UVic Science Emerging Researcher Awards (SERA – Graduate Students)

Information for supervisors and administrators

Four <u>graduate</u> awards to be distributed across the Faculty, adjudicated by the Faculty of Science Research Advisory Committee. The award provides $6,000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of $3,000 from the research supervisor.

Application Procedures and Deadlines

- Part 1 and Part 3 of the application must be completed by the student, Part 2 of the application must be completed by research supervisor and co-supervisor (as necessary).

- Approval of the student's primary supervisor is required.

- The deadline for students to submit their application is set by the Department/School; recommendations from the Department/School to the Dean's office are due on June 15 (maximum two per unit).

- A faculty member from the Department/School EDI committee will serve on the relevant committee of the Department/School to ensure EDI principles are upheld during the nomination process.

UVic Science Emerging Researcher Awards
(SERA – Graduate Students)

An anonymous donor has provided funds for awards to support graduate student research, with emphasis on supporting members of a group with historical and/or current barriers to equity, including but not limited to:

- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;

- members of groups that currently or historically experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;

- persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities;

- persons who identify as women; and

- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

The intention of the award is to provide graduate students with opportunities to gain a new research experience, or learn a new skill that might not otherwise be available. For example, visiting a collaborator's lab for a collaborative research experience learning a new research technique, or supporting a field research experience that could not otherwise be supported by the supervisor. This research experience could be a part of the graduate degree program (and a part of the thesis/project) or it could be in addition to the degree program.

A student holding the award must perform research under the supervision or co-supervision of a regular Member of the Faculty of Science at UVic. If co-supervised, both supervisors must be specified and sign the application. It is expected that the student works full-time on the project for four months over one academic term, prior to continuing graduate studies in a subsequent term. A student may take up the award in the Summer (May-Aug), Fall (Sep-Dec), or Winter (Jan-Apr) term, as agreed between the student and their supervisor. The awards are not intended to support a student performing research on a part-time basis, or for research performed outside the term during which the student is to be engaged in their research project.

Value of awards

The award for graduate students provides $6000 from the Faculty of Science plus a minimum of $3000 from the research supervisor.

Who is eligible for an award?

To be eligible for a SERA, at the time of application a candidate must:

- self-identify as a member of group with historical and/or current barriers to equity (see above);

- be registered as a full-time graduate student for a master's or doctoral program in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April), and be in good standing;

- intend to continue full-time graduate studies in the term immediately following the research project; and

- have shown potential as a scientist in their field as evidenced by a combination of academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and a letter of support by at least one STEM faculty member familiar with the student.

Students must not hold an NSERC, CIHR, or other major ($\geq$ $15000) scholarship as of the term in which the awards will be announced.

How are students selected for the award?

The awards will be adjudicated by the Faculty of Science Research Advisory Committee.

Applications will be evaluated based on two main criteria:
- the applicant's potential as a scientist in their field (50%) as evidenced by a combination of academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities described in the CV, letter of support by a STEM faculty member, and information provided in the application form (Parts 1 and 2).
- A description of how success has been achieved in light of the barriers that the applicant has faced in their academic career (50%), described in the letter from the applicant.

Preference is given to new applicants and applicants with intersectional identities. Preference is also given to applicants proposing a new skill or research experience that would not otherwise be part of their degree program.

How and when do you apply?

To apply for this award, students must complete and submit the following documents to the general office of the supervisor's home department:

1) SERA – Graduate Students application form
   Handwritten applications will **not** be accepted.

   - Students should complete parts 1A and 1B, save the application on their computer and email the completed electronic form to their proposed supervisor(s). The supervisor should in turn complete part 2. The application must be signed by the student and the supervisor before being submitted.

2) Letter written by the applicant describing their successes in light of the barriers they have faced in pursuit of their academic degree. This letter does not need to be shared with the student's supervisor. The applicant's profile and personal information is kept confidential within the adjudication committee. Applicants do not need to share personal details but should instead focus their achievements in spite of experiencing barriers.

3) Letter of support by any STEM faculty member familiar with the student (not necessarily the primary supervisor). The letter(s) should discuss the potential as a scientist in their field and academic accomplishments.

4) A CV (maximum 2 pages, 11-12pt font, single spaced) including:

   - Education
   - Relevant research/work experience
   - Awards and honours
   - List of peer-reviewed journal articles with full citation (published or accepted)
   - Submitted journal articles with full citation (include arXiv link or manuscript ID)
   - Other published works or patents
   - Presentations (full description including title, date, organization/venue)
   - Other relevant information

The deadline for students to submit their application is set by the Departments/School of the Faculty of Science. Please monitor their respective websites for details. The contact information of the six Faculty of Science departments can be found here: https://www.uvic.ca/science/departments/index.php.

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SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)
Application
Part 1A - Student Applicant
(no handwritten applications will be accepted)

Surname:_____ Given name:_____

Student #: Voo_____ Email:_____

Program (e.g. MSc Chemistry):_____

Applicants must arrange to have a letter of support* sent to home department. Letter writer: _____

<div align="right">Surname, Given Name</div>

Intended term to take up award (Summer, Fall, or Winter):_____

In order to determine your eligibility for the awards, indicate all statements that apply to you:

☐ I am a member of a group with historical and/or current barriers to equity, including but not limited to:
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and all other Indigenous peoples;
- members of groups that currently or historically experience discrimination due to race, ancestry, colour, religion and/or spiritual beliefs, or place of origin;
- persons with visible and/or invisible (physical and/or mental) disabilities; and
- persons of marginalized sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

☐ I am a Canadian Indigenous student

☐ I am an International Indigenous student

☐ I identify as a woman

☐ I identify as having an intersectional identity

☐ I am a registered as a full-time graduate student for a MSc or PhD degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session (Sept-April)

☐ I intend to continue full-time graduate studies in the term immediately following the research project

☐ I have applied to other major awards. *(If yes, list the award, the value of the award, the supervisor and the dates*

_____

☐ I have discussed this opportunity with my primary supervisor and they support my application.

Primary Supervisor Surname, Given Name

Primary Supervisor Signature

Student Signature

Date

* Letter of support written by a STEM faculty member familiar with the student to discuss potential as a scientist in their field.

SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)
Application
Part 1B - Student Applicant
(to be filled out by student – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

In 300 words or less, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe why you wish to do a research project.

_____   _____
Student Signature   Date

_____
Print name

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SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)
Application
Part 2A – Faculty Research Supervisor
(to be filled out by the primary supervisor – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

Student Information:

Surname:_____   Given name:_____

Student #: V00_____

Supervisor Information: Co-Supervisor information (if applicable):

Name:_____   Name:_____

Dept & Email:_____   Dept & Email:_____

External grant funding used for matching contribution:

Agency:_____

Program:_____

Project Information:

Title:_____

1) In 300 words or less, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe proposed summary project, including the time course

SCIENCE EMERGING RESEARCHER AWARD (SERA – GR)
Application
Part 2B – Faculty Research Supervisor
(to be filled out by supervisor – no handwritten applications will be accepted)

2) In 300 words or less, using a font no smaller than 10 points, describe the student's role in the proposed project

3) Funding commitment to student: _____

_____	_____	_____
Supervisor Signature	Print name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Co-supervisor Signature	Print name	Date

By signing this form, the Faculty Member agrees to contribute a minimum of $3000 to the student award.