

# The BMO Future Green Leaders Undergraduate Student Research Awards

## ~Student Information~

### What are the awards for?

The BMO Future Green Leaders Undergraduate Student Research Awards provide undergraduate students with an opportunity to participate in 16 weeks of paid, full-time, research-based activity in the summer. The intent is for the research to be student-initiated. Research must focus on topics related to the green economy and environmental issues. Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA)<sup>1</sup> are intended to cultivate and support research partnerships between faculty members and undergraduate students. The research could be your idea or part of a faculty member's own project, but a substantial component of the research must be completed independently by you.

### Value and Duration of Awards

These USRA's provide an opportunity to receive \$7000 to cover 16 weeks of full-time, student-initiated, research-based activity during the summer term. This is a matching program whereby BMO Future Green Leaders funding provides 50% of the award value and the remaining 50% is contributed by your faculty supervisor<sup>2</sup>

### Who is eligible?

#### ***To be eligible to apply for an award, you must:***

- be registered , at the time you apply, as a full-time student in a bachelor's degree program at Trent University;
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least 80% ;

#### ***To be eligible to hold an award, you must:***

- have completed all the course requirements for at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms) of your bachelor's degree;
- have been registered in the term immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at Trent

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<sup>1</sup> The BMO USRA are independent of the NSERC-USRA Program

<sup>2</sup> Funding must come from an active Tri-council Award

University;

- not have started a program of graduate studies;
- be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities on a topic related to the green economy and environmental issues

***When accepting the award, successful candidates must agree to:***

- participate in 16 consecutive weeks of full-time research between May and August;
- submit a final project report to the Office of Research by September 29, 2017

## **How do you apply?**

### ***Recommendations for Getting Started***

The following are suggestions that may be helpful as you begin your USRA application.

1. Selecting a faculty supervisor:

- You may wish to approach a faculty member that has similar research interests to your own.
- Searching departmental websites can show you information about various faculty members, including what courses they are teaching and specific research areas of interest.
- Reflect on past courses you have taken and faculty members that you have met previously.
- Would any of these individuals be appropriate for you to approach?
- Try to select 2-3 people that you feel may be appropriate. The first person that you ask may not be available or able to supervise your project.

2. Approaching a faculty member for your USRA:

- Select the most appropriate person from your list to start, and approach only one potential supervisor at a time.

- Your first contact with a potential supervisor can be via email. In this initial correspondence, you can introduce yourself (if necessary), indicate your interest in the USRA, provide a brief outline of your project or idea and, of course, indicate your interest in being supervised by this person. You should also request a time to meet to further discuss your project if this person is able and/or interested in moving forward with you.
- If you would like your first contact with a potential supervisor to be in person, you can visit during regular office hours, but only with the intention to set a separate time to meet. There may not be ample time to discuss your project. However, it is a good idea to be prepared to elaborate on your project ideas should the faculty member invite an immediate discussion.
- Be respectful of your potential supervisor's time. Try to stay within allotted meeting times and request additional meetings where necessary. Allow the potential supervisor some time to respond to emails and telephone messages. For a variety of reasons, they may not be able to respond to you as promptly as you would like.

### 3. Solidifying your research project:

- Correspond regularly with your faculty supervisor while completing your research proposal. They are a resource to help guide you through the application process. It is appropriate to ask for feedback with regard to your research project, time line and learning plan.

## Application Process

You must submit 2 copies of a complete USRA Application Form (found on the Research website at [www.trentu.ca/research](http://www.trentu.ca/research)) and your research proposal before the deadline date. One (1) copy must include original signatures, the remaining copy can be a duplicate of the original application. The Office of Research will access your Trent University academic record only after receiving the completed USRA Application Form and confirmation of your consent to access your academic record.

The competition deadline is 4:00 pm on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2017

All proposals are to be submitted to the Office of Research, Suite 344, Gzowski College before 4pm on the deadline date. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered. It is the student's sole responsibility to ensure that applications are complete and that all information is accurate.

## **Ethics Approval**

Ethics approval is not needed to submit an application. However if an award is offered and ethics approval is required, a copy of the ethics certificate indicating this approval normally has to be produced before the award can be granted. You can view the following website for further information on receiving ethics approval:

[www.trentu.ca/research](http://www.trentu.ca/research)

## **Application Evaluation and Selection Process**

USRA applications are reviewed by a committee of faculty members and administrative personnel, typically including the Director, Office of Research, Chair or representative of Sustainability Studies, and the Certifications and Regulatory Compliance Officer.

Applications will be evaluated based on your academic record (see eligibility requirements above), the overall quality and feasibility of your proposal, and clearly articulated responses to the following questions:

- What methods will you use to conduct your research project?
- What are your learning objectives for your research project? A learning plan is about you - where you want to go, how you will get there, and how you will know you have been successful.
- What strategies will you undertake to achieve your learning objectives?
- How will the successful completion of your objectives be assessed?
- What is your overall role in the research project?
- What are your specific tasks in the research project?
- What is the connection between your research, and your academic studies?

All applicants will be notified via email (as listed by the student on the BMO USRA Application Form) with regard to

their award status generally within three weeks of the application deadline date.

To Request Further Information

For more information pertaining to the BMO USRA, contact: Karen Mauro, Office of Research, [kmauro@trentu.ca](mailto:kmauro@trentu.ca);

705-748-1011 ext. 7896