

# NSERC & Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Awards

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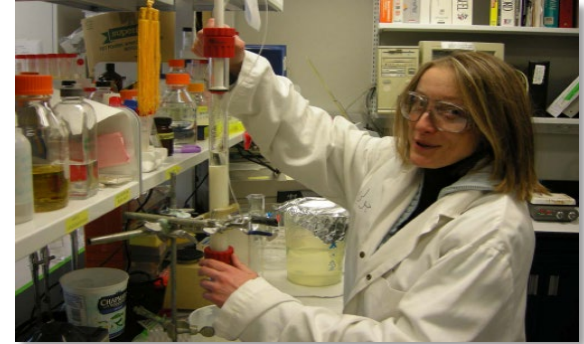


# NSERC USRA - Undergraduate Student Research Awards

(from Canada's Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council)



- Great opportunity to work in a university professor's research lab for the summer
- Duration: 16 weeks: May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Earn \$7500
- Get hands-on experience doing real scientific research
- Even second-year students can apply!



## To apply for an NSERC USRA, students MUST

1. Be enrolled in a Bachelor program + registered in F2021 & W2022 terms
2. Have completed 2 full university-level terms before S2022
3. Have cumulative **GPA > 3.0**, B average (*but: awardees usually GPA > 3.8*)
4. Have not at any time started a graduate program in science/engineering
5. Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident, as of Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
6. Find NSERC-funded faculty member who will supervise your research
7. Not have already held 3 NSERC USRA awards



# NSERC application deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

(submit on NSERC website: [www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca))



- **Student must**

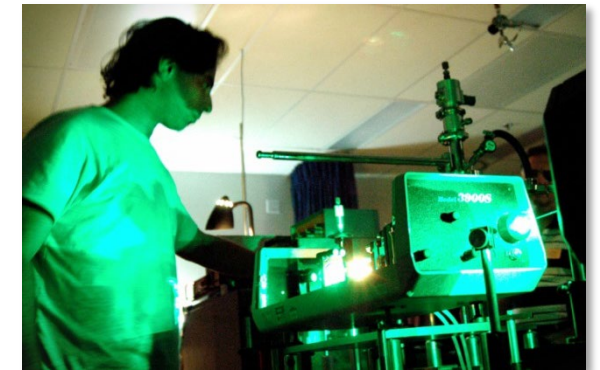
- Find a faculty member to supervise you (...how? => Dr. Findlay...)
- Set up a profile on the NSERC website
- Complete **Form 202 - student Part I** on the NSERC website
- Work with supervisor on research proposal for Part II

- **Supervisor submits**

- **Form 202 Part II**, on the NSERC website
- Compliance Certification Checklist, to Concordia FAO ([fundingyoureducation@concordia.ca](mailto:fundingyoureducation@concordia.ca))
- Supplemental information forms

- **See full details on NSERC & Concordia websites (search “USRA”)**

- [https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc\\_eng.asp](https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/students-etudiants/ug-pc/usra-brpc_eng.asp)
- <https://www.concordia.ca/students/financial-support/scholarships-awards/internal/nserc-usra-competition-summer-2022.html>



# CUSRA - Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Awards

(funded by Concordia University)

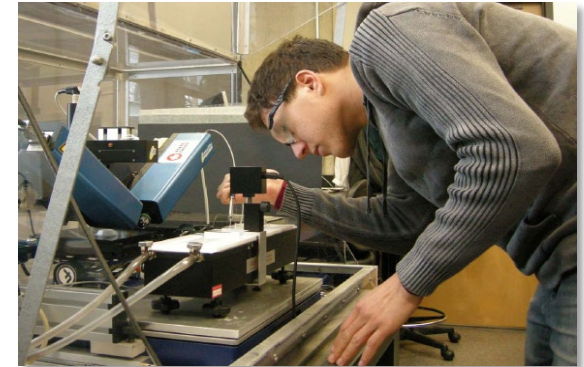


- Similar opportunity to work in a university professor's research lab
- Duration: 16 weeks, May 2nd – Aug 19th, 2022
- Earn \$7500



## To apply for a Concordia CUSRA, students MUST

1. Be enrolled in a Bachelor program & in  $\geq 2$  courses in W2022 term
2. Be continuing at Concordia (undergrad or grad) in S2022 or F2022
3. Have completed 30 credits in program at time of application
4. Have a cumulative GPA of **> 3.3 (but: awardees usually GPA > 3.8)**
5. Be Canadian or a permanent resident **or an international student!**
6. Not have already held 2 Concordia USRA awards



**4<sup>TH</sup> SPACE Concordia highlights CUSRA/NSERC USRA research:**  
**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUHT95HwS5E&t>**



# CUSRA application deadline: Before 5 pm, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022



- **Application requires (in this order in the PDF file)**
  - Student CV
  - Student Transcript
  - **Student Application - Part I** (completed by the student)
  - **Sponsor Application - Part II** (completed by the supervisor)
- **Full details & forms found on Concordia website**
  - <https://www.concordia.ca/research/students-and-postdocs/undergraduate-opportunities/cusra.html>
  - [https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/research/docs/CURSA/Concordia\\_Undergraduate\\_Student\\_Research\\_Awards\\_\(Summer\\_2022\)\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/research/docs/CURSA/Concordia_Undergraduate_Student_Research_Awards_(Summer_2022)_Guidelines.pdf)
  - Search Concordia site for “CUSRA”
- (submit to Assistant to the Department Chair, [chembiochem.ac@concordia.ca](mailto:chembiochem.ac@concordia.ca); single pdf file with your name addressed to the Chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry)





# Frequently asked questions (see Concordia site for many more)

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## Can I apply for both NSERC and Concordia USRAs?

- Canadian or permanent residents: YES – but can accept only one of the awards
- International students: NO – CUSRA only

## Which GPA will be used?

- Concordia cumulative GPA on transcript at time of application

## Can I do my USRA research part-time, or off-campus?

- No – full-time May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> in a prof's research lab at Concordia

## Can I take courses at the same time?

- Yes – maximum of ONE course, if your supervisor approves

# What to do, what to expect

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# Finding a Lab

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Approach professors you know.

Talk to older students/TAs.

Browse the faculty websites.

- <https://www.concordia.ca/artsci/chemistry/about/faculty.html>



# Making the Connection

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Send an email, explaining:

- Who you are.
- How you know the professor.
- What type of research you're interested in.

Attach a copy of your transcript.

# Example

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Hello Dr. XXXXXXXXX,

I'm a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student looking to complete a summer research term in 2021, under an NSERC USRA/CUSRA. I received an A- in your course, Chem XXX, and really enjoyed the section on <research field>.

Attached to this email is a copy of my current transcripts. If you have space in your lab, I'd love to work with you and would be happy to discuss this further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

XXX XXXX

# Next Steps

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## 1. Meet the professor.

- Get a feel for the projects available, and the work involved.

## 2. Prepare a project proposal for NSERC/Concordia.

- A collaborative process, with your prospective supervisor.
- Three key pieces of information:
  - Background (What is the problem?)
  - Idea (What do you want to do?)
  - Impact (How will your research help solve the problem outlined above?)

# Research Life

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Working with a student/faculty mentor.

- 16 weeks, from May to August.
- Generally, 9-5 at the undergraduate level.
- Submit a 500-word final report to Cinzia Miscio, by Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 (supervisor must sign off on the final report).
- Participate in a poster presentation during the semester following the summer award (date to be communicated in early spring 2022)

Your project ties into a larger question being tackled by your mentor.

# What are the goals?

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A publication is the ideal, but rare.

- Largely a matter of luck. Right place, right time.

The skills you gain are more valuable.

- Useful for grad school and (to a lesser extent) industry.

Answer this key question: Do you like the work?

- Studentships help show if the lab/field/life is a good fit for you.

# Benefits?

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Experience!

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Reference letters.

Fun.

