

What is an NUSRA?

The NUSRA program, funded through Nipissing’s Student Research Opportunities Fund, is designed to help nurture and develop the careers of budding researchers in health, social sciences, and humanities through a 16-week research assistantship employment opportunity. The research work experience provided by these awards is meant to complement studies in an academic setting and encourage graduate studies in these fields.

The program is designed as a cohort program, with opportunities for student RAs across disciplines to participate in professional development opportunities and a scholar’s network.

Allocation & Competitions

Number of awards:	Eight (8) awards are available Of those, one (1) award is reserved for self-identified Indigenous students
Value of award:	\$6,000 plus supervisor’s contribution of \$5,137 or \$5,384 (\$11,137 or \$11,384 total), if you work the full 16 weeks (Note: This total includes mandatory payroll deductions, such as CPP and EI.)
Duration of award:	May-August 2026 – 16 weeks at 35 hours per week

Nipissing will hold a Summer NUSRA competition, with the timeline below for 2026:

Call Issued	Application Deadline	Applicants Notified	Start Date of RAships
March	April 10	Apr 27	May 1

The Office of Research & Innovation will issue calls to faculty and students in Feb-Mar. Both the student and supervisor must submit a portion of the application.

Applicant Eligibility

Students:

At time of application, the student must:

- Be registered, as of the application deadline, in a bachelor’s degree program at Nipissing University;
- Be eligible for employment;
- Have been registered in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award;
- Have obtained a cumulative average of at least second class -- a grade of “B-” or “B”; 70% or higher (**Note: Students with transfer credit from another institution must check eligibility with the Registrar’s Office. The cumulative GPA shown on their account does not include transfer credit, and, thus, is not accurate for application purposes.**);
- Have not held a previous NUSRA or USRA in the current fiscal year, or more than 2 previous NUSRAs or USRAs; and
- Provide a complete application, including up-to-date, official transcripts from the Registrar’s Office of all other postsecondary institutions attended. Unofficial transcripts from Nipissing University will be accepted.

Supervisors:

Supervisors must be authorized by the institution to independently supervise students (per the terms of their appointment within their relevant faculty). The proposed supervisor must hold an active research grant (from any funding source, as principal investigator or co-investigator) or have sufficient funds in the Professional Expense Reimbursement (PER) to meet the minimum supervisor contribution based on the Nipissing University minimum wage for research students (table below), for a total of \$5,137 or \$5,384.

Wage	Vacation/ EI/ CPP etc	Hours/ week	Weeks	Total award	NUSRA Amount	Supervisor's Contribution
\$17.60 (Wage grade I-III)	13%	35	16	\$11,137	\$6,000	\$5,137
\$17.99 (Wage grade IV)	13%	35	16	\$11,384	\$6,000	\$5,384

Note: If an application is not successful, supervisors have the option of funding the full amount of the research assistantship).

Subject matter eligibility

To be eligible for the NUSRA program, the proposed research project should lie within the broad fields of research supported by SSHRC and CIHR (NSERC's USRA program is available to applicants within the fields of natural sciences and engineering.) If positions remain available, however, proposed projects from NSERC disciplines may be considered.

SSHRC	Social sciences & humanities
CIHR	Health research

Unsure? See the Tri-Agency's [General Guidelines for the Eligibility of Subject Matter](#).

Application Process

1. Once a professor has agreed to supervise a student and cover the supervisor's contributions, the student will complete **Part I** of the [application form](#) and provide the form to the proposed supervisor.
2. The supervisor must then complete **Part II** of the application form.
3. Once the form is completed, submit it to research@nipissingu.ca with the student's unofficial Nipissing University transcript and scans of transcripts from any other academic postsecondary institutions attended.

Selection Process

All applications are reviewed and adjudicated by Nipissing University's Training Awards Committee based on the following criteria:

- ▶ academic record
- ▶ research aptitude;
- ▶ expected quality of the training to be received; and
- ▶ written communication skills.

The Senate Research Committee receives the review committee's recommendations and decides whether or not to endorse the recommendations to the Associate Vice-President, Research, Innovation and Graduate Studies for final approval.

The Research Coordinator then contacts all applicants with the final recommendations.

Grant Access & Use

- Successful supervisors will need to submit HR's [Request to Hire a Student Employee Form](#), using their desired research account as the cost centre.
- Successful students will begin their work on May 1st. They will not need to submit weekly timesheets.
- Student RAs and supervisors will be required to complete final reports by October 1st.

Cohort & Professional Development

- Successful RAs will participate in a scholar's network that provides a space for students to ask questions, connect with faculty and student researchers, and discuss their experiences engaging in research.
- Professional development sessions will help students identify specific skills gained through experience and translate them into skills and abilities in a resume or award application.
- Students and faculty who receive funding through the Student Research Opportunities Fund are expected to participate in post-award feedback opportunities to share their experiences and research project deliverables. This will facilitate annual reporting to Student Research Opportunities Fund donors and will inform program evaluations and improvements.

Questions?

Contact the Research Coordinator at research@nipissingu.ca.