NSERC
Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)
Information Package

The USRA Award
The NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards are designed to stimulate interest in the areas of natural science and engineering in an effort to encourage students to partake in graduate studies to pursue a research career in either of these fields.

The awards are meant for those who would like to gain research work experience in an academic setting and that compliments current studies. These monetary awards, coupled with contributions from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the University of Alberta, can also provide sound financial support for students.

Benefits to the applicant include the following:
- These are highly coveted and acclaimed awards. Securing an award will place you in a good position for future acknowledgement in your field
- You will be paid for your time, doing something you like, in the field in which you want to build a career.
- You will conduct original research
- There is a good possibility that student results will be published in peer-reviewed journals
- If you choose to pursue graduate studies, obtaining this award will be a very important first step to securing additional funding for future projects that interest you
- If you choose to work in industry, you will be able to provide a solid and professional portfolio that outlines your ability to be broad and diverse in your professional scope
- Attendance at well known conferences could occur
- You can choose your time-frame of work (summer placement or co-operatively during the year)
Financial Gains:
This award will cover *Full-Time* work (a duration of 16 weeks) on a research project in the natural sciences and engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Alberta.

NSERC will provide the recipient with $4,500.00, and the supervisor and department will together provide $2,250.00 for a total minimum expected wage of $6,750.00.

Based on the nature of the project and qualifications of the student, the supervisor and the Department may provide a stipend above this minimum amount. However, it is expected that the final amount received will not deviate significantly from the minimum shown above.

This looks good – am I eligible?

*Eligibility to apply for the USRA includes the following:*
  - The applicant must be a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident of Canada; and
  - At the time the applicant applies, he/she must be registered in a bachelor’s degree program at the University of Alberta; and
  - The applicant must have obtained (over the previous years of study) a cumulative average of no less than a Second Class – which is a grade of ‘B’ or a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

**Caution…In order to be eligible to RECEIVE the award (please read carefully):**
  - The applicant MUST have completed all of the course requirements of at least the *First Year* of university study (or two academic terms) of his/her bachelor’s degree;
  - The applicant MUST have been registered *Full Time* in the term immediately before accepting the award (except for the final term);
  - The applicant MUST NOT have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award. *(NOTE: The applicant could do this research activity in the summer or during the term as a co-op project).*
**How do I apply?**

**Step One:**
Speak with a professor regarding potential projects. You will have an opportunity to tour the laboratories of several professors. If you wish, you may speak with the faculty members whose research area is of interest to you.

**Step Two:**
Complete the *Application for an Undergraduate Student Research Award – Part I of Form 202* online at the NSERC web site (see URL below).

**Step Three:**
Send the completed application to the proposed supervisor of the project, including your current official transcripts. The proposed supervisor will need your information to complete *Part II of Form 202* (Last name and NSERC Reference Number).

**Step Four:**
With the assistance of your supervisor, prepare a *Project Outline*, highlighting your role. The outline should be about 1470 characters (with spaces).

**For more information...**

*NSERC webpage:* www.nserc.gc.ca/sf_e.asp?nav=sfnav&lbi=la  
*Dr. Dan Sameoto:* Room 5-01L / Tel: 248-2052 / E-mail: sameoto@ualberta.ca

**Good Luck!**