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

INFORMATION FOR ARTS STUDENTS

Looking for a job? Want to do research this summer?
Apply for a Roger S Smith Undergraduate Summer Research Awards in the Faculty of Arts.

- obtain meaningful summer employment
- explore career opportunities in the research environment
- investigate and learn more about an area of interest
- gain invaluable skills and experience
- develop a positive working relationship with a faculty researcher

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 will provide undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts with an opportunity to receive $5,000.00 to cover 15 weeks (or ~330 hours) of research-based activity the summer (May to August).

How many awards will be made?
There will be approximately 15 awards. The exact number of awards may vary from year to year. The award is tenable only once in an undergraduate student’s career.

Who is eligible to apply?
Awards will be made to selected applicants who fulfill all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Is a full-time Faculty of Arts student with satisfactory academic standing.
- With a Faculty minimum GPA of 3.3 for all courses taken while registered in the Faculty of Arts.
- Are continuing full-time in an Arts undergraduate degree program in the fall of the current year.
- At the time of application, have completed a minimum of 30, and a maximum of 90 credits (+/- 6 credits), towards your degree.
- Are legally entitled to work on campus.

- Students who are graduating, special students, open studies students, not continuing full-time, or those who are planning to transfer to another Faculty are not eligible.
If at any time during the course of the award a student becomes ineligible to hold the award, the Registrar’s office reserves the right to revoke the award, and may request re-payment of any funds already paid out.

Where do I get an application form?

Application forms are available online in the Research section of the Faculty of Arts website: Applying for the Roger S. Smith Undergraduate Summer Research Awards.

What is the deadline for applications?

Applications must be received by March 1st (if this date falls on a holiday or weekend, applications will be accepted the following business day).

Award winners will be notified by April 30th.

How do I apply?

Submit a competed application form, along with your résumé and a copy of your unofficial transcripts, to resarts@ualberta.ca.

Your supervising professor must complete the Supervisor’s section and sign your application form before it is submitted. By signing your form the professor is expressing a willingness to supervise the work. While it must be indicated whether the project requires ethics approval, the student will only need to go through the Research Ethics Board approval process post-adjudication if they receive the award.

Applications must be submitted as a single PDF in the following order:

- Application form
- Resume
- Unofficial copy of transcripts

Any applications not received as a single PDF will be returned to re-submit as required. Applications received in hard copy will not be accepted and will not be adjudicated.

How do I start?

First, review the “Eligibility” section of this document or the Terms of Reference found on the website to determine your eligibility.

Next, download an application form from the website linked above.

Find a supervisor. Approach a Faculty of Arts professor involved in research that you find appealing. Work together with the professor to develop a mutually beneficial project.

You may also wish to attend the information session that will be held in late January. Please see our website for details.

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Who is eligible to supervise?

Supervisors must be continuing, tenure track faculty members in the Faculty of Arts. Faculty members from other faculties are not eligible to act as supervisors, except in the case of co-supervisors where at least one faculty supervisor is a continuing, tenure track faculty member in the Faculty of Arts. In the case of co-supervisors, all co-supervisors must sign the application form. Those from outside the Faculty of Arts should also indicate their home faculty.

What will make my project stand out?

Some of the criteria 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
- promises an enhanced learning experience
- features experience and skill development
- the fit of the project with the applicant’s program of study
- 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.

Be prepared to articulate your own thoughts in a concise and intelligent manner. Don’t be shy or daunted by the task! No matter what the outcome, this is a great opportunity to enhance your academic development.

Can I apply for both the Roger S. Smith USRA and the URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend at the same time?

You cannot hold both the Roger S Smith USRA and the URI Undergraduate Researcher Stipend at the same time for the same project.

If you do not intend to hold both simultaneously, you are permitted to use the same application (same topic, research proposal, and supervisor) for both competitions.

In order to hold both at the same time, you must have two different proposals/projects and two different supervisors.

If both applications are successful, you must supply written permission from both supervisors to proceed.

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The terms of the Roger S Smith award dictate you are expected to spend ~ 330 hours (or ~22 hours/week) on your project. Permission from your supervisors must acknowledge this requirement and confirm they will ensure your adherence.

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).