

UPEI Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) 2020 – Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any restrictions on the supervisor's eligibility?

UPEI faculty members in any discipline are eligible to supervise. However, supervisors are not eligible if they are supervising a student in Summer 2020 through the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA), Science Undergraduate Research Awards (SURA), Engineering Undergraduate Research Awards (EURA), or the Veterinary Student Research Award (VetSRA) programs. Due to the limited funding available, each supervisor is limited to one URA application.

Can I apply if I applied to another summer research award?

Yes, students can apply if they applied to another award (USRA, SURA, EURA, VetSRA) but were unsuccessful. This UPEI URA is available to any discipline, including those disciplines covered by the other awards. However, the student cannot hold more than one award simultaneously.

I am interested in supervising a student but do not have access to \$1125 to top-up the award. Can I still supervise?

Yes, supervisors can participate even if they do not have access to \$1125 to use as the top-up. A request for the top-up can be noted on the supervisor's application form. A limited amount of top-up funding is available, therefore, supervisors will be asked to declare that they do not have the top-up funds available from other sources.

Does a student need to be identified at the time of application?

Yes, a student needs to be identified at the time of application since these are student applications with faculty identified as a potential supervisor. The qualifications and attributes of the student are an essential component of the evaluation process.

Can graduating students apply for this award?

Yes, students who are graduating in May 2020 can apply for this award. The guidelines have been updated on April 28th to clarify that students registered as of the Winter 2020 semester are eligible to apply.

Can a student who has completed fewer than 10 UPEI courses apply?

Yes, a student who has completed fewer than 10 courses can apply, provided that they have completed at least two full-time academic terms in a Bachelor's degree program at UPEI. The guidelines were updated on April 27th to remove the requirement that the student must have completed at least 10 courses.

When can the student start the project?

The student can begin working on the project any time after the results are announced. Results are anticipated to be available by mid-May or earlier. The student must work 12 consecutive weeks on the project, which must be completed before the start of the Fall 2020 semester.

Can a student with a cumulative average of less than 80% apply?

No. A limited number of awards are available, and the academic excellence of the student is an important component of the evaluation process.

If the proposed project is part of an approved essential research plan, can the student participate?

No, all proposed projects must be entirely online. Research Services will accept an amendment at a later date if there is a role within an approved essential research plan identified. However, only entirely online project proposals will be accepted on the application date.

Is it possible to do campus-based or field-based research if social isolation measures are relaxed during the summer?

Yes, if it is compatible with the approved public health restrictions. However, all URA projects must be established with the *entire* summer research experience executable online. If the submitted proposal depends on *any* return to campus or field research, it will not be accepted.

Will shortened work terms be possible?

No, the award is for 12 weeks of research activities. UPEI expects that students will engage in projects for a minimum of 12 weeks. Longer projects are possible but this will be up to arrangements between the supervisor and the student.

Will projects be allowed to continue part-time in the Fall?

No, projects that start during the summer must be completed during the summer term.

Can the award be postponed until Fall 2020 or Winter 2021?

No, postponements will not be considered.

What is the process for activating the award payments?

Supervisors need to complete the Research Project form to initiate the award payments. Note that UPEI URAs are considered as scholarships and therefore paid as stipend. Please ensure that the student's term is at least 12 weeks. This form is to be returned to Research Services by email (lcudmore@upei.ca).