

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY
CIHR Black Student Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA)

2024 APPLICATION GUIDELINES

The Department of Physiology invites summer studentship applications for the CIHR Black Student Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA). The USRA provides research experience that complements the degree program which will encourage students who self-identify as black to consider graduate studies and pursue careers in the health sciences. Students accepted into the program will work on a specific research project under the supervision of a faculty member and may meet on a weekly basis for group seminars and discussion at the discretion of their supervisor.

All students are required to:

- Submit a written final report with a length of at least three double-spaced pages (not including references)
- Give a 10–15-minute presentation of their research at the end of July (date to be determined).
- Both the report and presentation should address the nature of research conducted by the student including: the scientific background relevant for the research topic, objectives/hypotheses, methodology, results, discussion, and conclusions.
- The supervisor should provide the student with feedback on the report and presentation, and a copy of the final report must be submitted to the Program Coordinator by August 31, 2024.

Duration:

- Students are expected to engage in full-time research for 16 full consecutive weeks between May 1st and September 1st, as agreed upon with the supervisor. The full stipend is a minimum of **\$7,500** (\$6000 from CIHR USRA + a minimum of \$1,500 paid by the sponsoring professor).

Eligibility:

- Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- Registered either full-time or part-time (at the time of application) in a bachelor's degree program in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award. A student is still eligible if they already hold a bachelor's degree if they are currently studying towards a second bachelor's degree.
- Must have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least second class (a grade of B or B-).
- Must have completed, at the time of application, a minimum of two academic terms/semesters. Note that current first-year students are therefore not eligible.
- Graduating students may hold the award in the term immediately following the completion of their undergraduate program requirements if they have not started a

program of graduate studies.

- Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the award tenure.
- Are supervised by a faculty member who meets [CIHR's Eligibility Criteria for Faculty](#) and can independently supervise students as per their appointment.
- All USRA Applicants and their PI Supervisors must complete an application on NSERC's Online system, selecting the agency to which the application applies (CIHR). The research being proposed must fall within the mandate of CIHR.

USRA Program Links:

- 🔗 Instructions on how to complete a USRA Application: [Instructions for USRA applications](#)
- 🔗 To complete a USRA Application on NSERC's on-line site: [Completing a USRA Application](#)
- 🔗 For information on the USRA program: [USRA Program](#)

Interested students should:

1. Seek a position with a faculty member of the Department of Physiology who is willing to supervise you and to complete the sponsorship agreement providing a minimum of \$1,500 for the duration of the studentship program (i.e., minimum 16 consecutive weeks).
2. Submit a complete application by **February 27, 2024**, including the application form (Form 202 Part 1 and 2; see links above for completing USRA application), resume or curriculum vitae (CV), list of 2-3 references, official academic transcript(s), and the sponsorship agreement form. Only complete applications received by the deadline date from students meeting the eligibility criteria will be reviewed.

Date

Undergraduate Program
Department of Physiology
Medical Sciences Building
1 King's College Circle, Room 3368
Toronto, ON M5S 1A8

Dear Awards Committee:

**RE: CIHR Black Student Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) Summer 2024
Supervisor Agreement Letter**

I agree to sponsor _____ for a CIHR Black Student Undergraduate Student Research Award in my laboratory during the summer of 2024. I confirm that I meet [CIHR's Eligibility Criteria](#) for Faculty and can independently supervise students as per my appointment with the university.

I agree to assign a suitable research project, to supervise this student throughout the summer program, and to ensure that the student has the appropriate safety / ethics training. I understand that the student is expected to work for an agreed upon duration of at least 16 consecutive weeks during the summer.

I also agree to provide a stipend of at least \$1,500 for this student, if the student has been granted a Black Student CIHR Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA). The funds administered by the Research Services Office will be used to provide the student with an additional \$6,000 for a total stipend of \$7,500.

Sincerely,

Signature of Supervisor