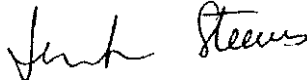


# Memorandum

To: Distribution

From: Jennifer Steeves, Associate Dean – Research & Graduate Education  


Date: January 15, 2021

Subject: **Dean's Undergraduate Research Awards (DURA)**

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With the dual goals of enhancing the research culture within the Faculty and providing more experiential learning opportunities for our students, the Faculty of Science is pleased to launch the **2021 Dean's Undergraduate Research Award (DURA) program**. These awards are complementary to the NSERC USRA program, thus making it possible for more of our top undergraduate students, including international students, to contribute to research in the Faculty of Science.

The DURA program will run in parallel to the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) program. The value, structure and eligibility requirements of the DURAs are similar to those of the NSERC USRA program, with two exceptions: **(1) only undergraduates in York's Faculty of Science are eligible for the DURAs; (2) international undergraduates enrolled at the Faculty of Science are also eligible to apply to the DURA program**. We are delighted to offer twelve DURA awards this summer.

## Eligibility Requirements and Conditions of the Award

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- a) The value of the award is \$7,980 for 16 consecutive weeks. Faculty members must contribute \$1,500 towards the award.
- b) Only undergraduates / supervisors in the Faculty of Science at York are eligible for the DURA program, and this award can only be held during the summer session.
- c) **The Faculty expects students to work the full term**. The departments must make the students aware that the awards are for the full 16 weeks, full-time hours.
- d) Students must apply for the NSERC USRA program to be considered for the DURA program. All eligible, but unsuccessful, applicants to the USRA program in the Faculty of Science will automatically be considered for the DURA program. No additional application is required.



Applications from international students will be considered eligible for a DURA. To gain access to the forms on the NSERC USRA application portal, international students should indicate they are a Canadian Citizen.

**Application process:**

- Fill out **PART I** of Form 202 (NSERC's online system)
- Forward Reference Number to supervisor
- NEW: In a separate document, provide a 1 paragraph Research Interest Statement describing their research interest in the professor/research group, past experience (lab or course-related) and skills they will bring to the project, benefits they gain from the DURA experience and how the training environment they selected aligns with their career goals and academic interests

**Supervisors:**

- Fill out **PART II** of Form 202, including
  - Appropriate Reference Number
  - Specific, detailed research proposal (max. 1800 characters)
  - Description of student's role (max. 500 characters)
  - NEW: As per the new guidelines, the quality of the training environment will be used to assess the application. Please include a **brief training plan**, either in the research proposal or student's role section, that describes the proposed training including the type and extent of supervision and mentorship, the activities the student will participate in, the skills and other outcomes they will gain. Note that the **inclusion of EDI considerations** in research design makes research more ethically sound, rigorous and useful. Describe how these aspects will be addressed in the research design if applicable.
    - Typically, students are encouraged to work 16 consecutive weeks. May 3, 2021 will be the suggested start date for all awardees unless special arrangements are made with the supervisor. August 20, 2020 will be the end date for the complete 16 weeks.
    - Research subject code: This must be from the list located at: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/help-aide/scholarshipcodes-codespourbourses\\_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/help-aide/scholarshipcodes-codespourbourses_eng.asp)

- e) A completed and signed application package must be submitted electronically (see electronic submission email list below) by **Friday February 26, 2021**. Full application packages must include:
- Form 202: Part I (student) & Part II (supervisor, including research project & training plan)
  - 1 paragraph Research Interest Statement (student)

**Electronic submission:**

[bioaward@yorku.ca](mailto:bioaward@yorku.ca) - Department of Biology  
[machform](#) submission – Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Department of Chemistry, Division of Natural Science & Department of Science & Technology

- f) 1 paragraph Research Interest Statement (student)
- g) Notification of award will be issued by the **end of March 2021**.

- h) Students will have one week to accept/reject the award. Students who accept the award are encouraged to participate in a virtual Undergraduate Research Conference in the third week of August 2021 to present their research in a poster or oral presentation.
- i) Recipients must devote their full time to research and are not permitted to take any additional employment (assistantships, etc.). Recipients may be permitted to register for a three credit degree course during the tenure of the award, outside of regular working hours. They may not hold more than three DURA awards during their university career.
- j) Applicants must be undertaking an eligible bachelor degree program in the natural sciences and must have successfully completed at least 30 credits of their degree program by **April 30, 2021**.
- k) Candidates who hold higher degrees in natural sciences or engineering, or are candidates for an undergraduate professional degree in health sciences (e.g. M.D., D.D.S., B.Sc.N.) are not eligible.
- l) Students must have an overall minimum GPA of 6.0 or above (a minimum grade of "B") in order to be considered for this award.

JS/js