

SSHRC USRA Guidelines & Deadline: March 14, 2025

Award Mandate

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA) are intended to:

- x Stimulate student interest in research in the social sciences and humanities;
- x Encourage students to undertake graduate studies;
- x Encourage students to consider a research career in social sciences and humanities.

and interest in research, and evidence of the quality of research training provided by the supervisor.

At the present time, SSHRC USRAs are exclusively for Black student researchers. Institutions are assigned a specific allocation for these awards, as outlined in [Undergraduate Student Research Awards allocation](#) web page.

Eligibility

- x Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident;
- x Self-Identify as Black
- x Have a minimum B average (3.0 GPA)
- x A 3.0 GPA score is not the determining factor in the selection process, and scores close to the requirement will still qualify, so we encourage you to apply. Please contact Dylan Jones (d.jones@uwinnipeg.ca) and they will assist you in including other important
- x Receive research training for a full 14 to 16 weeks. Students and their supervisors are to devise a plan for the research project;
- x As per Tri-Agency USRA regulations, student m USRAs throughout their academic career to encourage excellent students as possible, at the University may be given to students applying for their first
- x Applications from students registered at other institutions being equal preference will be given to current

Award Payment and Training

- x The duration of the award is 14, 15, or 16 weeks fulltime basis (35 hours per week)

Duration	Min. Award Amount	Living Wage Award Amount*
	The hourly rate of the minimum wage \$15.80 + 6% holiday pay for a total of \$16.75/hr.	The living wage amount equates the recommended living wage amount in Manitoba which is \$19.21/hr.
14 weeks x 35 hours/week = 490 hours	\$8,207.50	\$9,412.90
15 weeks x 35 hours/week = 525 hours	\$8,793.75	\$10,085.25
16 weeks x 35 hours/week = 560 hours	\$9,380.00	\$10,757.60

- x SSHRC provides \$6,000, with the supervisor providing a minimum top up amount of \$2,207.50 for 14 weeks, \$2,793.75 for 15 weeks, or \$3,380 for 16 weeks.
- x *As many researchers describe the intent to pay their research assistants a living wage, the Research Office included this calculation above.
- x Faculty members can apply for internal funding to help supplement the USRA payment
- x Students who receive the SSHRC USRA are encouraged to present their research at institutional workshops, poster competitions, and conferences. They are also encouraged to attend and present at the USRA luncheon during the summer.

Supervisor Eligibility

- x The faculty supervisor must hold a SSHRC research grant (PI or Co-applicant) as of May 1, 2025.
 - o ECR supervisors who do not currently hold SSHRC funding but have their first SSHRC application pending, can supervise a USRA student provided they have the funding to support the student.
 - o For supervisors who are in the final year of their grant, sufficient funds to support a USRA are remaining to be transferred to an automatic extension year, no alternate supervisor is required.
- x For all other supervisors who do not currently hold SSHRC funding but have an application pending, a letter from an alternate supervisor who holds SSHRC funding is required. The letter should state that the alternate supervisor is willing to supervise and an alternate supervisor is required if the supervisor will have insufficient funds to support a USRA.

- Any past progress, if applicable, toward formal research contributions (e.g., a presentation, publication or other research contribution);
- Other relevant experience or achievements that could demonstrate research interest, aptitude and/or potential to the evaluation committee;

Appendix: Selection Criteria and Indicators for USRA Applications

The following table contains indicators and evidence for evaluating the three selection criteria.

Selection criteria	Indicators and evidence
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	<p>Committee members should consider the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • demonstrates evidence of research interest, goals, and the proposed project. <p>Committee members should consult the optional statement to consider equity, diversity, and inclusion factors when assessing research potential and excellence.</p> <p>Committee members should consider the potential research impact beyond the university</p>
<p>Expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received from supervisor/research team during the duration of the research project (20)</p>	<p>Indicators of expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Exposure to research team x Training in research techniques, skills x Expected contributions to research output <p>Committee members consult the proposed form 202 part II.</p>