

**Department of Biology**  
**NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Award**  
**Internal Application Form 2021 - Part 1**

To be eligible for an award, you should be registered in year 2, 3, or 4 of a Queen's BSH Major Biology, SSP Biology, ENSC SSP Biology, BIMA, BIPS or BTEC degree plan and must have obtained a minimum GPA of 3.3 for all completed courses. Details of the selection criteria are outlined on the last page of this application form.

Please complete sections A and B of this application (sections A and B) and send your completed application by email to [ug.biology@queensu.ca](mailto:ug.biology@queensu.ca) **no later than 3:00 pm January 15, 2021**. You are encouraged to discuss possible opportunities for supervision of summer research projects with Biology Faculty members ahead of time, but you should be aware that faculty members are under no obligations to make any promises to students (Do not fill out the official NSERC application form until you are asked to complete it, which would occur only if you are nominated by the Department). Nomination letters will be sent out to successful candidates during the first week of February (2021).

**Section A - Personal and Academic Information**

I wish to apply for an NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Award

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Year in Degree Plan: \_\_\_\_\_ (2nd, 3rd, or 4th)

Queen's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Internal Application Part 1**

### **Section B – The Research Interest Statement**

The Undergraduate Summer Research Awards are allocated on a combination of academic Excellence (as gauged by student GPA and performance in Biology courses), 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 four questions in separate sections of your statement:

- 1) Why are you enthusiastic about this opportunity to do research?
- 2) What specific learning outcomes do you anticipate this award would provide?
- 3) How do you envision the USRA contributing to your future career development?
- 4) Describe any formal or other research experiences that you may have had. What impacts have these experiences had on you?

Note that your statement should be concise and is limited to an absolute maximum of one side of a free-form page document (preferably as a pdf file) (Formatting requirements: Times New Roman font; font size 12; single-spaced text; and 2 cm margins). It is strongly advised that your statement lacks obvious personal identifiers if possible, such as your given name. Add your statement using the provided text box and submit as one pdf file (title your pdf file with your student number only and remove identifiers from your file credentials – done through the file's Properties menu). We will be redacting your name and email address in Section A before releasing your application to the Selection Committee.



**NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards - Selection Criteria for the Queen's  
Department of Biology**

1. Eligibility: Students must be registered in a 4-year Honours degree program in Queen's BIOL and must be in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year and have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 (B+). First year students and students with cumulative GPA <3.3 are not eligible.
2. Ranking of applicants will be based on three main criteria: (1) cumulative GPA for all completed courses, and (2) an equally weighted Research Interests Statement (RIS) with (3) ties resolved by cumulative GPA for completed Biology courses and the supplemental factors described below.
3. Supplemental factors: First, preference will be granted to 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. NSERC's goal with these awards is to encourage students to pursue a research career, and we expect that competitive 4<sup>th</sup> year students on this career path probably will have already been formally accepted in a graduate program. Such students may have access to scholarships and NSERC support from sources that are unavailable to other undergraduates. We encourage fourth year students to pursue these alternatives rather than using an NSERC undergraduate award as "bridging" support. Second, the Awards Committee will favour a first-time applicant over a returning applicant if all else is equal in the interest of sharing the limited number of awards among promising students.

The work conducted under an NSERC USRA project is not to overlap, nor be a part of work used in BIOL537 or 541 (the Undergraduate Thesis courses), Research Mentorship courses (BIOL538, 539, and 540), Independent Study courses (BIOL594, 595, 596, 597, and 598), and SWEP research projects (research projects carried out under the Queen's Summer Work Experience Program).

NSERC expects universities to endeavour to ensure a minimum 50% participation rate by female students and Queen's University and Queen's Biology 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.

Students who are nominated by the Undergraduate Studies Committee for an award will then complete the NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Award application form, Part 2.