CONCORDIA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS (CUSRA - SUMMER 2024)

The Office of the Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies (VPRGS) is pleased to announce the launch of the 23-24 edition of the Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award (CUSRA) program. The CUSRA program provides funding to students in the fine arts, social sciences, humanities, engineering and computer science, business disciplines, and natural and health sciences. The goal of the awards is to stimulate interest in research, participatory research, or research-creation work that will complement undergraduate coursework, and enhance preparation for graduate studies or research-related careers. The funds will be distributed to the Faculties according to the total number of full-time registered students in each Faculty.

VALUE OF AWARDS:

$8270 per award.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- February 26th, 2024 to the student's home department Chair.
  Results will be communicated during the weeks of March 25th- April 5th 2024.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR AN AWARD, YOU MUST HAVE:

- Completed at least 30 credits in your program at the time of application.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.

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- A full-time faculty sponsor with whom you will work, who will provide any necessary supplies and materials, and will be available on campus for the duration of the award. Part-time faculty members who are actively involved in research may also be sponsors contingent upon providing a support letter from their department including information about end dates of their appointments, and provided they can meet the responsibilities listed below.
- Not accepted an equivalent concurrent award, such as an NSERC USRA, for the same research project.

  Note: Students can hold up to a maximum of two CUSRAs during their undergraduate studies at Concordia. Supervisors may only supervise up to a maximum of three CUSRA students at one time.

TO HOLD AN AWARD, YOU MUST ALSO:

- Be registered in a program and for a minimum of 2 courses in the term immediately before holding the award.
- Be engaged on a full-time basis (35 hours per week), over a 15 week period, in research or research- creation activities in a faculty member's research or research-creation project or program. Up to 10 awards will be made to program students who are enrolled on a part-time basis.
- Be continuing in the program or accepted into a Concordia graduate program in the term following the award.
- Ensure that all ethics/compliance approval has been obtained prior to the start of the project (for projects involving the use of animals or humans, or, controlled goods or hazardous materials).

THE SPONSOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO:

- Oversee and supervise the project once it is underway and ensure that he/she is accessible (and on campus) to the student throughout the tenure of the award.
- Communicate to student if there are any concerns with absenteeism, task deadlines not met, etc.
- Prepare a 250-word mid-term report outlining the progress of the student (to be submitted to victoria.palmer@concordia.ca by July 12th, 2024).
- Supervise writing of a 500-word final report to be submitted to Victoria Palmer (victoria.palmer@concordia.ca) by October 4th, 2024 (supervisor must sign off on the final report).

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THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE TO:

- Ensure his/her daily presence on campus for the full 15 week term. Some projects that involve fieldwork or collaborations with external partners may require a presence elsewhere.
- Ensure that deliverables are submitted to the supervisor in a mutually agreed-upon and timely manner. Failure to carry out or submit expected research may result in a student's CUSRA being terminated (including the stipend attached to the award.)
- Submit a 500-word final report to Victoria Palmer (victoria.palmer@concordia.ca) by October 4th, 2024 (supervisor must sign off on the final report).
- Participate in a poster presentation (not mandatory)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Complete the application form (Part 1). Note that a section (Part 2) is to be completed by the proposed supervisor. Applications are to be submitted to the Chair of the student's home department of study, or his/her designate, by the application deadline. A departmental committee will rank the applications and send a prioritized list to the Faculty Research Committee. The Faculty Research Committee will make the final decisions and inform the Office of the VPRGS, which will decide on the final allocations and contact successful applicants and their supervisors.

TENURE OF AWARDS:

- Fifteen (15) consecutive weeks on a full-time basis (35 hours per week).
- Awards are held during the summer months and projects will begin the week of May 6th, 2024. Some minor flexibility to the start and end date of a project is acceptable (if approved by the supervisor and the OVPRGS).
- Any work done as part of the award may not be used for academic credit in any form.
- Students can be enrolled in a maximum of one course (per summer semester) during the tenure of the award.
- The work period does not include provisions for holidays, except statutory holidays. Work must be completed within the allotted time.
- Awards will be paid in bi-weekly amounts to participants during the fifteen-week period of tenure (May 2024 to August 2024).