

SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS (SURA)

What are Science Undergraduate Research Awards?

Research can be an important and enjoyable part of an undergraduate experience, and can also be helpful in deciding whether to pursue research as a career. A fund initiated and sustained by an endowment provided by the estate of the late Eva Moody allows the Faculty of Science to provide a number of competitive awards each year to undergraduate students who want to do research during one academic term.

The awards are directed at undergraduate students who wish to carry out a research project under the supervision of a Faculty Member in Science at UVic. The expectation is that the student would work full-time on the project for at least three months over one academic term, prior to continuing undergraduate studies in a subsequent term. The awards are not intended to support a student working part-time, or for research outside the term during which the student is to be engaged in their research project.

Who is eligible for an award?

To be eligible for a SURA, a student, at the time of application, must:

- be registered as a full-time student (12 units or higher) for a bachelor's degree in the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria in the current Winter Session
- have completed at least 30 units of course credits toward a B.Sc. degree by the end of the Fall term prior to submitting an application
- intend to continue full-time undergraduate studies in the term immediately following the research project.
- have a cumulative GPA of 6.0 or higher for all courses completed at the time of application

A student registered in graduate studies or holding a higher degree in the natural sciences is not eligible for a SURA.

In principle, a student can concurrently apply for an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award and a Science Undergraduate Research Award but cannot hold both awards in that competition year.

A student may take up the SURA in a term during the up-coming academic year: Summer (May-Aug), Fall (Sep-Dec), or Winter (Jan-Apr); tenure may start in a term acceptable to both the student and their supervisor.

Value of awards

The SURA will provide up to \$3,000 to the student for the research project, and the supervisor of the project must at least match this contribution. The amount of the award will be related to the length of the student's research project.

Where can the research project be carried out?

The awards are available for projects carried out in any of the six units of the Faculty of Science at the University of Victoria: the Departments of Biochemistry and Microbiology, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy or the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences.

The student holding the award must work under the supervision or co-supervision of a regular Faculty Member in the Faculty of Science, who must hold an external (to UVic) research grant. If co-supervised, both supervisors must be specified in the application.

How are students selected for the awards?

The Dean of Science and the Research Advisory Council will adjudicate the awards based on academic record of the student, and on the quality and the perceived benefit to the student of the program.

How and when do you apply?

To apply for this award, a student and proposed supervisor must complete the "Science Undergraduate Research Award" SURA application:

<https://www.uvic.ca/science/assets/docs/SURA-application.pdf>

No handwritten applications will be accepted. Student applicants should complete parts 1A and 1B; save the application on their computer, before emailing the completed electronic form to their proposed supervisor. The supervisor should in turn complete part 2; save and print the application. The application must be signed by student and supervisor(s) before being submitted to the office of the Dean of Science in Elliott 166.

Please note: proposed supervisors are required to submit a ranked list of students if more than one student submits an application to work with them; rankings are to be submitted separately to the Dean's Office.

The deadline is **February 15** of each year. Students and supervisors will be notified as soon as possible thereafter as to whether their applications have been successful.