

**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.*

<b>Academic excellence* (10 points)</b>					
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
*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.					
<b>Research potential* (7 points)</b>					
Points	5	4	3	2	1
Research potential – consider: judgement and ability to think critically ability to apply skills and knowledge, enthusiasm for research, community involvement, outreach, initiative, autonomy	Outstanding	Very Strong	Strong	Moderate	Insufficient
Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0
Previous research/work experience and relevance of experience	Significant research experience		Moderate research experience		No research experience

(including honours and directed studies projects and co-op)*					
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\*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 quality of the training to be provided (4 points)**

Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0
Interactions with supervisor and/or research team	The project will provide extensive opportunities for interactions with supervisor and/or research team	The project will provide routine opportunities for interactions with supervisor and/or research team	The project will provide some opportunities for interactions with supervisor and/or research team	The project is unlikely to provide opportunities for interactions with supervisor and/or research team	The project will not provide opportunities for interactions with supervisor and/or research team
Points	2	1.5	1.0	.5	0
Training in research techniques and skills	The project will provide outstanding training opportunities in research techniques and skills	The project will provide significant training opportunities in research techniques and skills	The project will provide training opportunities in research techniques and skills	The project is unlikely to provide training opportunities in research techniques and skills	The project will not provide training opportunities in research techniques 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.

- Other considerations (if applicable to discipline) for Academic excellence (up to 4 points):
  - Full time or part time studies
  - 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