UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

• Overview of Available Awards
• Eligibility Criteria
• How to apply

**DEADLINE:** Thursday, January 23, 2020 by 4 p.m.
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARDS

• There is one application process for all Ontario Tech centrally administered awards (two different awards).
  1. Ontario Tech STAR Award
  2. NSERC USRA

• Undergraduate Research Award recipients will work on a summer research project with an Ontario Tech faculty member for 12-16 weeks starting in May 2020.
• Intended to stimulate student interest in research and encourage students to undertake graduate studies

• Seven STAR awards will be awarded (1 per Faculty)

• Open to all undergraduate students registered at Ontario Tech including international students

• Supports a research project for 12 - 16 weeks

• A $4,500 award minimum, possibly up to $7,000
• Intended to stimulate interest in natural sciences and engineering research and encourage students to undertake graduate studies or pursue a research career in these fields

• Open to Canadian citizens and permanent residents only

• Supports a research project for 16 weeks

• Additional awards are available to Indigenous students

• Valued at $7,000

• Students currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., MD, DDS, BScN), i.e., if their program leads to a professional certification) are not eligible for NSERC funding.

• Projects are eligible for NSERC funding if the project’s research outcomes clearly fall within the areas of Natural Sciences and Engineering – funding eligibility is no longer specific to the Project Supervisor.
To apply for an award, students must:

- Be registered as a full or part-time student in a bachelor's degree program in Winter 2020; and
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least a B- (70%, 2.7 grade points); and,
- have completed at least one full year of university course work (two full academic semesters) by the start of the research project (May 2020).
HOW DO I APPLY?

1. CHOOSE A RESEARCH PROJECT

2. COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE
2020 SUMMER RESEARCH PROJECTS

• A list of Project Summaries will be posted in the ‘Student’ section of the Ontario Tech Research website www.research.ontariotechu.ca under “2020 Undergraduate Research Awards” and “Available Research Projects”.

• You may identify a maximum of two research projects on your application form. We encourage students to choose two projects so they have a backup in case their first choice is awarded to another student. If successful, you will be assigned to work on one research project over the summer.

• Students may apply to research projects outside of their Faculty provided they hold the necessary qualifications outlined in the Project Summary.
URA APPLICATION PACKAGE

Before you begin:

Update your ADOBE READER software

freely available from:
get.adobe.com/reader/

Especially if using a Mac!
URA APPLICATION PACKAGE

1 URA Application Form
One per student; rank top two choices from the list of Project Summaries; complete electronically, e-sign and submit via email to studentresearch@ontariotechu.ca. You must contact prospective supervisors and have them e-sign your application form.

2 Statement of Interest
~6,200 characters (1 page) maximum outlining:
✓ which project(s) you are applying to and why
✓ how the research position will enhance your academic studies & career goals
✓ what skills and expertise you can contribute to the project

3 Request for Official Transcript of Academic Standing Form
No charge for this transcript as it is for an internal award.
1. Complete URA Application Form

- Students must contact their prospective supervisors before the application deadline to discuss their interest in the research project and qualifications.

- Students should contact faculty members (via email) well in advance of the application deadline. Students should provide their transcript, along with any other information the supervisor requests.

- To be considered for a specific project students must obtain the faculty supervisor’s e-signature on their application form.

- Faculty have the right to decline signing your application if they feel you do not have the necessary skills for their project.

Note: The deadline has been extended to Thursday January 23 at 4 p.m.
Obtaining project supervisor signature(s)

- FYI - When supervisor’s sign, they may be asked to “Lock Document After Signing”.
- Supervisor’s should not click this box as the next person will be unable to sign the form.

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Complete the Statement of Interest

Explain:
• which research project(s) you are applying to and why
• what skills and expertise you can contribute to the project
• how will this opportunity assist you in meeting your academic and/or career goals
Personal Information

- For internal use only, will not be shared.

- Once your form is completed in full (INCLUDING signatures from the project supervisors), be sure to save your application as a PDF with the filename [LASTNAME]_2020_URA_Application.pdf

Submit with the Request for Official Transcript form

- Next, click the “Submit Form” button. This will generate an email template to submit your completed form to studentresearch@ontariotechu.ca.

- Before sending this email you must:
  ✓ Attach your completed Request for Official Transcript form (see next slide for instructions).
Step 1: Include first and last name, student number

Step 2: Under “Request 1”, under “Company/dept.” write “Release to the Office of Research Services”. NO further information is required in this section.

Note:
- Do not fill out sections crossed out in red.
- Print and sign this form, and return a scan with your application package!
- Please use black or blue ink to sign this form. A “real” signature is required!

Step 3: Sign and date

Step 4. Scan a copy and save it as “[LASTNAME]_2020_RequestForTranscript.pdf”
SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION

To reiterate, a completed application package will consist of:

1. The completed Application Form
   • Must be e-signed by all relevant supervisors and the applicant
   • Saved as [LASTNAME]_2020_URA_Application.pdf

2. The completed Request for Official Transcript of Academic Record form.
   • Signed by hand (not an e-signature)
   • Scanned and saved as a pdf
   • Saved as [LASTNAME]_2020_RequestForTranscript.pdf

Submit this application package by email to studentresearch@ontariotechu.ca by Jan 23 at 4:00pm.
SELECTION CRITERIA

• High academic standing based on cumulative GPA from all previous years of study.
  • The minimum GPA required is 2.7.

• Level of experience, skills and/or training relevant to the specific research position applied for.

• Supervisor’s may screen applicants based on requirements outlined in their project descriptions.

  Rankings will be made by a Selection Committee based within each Faculty.
WHEN IS THE DEADLINE?

• All application e-packages must be emailed to studentresearch@ontariotechu.ca on or before January 23 at 4:00p.m.

• Non-Ontario Tech Students only:
  • A hard copy of your non-Ontario Tech transcripts must be delivered by the deadline to:
    
    Office of Research Services  
    Campus Corners, 2nd Floor  
    2000 Simcoe Street North  
    Oshawa, Ontario  
    L1G OC5

    All applicants will be notified of the results by email.
START EARLY!!!

• Do not wait until the week of the deadline to approach Faculty supervisors for their e-signature.

• Contact them early to set up a meeting (they are busy people).

• Application forms that do not have Faculty signatures **WILL NOT** be accepted.

• Hand written applications **WILL NOT** be accepted.
2020 URA Recognition Event

Held Annually
(May/June, date TBA)

✓ Features keynote speakers from the Ontario Tech Research Community
✓ Receive recognition for your research awards
✓ Brings URA winners together to celebrate their research success
✓ Awardees are given the opportunity to network with the Ontario Tech research community
QUESTIONS?

Questions about a specific research project?
Contact the faculty supervisor to learn more about their project.

Questions about the awards and application process?
Visit the Undergraduate Research Awards FAQ located at: www.research.ontariotechu.ca

Send all queries to: studentresearch@ontariotechu.ca