

Next-Generation Scholar Program (Summer 2026)

The Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact (OVPRII) is pleased to announce the launch of the 2025-2026 edition of the Next-Generation Scholar, formerly the Concordia Undergraduate Student Research Award (CUSRA) program. The Next-Generation Scholar 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 program 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.

The Summer 2026 Next-Generation Scholar program will become more accessible to Undergraduate excellence, providing the opportunity to be engaged on a “full-time,” or “part-time” basis during the Summer. If a Next-Generation Scholar is to be engaged on a part-time basis, the value of the scholarship will be half the value received by a Next-Generation Scholar engaged on a full-time basis.

The Summer 2026 Next-Generation Scholar program will also require the Faculty Sponsors to provide a top-up to the Scholar, with OVPRII contributing \$8,200, and the Faculty Sponsor contributing \$1,000 for a full-time scholarship, and \$4,100 and \$500 respectively for a part-time scholarship.

TOTAL VALUE PER SCHOLARSHIP:

\$9,200 CAD (full-time)

\$4,600 CAD (part-time)

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

March 2, 2026

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Starting this year, all applications must be submitted using the Microsoft Form, located at [Next-Generation Scholar Program | Research - Concordia University](#) by March 2, 2026, 23h59.

It's important to note that to access the Microsoft Form, applicants must use their Concordia University access. The Form will not be accessible unless accessed through a Concordia University account.

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RESULTS:

Successful applicants will be contacted by the Financial Aid and Awards Office (FAAO) at the email address outlined within the application.

Unsuccessful applicants will also be contacted by the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact.

TENURE OF THE PROGRAM:

The Next-Generation Scholar program is held during the summer months and projects will begin the week of May 4, 2026. Some minor flexibility to the start and end date of a project is acceptable (if approved by the Faculty Sponsor and the OVPRII).

Any work done as part of the Next-Generation Scholar program may not be used for academic credit in any form and students can be enrolled in a maximum of one course (per summer semester) during the tenure of the program.

The program period does not include provisions for holidays, except statutory holidays and the project must be completed within the allotted time with payments being disbursed bi-weekly to Next-Generation Scholars during the fifteen-week period of the Summer program (May to August, 2026).

Additionally, Next-Generation Scholars are expected to participate in a Showcase Event following the conclusion of the Summer 2026 program, which will be held during an evening in the Fall 2026 semester. However, exceptions can be granted by the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact if participation is not possible for academic and/or personal reasons.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To become a Next-Generation Scholar, at the time of application, you must meet the criteria below:

1. Be an active Undergraduate student at Concordia University.
2. Have completed at least 30 credits in your program (transfer credits do not apply).
3. Have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher.
4. Are registered in a program and for a minimum of 2 courses in the term immediately before (Winter 2026) being named a Next-Generation Scholar.
5. Will be continuing-in-program or accepted into a Concordia University graduate program in Fall 2026.

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STUDENT CRITERIA:

To be named as a Next-Generation Scholar, students must also:

- Have 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 a concurrent award/scholarship, such as an NSERC USRA, for the same research project.
- Have not held two Concordia University Student Research Awards (CUSRAs) during their undergraduate studies at Concordia.
- Be engaged on a full-time (35 hours per week), or part-time basis (17.5 hours per week), over a 15-week period, in research or research-creation activities under the mentorship of a Faculty Sponsor.
- 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).
- Must submit a 500-word final report to the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact by October 2, 2026 (Faculty sponsor must sign off on the final report).
- Participate in a Next-Generation Scholars Event, held during an evening following the Summer Program (Fall 2026 semester). As a Next-Generation Scholar, you would be presenting your research project at the Event. The Event will bring together Undergraduate researchers, Faculty, University Leadership, alumni, and distinguished members of the public to showcase the excellence that exists at Concordia University. If unable to participate, exceptions can be granted due to academic and/or personal reasons with the permission of the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact.

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SPONSOR CRITERIA:

To Sponsor a Next-Generation Scholar, a faculty member must:

- Be a full-time faculty member 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.
- Provide a \$1,000 top-up, for a full-time scholarship, or \$500 top-up for a part-time scholarship from a compliant account at the University.
- Sponsor a maximum of three Next-Generation Scholars during the Summer program.
- Communicate to the OVPRII if there are any concerns with absenteeism, task deadlines not being met, etc.
- Respond to a correspondence from the OVPRII, proving a mid-term check-in by July 10, 2026.
- Supervise the writing of a 500-word final report to be submitted to jeremy.lemieux@concordia.ca by October 2, 2026 (student must sign off on the final report).
- Attend, at your discretion, a Next-Generation Scholars Event, held during an evening following the Summer Program (Fall 2026 semester), which brings together Undergraduate researchers, Faculty, University Leadership, alumni, and distinguished members of the public.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMON FAQS:

Can a Next-Generation Scholar(ship) be held by a team instead of an individual?

No - the Next-Generation Scholar has a stipend attached to it, which is intended for one person. Each award can only be held by one individual.

How many times can a student be named a Next-Generation Scholar while enrolled in a program at Concordia?

A student can be named a Next-Generation Scholar a maximum of two times during their undergraduate studies at Concordia, this includes the former CUSRA program.

Can a research project be completed off campus?

All research work must be completed on campus unless the project involves field research that is actively supervised by the faculty member or a member of his/her research team.

Can a Next-Generation Scholar's stipend be terminated if a student is not carrying out the proposed research, or has been absent?

Yes - a student's stipend may be terminated, as well as the funds attached to the award. However, it is expected that if there are problems with the attendance or deliverables, the supervisor will notify the student and attempt to resolve any problems. In cases where resolution has not been possible, the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact must be informed and will investigate independently before any additional action is taken.

Can a student apply to both the Next-Generation Scholar program and the NSERC USRA competition?

Yes - but if awarded both, the student must select only one.

Can a student enrolled in a Co-Op program use the Next-Generation Scholar program as a Co-Op work term?

Yes.

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT,
RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND IMPACT

If I have questions or concerns while I hold or sponsor a Next-Generation Scholar?

The main point of contact is Jeremy Lemieux <jeremy.lemieux@concordia.ca> in the Office of the Vice-President, Research, Innovation, and Impact.

Are international students eligible to apply?

Yes - provided they meet eligibility criteria and provided they are legally eligible to work in Canada.

Can a student carry out research that is not directly related to a supervisor's own research?

Yes - with the agreement of the Faculty Sponsor, a student may propose to complete research in a topic of interest to them.

Do research projects involving the use of animals or humans involve ethics certification/approval?

Yes - absolutely! Any research project that involves the use of animals or humans must ethics approval. For more information please see: <https://www.concordia.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics.html>

My research involves use of chemicals and/or biological material and/or radioactive material. Do I need to take EHS training?

Yes - depending on the hazardous materials used, or experiments conducted, you will need completed training. the EHS webpage at concordia.ca/ehs to know more, or email EHS at ehs@concordia.ca.

Will I need to complete safety training to get my funds released?

Yes - you will need to have successfully completed all the required training. Some external training may be recognized. For more information, email EHS at ehs@concordia.ca.