



Memo

To: Distribution

From: Sylvie Morin, Associate Dean, Research & Graduate Education

Date: January 11, 2016

Subject: Dean's Undergraduate Research Awards (DURA)

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 Dean's Undergraduate Research Award (DURA) program this year. These awards are designed to supplement the quota provided by NSERC for the summer USRA program, thus making it possible for more of our top undergraduate students to contribute to research in the Faculty of Science.

The DURA program will run in parallel to the usual NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) program. The value, structure and eligibility requirements of the DURAs are similar to those of the usual 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 are also eligible to apply for the DURA program. Thanks to the generosity of York Science alumnus Dr. Scott Tanner, we are able to offer up to five DURAs this summer.

Full details on the 2016 NSERC USRA program along with York University's quota have been released in parallel with this call. A call for applications was sent out along with application guidelines, eligibility requirements and all additional information. Eligibility requirements and conditions for the DURA program are given below.

I. Eligibility Requirements and Conditions of the Award

- (a) The value of the award is \$4,500 for 16 consecutive weeks. Faculty members must pay the student at least 25% (\$1,125) on top of this.
- (b) Only undergraduates 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.
- (e) Notification of award will be issued by **Mid March 2016**.
- (f) Students must accept/reject the awards by **April 1, 2016**.
- (g) 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 one degree credit course during the tenure of the award, outside of regular working hours. They may not hold more than three USRA or DURA awards during their university career.
- (h) Applicants must be undertaking an eligible bachelor degree program in the natural sciences or engineering and must have successfully completed at least 18 credits of their degree program by **December 31, 2015**. This award is only available to students in their final 2 years of study.
- (i) Students must work under the supervision of a faculty member who holds an active NSERC research grant (research, collaborative opportunities or collaborative health, genomics, research partnerships) either at the time of application, or when the award is held.
- (j) 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.
- (k) Students must have an overall minimum GPA above 8.0 in order to be considered for this award.

