

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (PURE) AWARDS

Purpose

The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) Award program offers funded opportunities for UCalgary undergraduate students to conduct research with a faculty supervisor over the spring and summer terms. Award recipients learn how research projects are developed and conducted, and how research results can contribute new knowledge and insights in their field of study and in the wider community.

Each PURE studentship is a unique opportunity to develop research skills through experiential learning. Students explore personal research interests, develop the abilities to collaborate, think critically and creatively, and communicate with the research community. PURE Award experiences enrich and extend undergraduate learning at the University of Calgary.

Award Value

PURE Awards are funded for periods of 16 weeks, 12 weeks, or 8 weeks between May and August. 16-week awards are in the amount of \$6,000, 12-week awards in the amount of \$4,500, and 8-week awards in the amount of \$3,000. Students holding PURE Awards will be paid \$1,500 from the Undergraduate Awards Office once a month for the duration of the studentship, in accordance with the award values.

Application Deadlines

Student and supervisor award applications are due to the online consolidated studentship application portal in February of each year, in accordance with the consolidated summer studentship program deadlines.

Student Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a PURE award, students must:

- Be currently enrolled as a current full-time, undergraduate student at the University of Calgary, including international students presently studying full-time at the University of Calgary.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2 in their current program. Student GPA calculations include Fall semester grades of the academic year in which they are applying for a PURE award. Cumulative GPAs are rounded up to the nearest tenth of a decimal.
- Plan to remain a student in good standing at the University of Calgary during the period of the studentship.
- PURE Awards are only available to continuing undergraduate students in the following Fall academic term. Students who have completed the requirements for their degree program are not eligible for a PURE Award. Students who are graduating in June are not eligible.
- PURE award holders may not simultaneously hold any relevantly similar award, such as the Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) in Health and Wellness, NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards for research in the natural sciences and engineering, O'Brien Centre Awards (with the exception of travel awards), Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) Summer Studentships for medical or health research.
- Students that have previously conducted student research through PURE may reapply in subsequent years, in accordance with the eligibility guidelines.

Supervisor Eligibility

Supervisors can supervise a maximum of two students through PURE and the Consolidated Application System awards. To be eligible to support a student's PURE award application, supervisors must be a full-time University of Calgary academic staff member.

Eligible:

- Full-time UCalgary Academic Staff (Faculty and Researchers)
- Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors
- Instructors, Senior Instructors, and Teaching Professors
- Clinical Faculty Appointments
- Professors Emeritus with an active UCID

Co-Supervisor Eligible:

UCalgary academic staff who are not full-time can co-supervise, but will require an eligible full-time academic staff member to co-supervise and be listed as the primary reference in the application.

- Sessional or Affiliated Instructors
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Holders
- Guest Postdoctoral Scholars
- Adjunct Professors and Instructors
- Postdoctoral Associates

Non-Eligible:

- Non-UCalgary Researchers

Adjudication criteria

Applicants must meet eligibility and submission requirements as described above. All eligible applications will be assessed using the criteria in the PURE Award Program Rubric (Appendix A). These criteria include:

- Project description
- Originality, creativity and significance
- Potential benefits
- Background preparation
- Quality of research experience

Student applications are assessed with a rubric that includes the assessment of the proposal abstract, creativity of research question or method, potential benefit to the student and relevant experience. The adjudication of PURE Award Program applications is conducted through faculty-based committees, and PURE Awards are disbursed by the Academic Lead of the program in collaboration with the Office of the Vice Provost Teaching and Learning. Successful students are notified in early April of each year in conjunction with the rest of the consolidated studentship awards program. Unsuccessful students are notified before May.

PURE Award Application process: Student

Candidates must apply for the PURE award through an electronic consolidated undergraduate research application portal and submit their application by 4:00 PM on the first Friday in February each year. Proposals for PURE program research projects must originate with and be drafted chiefly by the student applicant. In addition to the PURE award, students are able to apply for multiple awards through the consolidated application including the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) award, the Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF) award, Alberta Innovates (AI) award, the Alberta Transplant Institute (ATI) award, O'Brien Centre Summer Studentships (OCSS), and the Libin Cardiovascular Health Research award. Students will automatically be considered for multiple awards in the consolidated portal.

PURE Award Application process: Supervisor

Following the submission of a student application, selected supervisors will be asked to submit their comments about the merits of both the applicant and the research project through an online evaluation form. Supervisors are given one additional week after the student submission deadline to complete this part of the process.

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PURE Award holder responsibilities

- Students must submit the required banking information to the University of Calgary in order to receive PURE Award funding.
- Students holding PURE Awards will be registered in a section of the RVST 598 shell course by the PURE Program Administrator in order to ensure compliance with University of Calgary insurance guidelines.
- Students must make a full-time commitment to their research during the period of their PURE award. PURE students are intended to spend an average of 35 hours per week on their research projects and should connect with their supervisor to discuss the daily and weekly expectations of their PURE research term commitment.
- To make the most out of the PURE research experience, it is strongly recommended that students take no more than one course throughout their research term. Students are expected to make a full-time

commitment to their PURE research and are encouraged to discuss workload and expectations with their supervisor if they wish to take a spring or summer course during their research term.

- Students offered a PURE award will be required to accept or decline the offer by a date specified in the notification of the offer.
- PURE award holders may not simultaneously hold any relevantly similar award, such as the Undergraduate Student Research Program (USRP) in Health and Wellness, NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards for research in the natural sciences and engineering, O'Brien Centre Awards (with the exception of travel awards), Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR) Summer Studentships for medical or health research, etc.
- No academic course credit will be awarded for work funded by the PURE.
- Research funded by a PURE award must comply with all University of Calgary guidelines concerning the conduct of research. In particular, all research projects involving the use of human subjects must be reviewed and certified as acceptable by the appropriate University Research Ethics Board, and any research involving animals must be certified by the appropriate Animal Care Committee. The responsibility for adherence to these guidelines is jointly shared by the supervisor and award recipient.
- PURE award holders are to conduct their research in a safe and ethical manner under the guidance and mentorship of their supervisors. They are expected to follow the procedures and rules of the research environment in which they conduct their research, and interact regularly with their supervisor.
- During their research term, PURE students are required to complete an entry and end-point evaluation survey. Following the completion of their term, they are asked to write a report of their experience and must ensure it meets the expectations of PURE and of the supervisor. Failure to submit a final report may render students ineligible for future awards.

PURE Award Supervisor responsibilities

- The supervisor of a PURE award holder is expected to mentor and support the student, providing an opportunity for the student to learn and develop research skills.
- The supervisor is to ensure the student can conduct their research experience in a safe and ethical environment, following procedures and rules of the University of Calgary, and if applicable those of the specific research environment in which the student is engaged.
- The supervisor is to meet regularly with the student and provide regular feedback and support to the student and the student's research project.
- The supervisor is to review and approve the student's final PURE report to ensure the report adequately explains the award holder's research successes and challenges.

Award Administration

The Office of the Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning and the PURE Academic Lead and PURE Administrator from the College of Discovery, Creativity and Innovation (CDCI) will provide the final PURE Awards student acceptance list to the Award Services Office. In conjunction with the Registrar's office, the Award Services Office will allocate student award amounts.

PURE Award Program Learning Outcomes

- *Develop* a research plan, *identify* a specific area of inquiry, *assess* the viability and suitability of research practices, *carry-out* the research plan and *communicate* research findings.
- *Collaborate* with other researchers in the design, planning, and implementation of a research project.

- *Describe* the importance of your research to communities on- and off-campus; effectively *communicate* the value and impact of your research and conclusions to a variety of audiences.
- *Reflect* on and *articulate* the impact of the PURE research experience on research skill development and researcher identity.
- *Reflect* on and *articulate* the impact of the PURE research experience on academic and professional growth and career goals.
- *Establish* and *participate* in a community of scholars, *developing* a network of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty researchers across campus and beyond.