



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

Undergraduate Student Research Awards 2026

Leslie Cudmore, MSc (she/her)

Research Grants Coordinator

Office of Research Services

Undergraduate Award Opportunities

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
Undergraduate Research Awards (NSERC USRA)

USRAs for Black Student Researchers

Engineering Undergraduate Research Awards (EURA)

Science Undergraduate Research Awards (SURA)

Lévesque Undergraduate Research Awards in Human
Health



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

Overview

Summer research experience

To encourage students to consider graduate studies and/or a research career

Supports projects in the natural sciences and engineering



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

Award Information

NSERC award value of \$6000

14 to 16 consecutive weeks (no provisions for holiday time, sick leave, etc.)

Paid by UPEI as employment; supervisor provides top-up to UPEI pay rates



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

Key Requirements for Students

Registered in a Bachelor's degree program

Have completed at least 1 full year (10 courses) by May 2026

Be a Canadian citizen, Permanent Resident or Protected Person

Minimum 80% cumulative average*

Review all eligibility criteria carefully!



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

Special circumstances

*A lower cumulative average may be considered in exceptional cases where a student has special circumstances that have affected their record of academic achievement. Relevant circumstances might include illness, disability, trauma and loss, parental leave, child-rearing or other family responsibilities, cultural or community responsibilities, or broad socio-economic contexts. Students may attach an additional half-page (max) to their Letter of Interest to address special circumstances. Specify the dates/timeline for any delays or interruptions as needed.



NSERC USRA

Additional Information

Students can hold maximum 3 USRAs throughout UG career

UPEI students will be given priority -> Non-UPEI students require justification based on specialized area of expertise

Supervisors can submit a maximum of TWO applications



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

USRA Application Process

Using NSERC
online system
www.nserc.ca

Student: Form 202
Part 1 + transcripts

Provide
reference
number

Supervisor: Form 202
Part 2

Submit
online

Send
separately

Student: 1 page Letter
of Interest (+ ½ page
special circumstances
if applicable)

Submit to
researchservices
@ upei.ca

DEADLINE:
February 20, 2026 at
4pm



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

UPEI Requirement - Letter of Interest

Demonstrate understanding of the project

Previous research or other experience, including USRA or other undergraduate awards

Expected outcomes, e.g., report, presentation

Career/professional objectives



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

UPEI Adjudication Process

Applications will be screened for eligibility; ineligible applications will not proceed to adjudication

Reviewed and ranked by internal committee: academic record, research aptitude, quality of training/supervision

Email notification of results, typically late-March.
Confirmation of acceptance expected promptly.



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

NSERC USRA

UPEI Quota 2026 = 15

Eligible applications from self-identified Indigenous applicants may be submitted above the institution's quota. UPEI has a quota of two (2) supplementary allocations for an eligible Black student researcher.



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

USRAs for Black Student Researchers – CIHR & SSHRC

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) –
health, health services & products, health care
system

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council
(SSHRC) – build knowledge and understanding
about people, cultures and societies

CIHR and SSHRC USRAs are exclusively for
Black student researchers



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

USRAs for Black Student Researchers – CIHR & SSHRC

Follows NSERC USRA guidelines* & UPEI requirements

Apply using NSERC online system and self-identify as Black

Supervisors can submit one application per agency

UPEI Quota = 1 CIHR & 1 SSHRC

Deadline: **February 20, 2026**

*exception: CIHR USRA can be held in UG professional program in the health sciences (e.g., Nursing)



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

EURa and SURA

Award Information

International Students AND/OR Projects in a
non-NSERC eligible discipline

Requirements and adjudication virtually identical
to NSERC USRA process

Students cannot apply for both USRA and
EURa/SURA



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

EUR A and SURA

Key Requirements for Students

Registered in a Bachelor's degree program

Have completed at least 1 full year (10 courses) by May 2026 in FSDE (for EUR A) or Science (for SURA)

Minimum 80% cumulative average (unless special circumstances)

Confirm supervisor who is a faculty member in FSDE (for EUR A) or Science (for SURA)



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

EURa and SURA

Requirements for Supervisors

Primary appointment in FSDE (for EURa) or Science (for SURA)

Limited to one application

CAN apply to EURa/SURA and USRA



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

EURA and SURA

Application Process

<https://www.upei.ca/research/undergraduate-research-opportunities>

Students

- Complete Application Form Part 1
- Prepare letter of interest (+ optional ½ page special circumstances)
- Attach transcripts
- Submit in one email to researchservices@upei.ca

Supervisors

- Complete Application Form Part 2
- Submit to researchservices@upei.ca

DEADLINE:
February 20, 2026
at 4pm



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

Lévesque Undergraduate Research Awards in Human Health

Supported through the Fondation J.-
Louis Lévesque

International students are eligible to
apply

Human health research projects



UNIVERSITY of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

Lévesque URAs

Students and supervisors are limited to one application

Students cannot also apply for USRA or EURA/SURA

In the limited circumstance in which the faculty member or their department budgets cannot provide the matching contributions, the faculty member can request additional funding from the Fondation J.-Louis Lévesque to cover some or all of the cost of the matching contribution.



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

Lévesque URAs

Application Process

<https://www.upei.ca/research/undergraduate-research-opportunities>

Students

- Complete Application Form Part 1
- Prepare letter of interest (+ optional ½ page special circumstances)
- Attach transcripts
- Submit in one email to researchservices@upei.ca

Supervisors

- Complete Application Form Part 2
- Submit to researchservices@upei.ca

DEADLINE:
February 20, 2026
at 4pm



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

FAQs

Can a supervisor apply for more than one program?

- Yes
- Maximum of 2 NSERC USRAs, 1 CIHR USRA, 1 SSHRC USRA, 1 EURA/SURA, 1 Lévesque URA

Can a student apply for more than one program?

- No



UNIVERSITY of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

FAQs

Are official transcripts required?

- Unofficial transcripts are acceptable
- Must be up-to-date
 - show registration status for current semester
- Official transcripts may be requested for verification purposes



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

FAQs

Is a graduating student eligible to apply?

- Yes, if not starting graduate studies Summer 2026
- Cannot already have completed UG degree unless you are studying toward a second bachelor's degree

Is a first year student eligible to apply?

- Yes, if you will have completed at least 10 courses by May 2026
- Updated transcripts will be required from successful students to confirm



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

FAQs

How many awards are available in 2026?

- 15 NSERC USRAs
 - Applications submitted by self-identified Indigenous applicants are not counted as part of the institutional quota
 - 2 additional allocations for Black student researchers
 - 1 CIHR & 1 SSHRC USRA for Black student researchers
 - 2 SURAs
 - 1 EURA
 - 4 Lévesque URAs



UNIVERSITY *of* PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

	NSERC USRA	CIHR and SSHRC USRAs for Black students	EURA	SURA	Lévesque
International students eligible?	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Eligible disciplines?	Natural sciences and engineering	Health (CIHR); Social sciences and humanities (SSHRC)	All disciplines	All disciplines	Human health- related research
Applications per supervisor?	Two	One CIHR and one SSHRC	One	One	One



Helpful Links

UPEI Calls for Applications and EURA/SURA forms:

<https://www.upei.ca/research/undergraduate-research-opportunities>

Selecting the appropriate federal granting agency:

https://science.gc.ca/eic/site/063.nsf/eng/h_FEE7261A.html

NSERC USRA program description + link to online system login and instructions:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp

NSERC USRA program application tutorial:

https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/Videos-Videos/Index_eng.asp



UNIVERSITY of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

Leslie Cudmore
Research Grants Coordinator
lcudmore@upei.ca | 902-566-0709

people • excellence • impact