



75 University Avenue West, Waterloo Ontario, Canada N2L 3C5 T 519.884.0710

## **NSERC USRA Rubric**

Note: Evaluation Committees are expected to consider gaps or adversities outlined by students in the research interest statement and personal circumstances statement.

Academic excellence* (10 points)					
Points	5	4	3	2	1
GPA	GPA 11-12	GPA 10- 10.99	GPA 9-9.99	GPA 8-8.99	GPA 7-7.99
Points	5	4	3	2	1
Scholarships and awards held	Outstanding	Very strong	Strong	Moderate	Insufficient

<sup>\*</sup>When assessing academic excellence, adjudicators are expected to consider applicant's additional circumstances and can award up to 4 additional points. See other considerations, below.

Research potential* (7 points)					
Points	5	4	3	2	1
Research	Outstanding	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Insufficient
potential –					
consider:					
judgement					
and ability to					
think critically					
ability to					
apply skills					
and					
knowledge,					
enthusiasm					
for research,					
community					
involvement,					
outreach,					
initiative,					
autonomy			_		_
Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0
Previous	Significant		Moderate		No research
research/wor	research		research		experience
k experience	experience		experience		
and relevance					
of experience					



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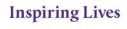
(including			
honours and			
directed			
studies			
projects and			
projects and co-op)*			

<sup>\*</sup>When adjudicating research potential and previous work experience, adjudicators are expected to consider applicant's additional circumstances and award up to 4 additional points. Adjudicators can also consider the relevance of the research experience in their assessment. See other considerations, below.

Expected explits of the training to be presided (4 points)						
Expected quality of the training to be provided (4 points)						
Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0	
Interactions	The project	The project	The project	The project is	The project	
with	will provide	will provide	will provide	unlikely to	will not	
supervisor	extensive	routine	some	provide	provide	
and/or	opportunitie	opportunities	opportunities	opportunities	opportunities	
research team	s for	for	for	for	for	
	interactions	interactions	interactions	interactions	interactions	
	with	with	with	with	with	
	supervisor	supervisor	supervisor	supervisor	supervisor	
	and/or	and/or	and/or	and/or	and/or	
	research	research	research	research	research	
	team	team	team	team	team	
Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0	
Training in	The project	The project	The project	The project is	The project	
research	will provide	will provide	will provide	unlikely to	will not	
techniques	outstanding	significant	training	provide	provide	
and skills	training	training	opportunities	training	training	
	opportunitie	opportunities	in research	opportunities	opportunities	
	s in research	in research	techniques	in research	in research	
	techniques	techniques	and skills	techniques	techniques	
	and skills	and skills		and skills	and skills	

Other Considerations – up to 8 additional pts (at adjudicator's discretion)

 Adjudicators are expected to give careful consideration to, and be sensitive to the impact of, personal circumstances (as outlined in the research interest and/or personal circumstances statement) when assessing the student applicant's research productivity, GPA, and relevant work or research experience.





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- Other considerations (if applicable to discipline) for Academic excellence (up to 4 points):
  - o Full time or part time studies
  - o Improvement over time
  - Level of program/course difficulty
  - Year of study (priority given to senior students)
  - In circumstances of a tie, adjudicators should consider providing an award to those who have not previously held an NSERC USRA
- Other considerations for Research potential (up to 4 points):
  - Extenuating circumstances
  - Described barriers due to EDI considerations