**

The application form (FORM 202) and the Program Guide for Students are available electronically and **only** on NSERC's web site ([www.nserc.ca](http://www.nserc.ca)).

**Please note the following UPEI regulations (implemented as of 2017):**

- 1. The minimum eligible average has been raised from 75% to 80%**
- 2. Supervisors are allowed to take part on only two applications**

**Please note the following NSERC regulation:**

**Students must have been registered in a Bachelor's degree at an eligible university in at least one of the 2 terms immediately previous to the award to be eligible to hold a USRA.**

## The Application Process:

<p>Use NSERC Form 202</p> <p><b>UPEI requirement</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <u>Student</u>: Fill out part 1 electronically, and provide your supervisor with your reference number (see attached poster for list of eligible supervisors). <b>Please, note that you have to scan your transcripts as a single PDF file and you have to upload it yourself. If you are successful in the competition you may be asked to submit the official copies of your transcripts for verification before you take up the award.</b> Note: Degree Audit reports will NOT be accepted in lieu of transcripts.</li><li>2. Your supervisor will fill out Part 2, then submit the completed application on-line to the NSERC Liaison Officer by Feb. 16, 2018.</li><li>3. You can pick only one supervisor and project. Consult the list that accompanies this poster to see who is eligible. Supervisors are limited to supporting two student applications.</li><li>4. As part of the application process for UPEI, students are asked to write a letter indicating how they would benefit from the USRA. In the letter, they should demonstrate an understanding of the research project on which they will be working, and comment on how a USRA would further their career and professional objectives. Students should comment on any previous research experience, especially funded through the USRA program, and to discuss any contributions that may have arisen from this research. The letter must also describe the expected outputs from the current research (e.g., report, poster, presentation, etc.). This part of the application should consist of <b>one</b> “free-form” page, and should be sent electronically to the Research Services Administrative Assistant (researchservices@upei.ca)</li></ol>
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### Notes:

Students may submit **only one** application, so must pick one supervisor to work with.

**Supervisors are allowed to take part on only TWO applications.**

Successful student applicants receive \$4500 for 16 weeks of summer employment on a research project with an eligible researcher. Eligible faculty should be reminded that they are responsible for providing the additional stipend required by NSERC for each student, which is a minimum of \$1125.

**Important:** Students are required to work for a continuous 16 week period for these projects, and will be required to indicate that they will be available for work for the full

16 weeks. Holidays are not allowed by NSERC during this time period.

An online tutorial describing the various USRA programs, and how to complete Form 202 online is available at

[http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Tutorial-Tutoriel/Tutorial-Tutoriel\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Tutorial-Tutoriel/Tutorial-Tutoriel_eng.asp)

An NSERC information session will be held by Rabin Bissessur (NSERC Liaison Officer) and Leslie Cudmore (Research Grants Coordinator) on **Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in AVC 287N**. Students, Professors, Chairs and Deans are strongly encouraged to attend.

### **Contact information:**

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Research Grants Coordinator

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- UPEI poster (TO BE POSTED)
- list of eligible faculty members (TO BE POSTED)