Roger S Smith Undergraduate Student Researcher Award
In the Faculty of Arts, funded in partnership with Killam

INFORMATION FOR ARTS FACULTY MEMBERS

What is the Roger S Smith Undergraduate Summer Research Awards in the Faculty of Arts?

The Roger S Smith Undergraduate Summer Research Awards in the Faculty of Arts, funded in partnership with Killam, is intended to cultivate and support research partnerships between undergraduate students and faculty members.

There are approximately 15 awards available, each worth $5000. This amount is intended to provide for 15 weeks of research-based activity over the summer (May to August).

All awards will be made to full-time continuing undergraduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts. Students who are graduating in the current year, who are not continuing full-time in the Faculty, or who are planning to transfer to another Faculty are not eligible.

The award is tenable only once in a student's career.

What is the faculty member’s role?

If you are a continuing, tenure track faculty member, we’re asking you to identify potential applicants for this program, to discuss opportunities related to your own research with interested students and to prepare a brief statement of the specific work that the student you chose to mentor will undertake, and the benefits that s/he will gain in engaging the research.

Please consider supporting an applicant by agreeing to supervise the applicant’s proposed work, which should be a research project related to your own ongoing program of research. You and the applicant should discuss the kinds of research work that could be accomplished with this kind of award, but it is the student’s responsibility to write the proposal.

By co-signing the application, you are agreeing to supervise the work. At the end of the summer, we will ask for your feedback concerning your experience with the student and with the program as a whole. You are also confirming that the student is not simply working as your RA for the summer.

What are the potential benefits to the student?

- A valuable introduction to research
- Preparation for work at the graduate level
- Enhanced the academic experience
What are the potential benefits to the faculty member?

- Extra research assistance during the summer months
- Funding for undergraduate research assistance (not usually available through grants)
- Opportunity for mentoring

How do students obtain an application form?

Application forms are available online through the Faculty of Arts Research webpage, and are found here.

How do students apply?

Students must submit a competed and signed application form, along with their résumé and unofficial copy of their transcripts, to the Faculty of at resarts@ualberta.ca.

The supervising professor must complete the Supervisor’s section of and sign the student’s application form before the application package can be submitted.

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF in the order specified in both the Terms of Reference and the Information for Students documents.

Any applications not received as a single PDF will be returned to correct and resubmit by the deadline.

Applications received as hard copy, or those that are late, will not be accepted or adjudicated.

What are the criteria for success?

Some of the factors used to evaluate projects include:

- the applicant’s ability to show a strong grasp of the field being studied
- a link with the supervising professor’s area of research
- the learning accomplished through the project
- the skills and experience the student will gain from the project
- the fit of the project with the applicant’s program
- the applicant’s Faculty GPA

Preference will be given to projects structured as internships assisting students in gaining research skills and experience.

While a link to the supervising professor’s research is encouraged, projects that appear as if the student is simply working as the professor’s RA will not be approved. The project must be the student’s initiative.
Students may not use, or continue with, their current Honours project/thesis as their Roger S Smith project.

Students should be encouraged to begin their applications as soon as possible. The deadline for submission is March 1st (if this date falls on a holiday or weekend, applications will be accepted the following business day). Award winners and their supervisors will be notified by April 30th.

If you have additional questions about the Roger S Smith award that have not been answered by the Terms of Reference and/or this document, please contact resarts@ualberta.ca.

The Roger S Smith Undergraduate Student Researcher Awards in the Faculty of Arts are sponsored by the Faculty of Arts in partnership with the Vice-President (Research).