

Summer Research Award Programs 2025

Lassonde Undergraduate Research Award (LURA)

NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)

Application Guidelines

BACKGROUND

The LURA and NSERC USRA programs are designed to enhance the undergraduate student experience by providing an opportunity to conduct research within the Lassonde School of Engineering. These two programs are administrated by the Lassonde Research Support Office (RSO) with the assistance of the departments.

AWARD DETAILS

Value:

Total award value: **\$10,000¹**

This award is not dependent on the student’s financial need. Full details are available on our [website](#).

Eligibility:

	LURA	NSERC USRA ²
Student Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only undergraduate students who are enrolled in a full-time* program that will make them eligible for one of the Lassonde graduate programs. International students can apply (up to 9 awards available) 1 year of undergraduate completed by the time of the award is preferred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All undergraduate students, enrolled full-time in a bachelor’s degree program in Natural Sciences and Engineering “B-” cumulative GPA Must be Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident/protected person Must have completed all course requirements of at least the first year of study at the time of the award
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to not have started a program of graduate studies during the award York and non-York students are eligible 	

¹ The award amount for NSERC USRA may be subject to change.

² More details on eligibility can be found on the [NSERC website](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may not enroll in more than two (2) three-credit courses during the tenure of the award. Must have supervisor permission. • Both USRA and LURA can count as Co-op for eligible students. Contact the Lassonde Co-op Office for details. 	
Supervisor Eligibility	All Lassonde professors	All Lassonde professors

*For LURA, exceptions are made for students with “reduced course load full-time status” or other accommodations with Student Accessibility Services. Students are expected to notify the RSO of any accommodations within the online application. The RSO will confirm the status of accommodations with Student Accessibility Services.

For the NSERC USRA, all applicants must be registered in a bachelor’s degree program in Natural Sciences and Engineering. (New) For LURA, only undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program that will make them eligible to apply to one of the Lassonde graduate programs will be considered.

Further information on NSERC USRAs can be found on the NSERC [website](#).

NSERC USRA Indigenous and Black Student Initiative

NSERC encourages qualified Indigenous and Black students to apply to this program by supporting an unlimited number of positions for eligible Indigenous candidates with a number of extra positions for black-identifying students. The Indigenous and Black student USRA awards are adjudicated alongside the NSERC USRA awards.

NEW THIS YEAR

1. Graduate Recruitment Initiative

- The supervisors’ recruitment plan holds weight in the adjudication of the application. See the adjudication section for details.

2. Improvements to the program

Due to a high volume of applications, the eligibility criteria of future applicants have been expanded along with other improvements to the program.

- Only undergraduate students enrolled full-time in an undergraduate program that will make them eligible to apply to one of the Lassonde graduate programs will be considered for the LURA award.
- Mid-term Check-ins and performance evaluations for supervisors and students will be conducted.
- Poor performance by the students during the summer program will impact future applications of the students.
- Student attendance at the conference is obligatory. Lack of attendance will disqualify students from future competitions. See details on exceptions below.

- Positions available to international students are limited (up to 9).
- Students are not permitted to hold RAY, work-study, or other research positions within York in tandem with the summer research awards.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Details on the scheduled information sessions can be found on our [website](#).

January 14, 2025	Competitions are open
February 13, 2025	Students must obtain a signed supervisor endorsement form from the supervisor (to be attached to the student application)
February 18, 2025, 9 am.	Last day for students to apply for award(s)
March 17-21, 2025	Award results will be announced
May-August, 2025	Awards will be held (16 mandatory weeks)
August 14, 2025	Mandatory participation in the Lassonde Undergraduate Summer Student Research Conference

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR STUDENTS

Interested students can find potential projects posted [here](#); however, they are free to contact any professor in the Lassonde School of Engineering independently. Although students can contact several professors, they must commit to only one professor and collect endorsement from them only. Applications must be submitted online by **February 18, 2025, at 9 a.m.** The link to apply can be found on [Fluidreview](#).

Required application components

- Contact Details (online form)
- Self-Identification Survey (optional)
 - Students are strongly encouraged to complete the self-identification survey to qualify for the Indigenous and Black Identifying NSERC USRA positions. Proof of Indigenous status may be required.
- Resume (as an attachment 2 pg. maximum)
- Research Interest Statement (as an attachment 1 pg.)
- [Supervisor Endorsement Form](#)
 - Once students have secured a professor's interest, they must have them complete and sign the endorsement form and return to students by February 13 for them to include it in the application.
- Transcript
 - **York University Students** – Upload an unofficial transcript OR upload a grade report AND course and grade list – instructions are provided through the Registrar's Office - <https://registrar.yorku.ca/index.php/transcripts>.
 - The cGPA of all internal students will be verified by the Research Support Office.
 - **Non-York University Students** - Official transcripts are required. Students should consult their registrar's office for details on how to obtain their transcripts. Transcripts issued to

students are not accepted. Students can arrange with their registrar's office to have the transcripts directly emailed (resday@yorku.ca) or mailed (*Sosan Nasar, Dean's Office- Research Support, Bergeron Centre for Engineering Excellence, 11 Arboretum Lane, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto ON. M3J 1P3*) to our office directly. MyCreds.ca can also be used to share the official transcripts with our office. If needed, students can contact resday@yorku.ca for support.

- The cGPA of the external applicants will be converted to York metric by the registrar's office.

For USRA Applicants only

- We will not use the NSERC forms 202 in the initial application process.
- Forms 202 will be used only after internal adjudication. Both successful USRA students and their supervisors will have to register online to be able to complete the application.
- Successful USRA applicants will be instructed to upload official transcripts to the NSERC portal at a later date.

ADJUDICATION

Applications will be adjudicated by a departmental selection committee, using the following criteria:

- 50% GPA (cumulative)
- 30% Research Potential (based on the statement of research interest and previous research experience)
- **(NEW)** 20% Supervisor Endorsement (based on a good graduate recruitment and summer research learning plan)

The adjudication is done by departmental committees with support from the Dean's office.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Notification of awards will be issued by mid-March. Students will have a two-week deadline to accept or reject the offer of award. Financial processes will follow the acceptance of awards. The award is deposited into the students' bank accounts monthly. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure their banking information is up to date with the [Student Financial Services](#) to receive funds. Non-York students will be paid through payroll. The Research Support Office will connect with those students to set up payment.

DURATION OF AWARD

The duration of the award program is 16 weeks (full-time at 35 hours per week) between May and August. To allow for work-life balance students are strongly discouraged from employment outside of York during the term of the award. **(NEW)** Students are not permitted to hold RAY, work-study or other research positions within York in tandem with the summer research awards. These award programs do not allow for vacation and sick leave. Missed time must be made up in consultation with the supervisor.

SUMMER RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The summer research programs will be celebrated with a research conference in mid-August 2025, tentatively August 14 this year, providing students with an opportunity to present their summer research. Every award recipient will be required to participate and present their research project at the Undergraduate Summer Research Conference. Lack of attendance will disqualify students from future competitions. Exceptions may include sickness and pre-scheduled project fieldwork that is not local and can't be rescheduled. Vacations are not an eligible reason to miss the conference.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STUDENT

- Be familiar with the guidelines of the program to ensure participation in mandatory workshops/conference and information collection forms.
- Meet with the supervisor regularly to discuss the assigned work and progress and clarify work expectations.
- Honor their work commitments.
- Take the appropriate required safety training and follow safety protocols.
- Report any concerns to the [Research Support office](#) (RSO) promptly.
- **(NEW)** Complete the midterm check-in and the final evaluation surveys for the summer program.
- Student attendance at the conference is required. Lack of attendance will disqualify students from future competitions. See details on exceptions.

INFORMATION FOR PROFESSORS

- **Supervisors are required** to fill out the [Supervisor Endorsement Form](#) for each student to apply. Supervisors are requested to review “Memo to Faculty” for details pertaining to their role and financial contribution.

Decolonization, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Indigenous and black-identifying students are encouraged to apply: NSERC USRAs awarded to Indigenous students do not count towards the university's quota.

The Lassonde School of Engineering supports an inclusive research environment to strengthen the research community through decolonization, equity, diversity, and inclusion. We aim to increase the participation of women and underrepresented groups in the program and strive to reach a balanced representation in the trainees' population.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Research Support Office at resday@yorku.ca or visit our [website](#).