

NSERC-USRA and USSRF

Department of Psychology Application Form 2024

The Summer **NSERC-USRA** (Undergraduate Student Research Award) and **USSRF** (Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship) awards are competitive awards that provide funding for working in a research lab over the summer.

Students registered in a 4-year Honours degree program in Queen's PSYC, and who are in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year with competitive grades will be given priority. Details of the selection criteria are outlined towards the end of this document.

You must work under the supervision of a faculty member. The Psychology Faculty members listed on our [departmental NSERC-USRA and USSRF page](#) are accepting applications for summer 2024. Please follow up with them directly via email with your unofficial transcript to see whether they would be willing to supervise you for one of these awards.

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.psyc@queensu.ca by **Friday February 2, 2024 at 6PM EST**. Please copy your faculty supervisor on the email.

We will contact applicants by email starting **Friday February 23, 2024** notifying them whether they have been nominated for an award. Please note that if you receive an award, you must officially accept the award no later than **Tuesday February 27, 2024**.

We wish you best success with your application!

SECTION A: Personal and Academic Information**PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION:****I wish to apply for an NSERC USRA for Summer 2024****I wish to apply for a USSRF for Summer 2024****I wish to apply to be considered for either award**

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

I have read the USSRF eligibility criteria as outlined on USSRF website (please select):
Y N
<https://www.queensu.ca/vpr/funding/internal/ussrf/faqs>

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

I have previously been awarded the USSRF award at Queen's (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:

Name of proposed faculty supervisor:

Title of proposed research project:

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. We invite you to share your responses if you are comfortable. This allows us to speak to diversity of award winners. 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.

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

SECTION B – Your Written Interest Statement

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

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. Please insert your Written Interest Statement into this application form.

NSERC USRA and USSRF - Selection Criteria for Queen's Psychology Department

- 1) Eligibility: Students registered in a 4-year Honours degree program in Queen's PSYC, and who are in 2nd, 3rd or 4th year will be given priority. First year students are not eligible.

Because there are limited awards available, these awards are competitive, and GPA factors heavily into decision making. That said, we do encourage students to apply if they are interested in research awards. Applicants should normally have a cGPA of at least a 'B', consistent with NSERC recommendations but historically, students with GPAs with 3.70 and higher have been competitive for NSERC awards. Historical data for USSRFs is not yet available.

Please note that in addition to the awards above, there are **additional NSERC USRA award opportunities for students who identify as Black, and students who identify as Indigenous**. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for these if they are interested, as there are more awards available. Applicants should normally have a cGPA of at least a B, consistent with NSERC recommendations, and all students who identify as Black, or who identify as Indigenous, who meet this requirement are strongly encouraged to apply.

- 2) Ranking of applicants will be based on three main criteria: (1) PSYC GPA for all completed PSYC courses, (2) student written application (section B of the application form), (3) cumulative GPA and the supplemental factors described below.
- 3) Supplemental factors: The Adjudication Committee aims to distribute the available awards over all years of study (2,3,4). The Adjudication Committee will favour a first-time applicant over a returning applicant that has been awarded an award already, if all else is equal in the interest of sharing the limited number of awards among promising students.

Students who are nominated for an NSERC-USRA award by the Adjudication 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.

NOTES:

Please note that if you are awarded a USSRF award, you agree to submit an abstract at the Inquiry@Queen's journal upon completion of your summer research.

The work conducted under an NSERC-USRA or USSRF 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.