

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
(USRA)
Departmental Application Form 2023

The Summer NSERC USRA is a competitive award.

Students registered in a 4-year Honours degree program in Queen's PSYC, and who are in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.00 (A) will be given priority. Details of the selection criteria are outlined on page 5.

You must work under the supervision of a faculty member. The Psychology Faculty members listed on our [departmental NSERC page](#) are accepting applications for summer 2023. Please follow up with them directly via email with your unofficial transcript.

Once you have received their approval, please complete **sections A and B** of this application form and send your completed application by email to ug.psy@queensu.ca by **Friday February 24 at 6PM EST**. Please copy your Faculty supervisor on the email.

We will contact applicants by email starting **Friday March 17** notifying them whether they have been nominated for the award.

Please, do not fill out the official NSERC application form prior to sending the departmental application form. Once we know which students are nominated by the PSYC NSERC USRA Committee, we will be in touch with them about the NSERC form.

SECTION A: Personal and Academic Information

I wish to apply for an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award for Summer 2023

I have read the eligibility criteria as outlined on the NSERC website (please select): Y / N
https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Students-Etudiants/UG-PC/USRA-BRPC_eng.asp

I have previously been awarded the PSYC NSERC USRA award (please select): Y / N

First and Last Name: _____

Student Number: _____

Queen's Email Address: _____

Degree Plan: _____
 (e.g. PSYC Major Arts, PSYC Major Science, BIPS, Joint Honours Arts)

Year in Degree Plan: _____

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
(USRA)
Departmental Application Form 2023

We share values with the Government of Canada: Equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) strengthen research communities and the quality, social relevance and impact of research. For more information, see the tri-council presidents' [Open Letter to the Research Community](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions about the Self-identification Questionnaire](#).

The questions below are primarily based on the current standard used by Statistics Canada in the Census, and wording from the Employment Equity Act. If you have comments or suggestions regarding this data collection, please send these directly to NSERC via nseequity-equitesng@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

- 1) Select the option that best describes your current gender identity:
 - ☐ Gender-fluid
 - ☐ Man
 - ☐ Nonbinary
 - ☐ Trans man
 - ☐ Trans woman
 - ☐ Two-spirit
 - ☐ Woman
 - ☐ I don't identify with any option provided
 - ☐ I prefer not to answer

- 2) Select the sexual orientation that best describes how you currently think of yourself.
 - ☐ Asexual
 - ☐ Bisexual
 - ☐ Gay
 - ☐ Heterosexual
 - ☐ Lesbian
 - ☐ Pansexual
 - ☐ Queer
 - ☐ Two-Spirit
 - ☐ I don't identify with any option provided
 - ☐ I prefer not to answer

- 3) There are additional awards for students who self-identify as Indigenous. NSERC notes that "Indigenous peoples" is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. "Aboriginal peoples" is also often used as a synonym. For the purposes of this program, NSERC uses the *Canadian Constitution Act, 1982* definition of Aboriginal peoples as including the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
(USRA)
Departmental Application Form 2023

Do you self-identify as Indigenous?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

4) There are additional awards for students who self-identify as Black. Do you self-identify as Black?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

5) The [Employment Equity Act](#) defines visible minorities as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour".

Do you self-identify as a member of a visible minority in Canada?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

6) The [Accessible Canada Act](#) defines disability as "any impairment, including a physical, mental, intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment—or a functional limitation—whether permanent, temporary or episodic in nature, or evident or not, that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society."

Do you identify as a person with a disability as described in the Act?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

7) What language(s) did you first learn at home in childhood and still understand? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ English
- ☐ French
- ☐ Another language
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

8) What language(s) do you speak most often at home? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ English
- ☐ French
- ☐ Another language
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
(USRA)
Departmental Application Form 2023

SECTION B – Your Research Interest Statement

The Undergraduate Student Research Awards are allocated on a combination of academic excellence (as gauged by student GPA) and on research aptitude (as gauged by research motivation, understanding of the research potential that the award would generate, and past experience) indicated in the Research Interest Statement.

The selection committee is not concerned with the specifics of the research area or topic that you wish to pursue, but is very interested in your original perspectives on research in general, and the potential benefits of this award to you. Please answer each of the following three questions in your statement:

- 1) Why are you interested in this particular research area?
- 2) What research and analytic skills do you expect to develop as a result of this immersive research experience? How will this experience contribute to your professional development?
- 3) Have you had research experience previously? Why or why not? (Note: Our goal is to provide students with equitable access to research experiences—previous research is *not* required to win this award)

Note that your statement should be concise and is limited to a maximum of one side of a free-form page document (word or pdf). 12 size font double spaced.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT
NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award
(USRA)
Departmental Application Form 2023

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards - Selection Criteria for Queen's Psychology Department

1. Eligibility: The NSERC USRA is a competitive award. Students registered in a 4-year Honours degree program in Queen's PSYC, and who are in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 4.0 (A) will be given priority. First year students are not eligible, and students with cumulative GPA <3.70 are not likely to be competitive for consideration.
2. Ranking of applicants will be based on three main criteria: (1) PSYC GPA for all completed PSYC courses, (2) student research interest statement, (3) cumulative GPA and the supplemental factors described below.
3. Supplemental factors: The PSYC NSERC USRA Committee aims to distribute the available awards over all years of study (2,3,4). The PSYC NSERC USRA Committee will favour a first-time applicant over a returning applicant that has been awarded an NSERC USRA already, if all else is equal in the interest of sharing the limited number of awards among promising students.

NOTES:

The work conducted under an NSERC USRA project is not to overlap work with work in PSYC501, 570/575, or SWEP research projects (research projects carried out under the Queen's Summer Work Experience Program). This is so that dual credit is not assigned for the same work.

NSERC expects universities to endeavor to ensure a minimum 50% participation rate by female students and Queen's University and Queen's Psychology are committed to equity and diversity in all programs and activities and welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, BIPOC, Aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ persons.

In addition to NSERC's commitment to inclusion, the Psychology Department encourages applications from all qualified individuals. The Department is committed to diversity, and welcomes applications from women, visible minorities, Aboriginal Peoples, persons with disabilities, and persons of any sexual orientation or gender identity.

Students who are nominated by the PSYC NSERC USRA Committee for an award will then complete the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award application form, Part 2. The UG Assistant is available for support with these forms, if needed.