



Research and Health Science Education (RHSE) 2025-26 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

Guidelines

Revised: 20251212

In 1973 the University of Toronto established the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) with the aim to foster advanced research experiences for undergraduate students. Within the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Research and Health Science Education (RHSE) office oversees the UROP award allocations to our departments. These awards are made possible by generous donations in support of medical research.

Award Value & Duration

Each UROP award is valued at \$3,000 plus a guaranteed minimum of \$4,140 in compensation from other sources managed by the sponsoring unit (unit herein refers to a department/centre/institute/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. 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 program requirements are satisfied.

Student eligibility and restrictions:

- Applicants must have successfully completed a 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.
- Students who have completed their undergraduate program are not eligible, unless
(1) they have been accepted into or are currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional program (e.g., medical undergraduate degree program), or
(2) they have been accepted into a graduate program which they have not yet begun.
- University of Toronto and non-University of Toronto students may apply.

- 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 to this UROP program. Departure from this rule will result in the application being accorded a lower priority or even denied.
- Students cannot hold another summer research award concurrently with a UROP award.

Supervisor eligibility and responsibilities:

- A maximum of 2 UROP awards per faculty supervisor is permitted.
- 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

- Units are allocated a specific number of UROP awards within designated research areas as specified by the relevant donors. Departments may advertise which awards are available and direct students to apply via the appropriate RHSE form. The application deadline for all units is February 25, 2026.
- Recruitment of students should include outreach beyond the physical location of the unit.
- Recipients are selected by the unit based on a competitive process managed solely and independently by the unit (RHSE is not involved in the recipient selection process.)

- The unit is to ensure that the research project proposed by a selected student aligns with the area of research indicated for an allocated award.
- The unit is responsible for ensuring that all eligibility criteria have been met for selected students and supervisors, including confirming that no supervisor exceeds two nominations.
- **Each unit is to award students in SumRAMS by 5pm on March 13, 2026.**

Award Notification & Fund Transfer

- It is the unit's responsibility to notify award winners and confirm acceptance of the award by the student.
- In the event of an award not being accepted, please notify medicine.hse@utoronto.ca as soon as possible (preferably no later than March 25, 2026). 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 Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program to medicine.hse@utoronto.ca.