



Research and Health Science Education (RHSE) 2025-26 Undergraduate Summer Research Studentship (USRS)

Guidelines

Revised: 20251212

The Office of Research and Health Science Education (RHSE) in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine annually awards Undergraduate Summer Research Studentships (USRS) to support the participation of life science undergraduate students in summer research programs. Each of the eight Temerty Medicine basic science units that engages in undergraduate life science teaching is allocated one studentship to be awarded by the unit on a competitive basis considering students' academic excellence and interest in future graduate training.

Award Value & Duration

Each RHSE USRS award is valued at \$2,500 plus a guaranteed minimum of \$4,640 in compensation from other sources managed by the sponsoring unit (department/program within Temerty Medicine). Typically, this match is provided by the faculty supervisor.

Each student awardee is expected to engage in full-time research for 12 weeks during the summer (between May 4 – August 28). Should a supervisor wish the student to continue research beyond 12 weeks, it is expected that the student be compensated by the supervisor accordingly.

Eligibility, Responsibilities & Requirements

The participating unit is responsible for ensuring that **all** eligibility criteria for nominated students and supervisors, as well as **all** award requirements are satisfied.

Student eligibility and restrictions:

- Applicants must have successfully completed at least one term in a full-time undergraduate program directly prior to the award period.
- Applicants should have a minimum B+ average in the two terms of undergraduate studies immediately preceding acceptance of the award.
- University of Toronto and non-University of Toronto students may apply. Note that preference shall be given to University of Toronto students enrolled in a Major or Specialist program offered by a Temerty Medicine unit.
- Students who have completed their undergraduate program are not eligible, unless they have been accepted into a graduate program which they have not yet begun.

- A student must have a genuine interest in pursuing graduate studies in the life/health sciences.
- A student may be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or foreign student with valid student visa for the full summer work term.
- A student may submit only one application for a USRS award. Departure from this rule will result in the application being accorded a lower priority or even denied.
- A student cannot hold another summer research award concurrently with a USRS award.

Supervisor eligibility and responsibilities:

- Only 1 USRS award per faculty supervisor is permitted each year.
- It is the responsibility of the supervisors and the participating unit to ensure that their students receive the appropriate safety training and are covered by the appropriate protocols as required by regulations and the applicable University of Toronto safety offices and/or those of the hosting site (e.g., hospital or institute).
- A continuity of supervision for each student for the duration of the summer program is required.

Program requirements:

- A designated faculty or staff member must be appointed as coordinator of the summer research program for each unit.
- An academic structure with clear accountability at the end of the summer research program (e.g., required seminar presentations of students' own work.)
- A plan for encouraging regular interaction of the students with each other, with graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates and assistants, and other investigators (e.g., at least part of the program should be conducted in a single geographic location to give maximum opportunity for contact between researchers and students.)

Recruitment & Selection

- Each unit is allocated 1 USRS award. The unit is responsible for communicating award information to students and directing students to apply directly via the appropriate HSE form ie. via SumRAMS (RHSE's Summer Research Awards Management System). The student application deadline for all units is February 25, 2026.

- The awardee is selected by the unit based on a competitive process managed solely and independently by the unit (RHSE is not involved in the selection process.) **Preference shall be given to University of Toronto students enrolled in a Major or Specialist program offered by a Temerty Medicine unit.**
- Note that there is no restriction on the area of research; any health science research unit including research in health science education is eligible.
- The unit is responsible for ensuring that all eligibility criteria have been met for selected students and supervisors, including confirming that no supervisor exceeds one USRS award.
- **Each unit must award their student in SumRAMS no later than 5pm on March 13, 2026.**

Award Notification & Fund Transfer

- It is the unit's responsibility to notify the award winner and confirm acceptance of the award by the student.
- In the event of an award not being accepted, the department may reallocate the award to another eligible applicant. Should the award remain unused, please notify medicine.hse@utoronto.ca as soon as possible. It will be at the discretion of RHSE as to whether the unused award will be reallocated to another unit.
- Funds will be transferred from RHSE to units in mid-late May.

Please direct any questions regarding Temerty Medicine's RHSE Undergraduate Summer Research Studentships to medicine.hse@utoronto.ca.