

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, scholarship, and creative activities with a faculty supervisor over the spring and summer. Award recipients learn how projects are developed and conducted and how research results can contribute new knowledge and insights in their field of study and 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, acknowledge multiple ways of knowing, appreciate diverse perspectives, 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 16 weeks, 12 weeks, or 8 weeks between May and August. 16-week awards are in the amount of \$7,500, 12-week awards in the amount of \$5,625, and 8-week awards in the amount of \$3,750. Students holding PURE Awards will be paid \$1,875 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 summer studentship application portal in February of each year, following the summer studentship application deadlines.

Student Eligibility

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

- Be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student at the University of Calgary, including international students presently studying at the University of Calgary.
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 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.
- Maintain status as 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 similar awards, such as the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA), O'Brien Centre Awards, or Alberta Innovates.

Students who have previously conducted student research through PURE may reapply in subsequent years following the eligibility guidelines.

Supervisor Eligibility

Supervisors can supervise a maximum of two students through PURE and the summer studentships application portal. To be eligible to support a student's PURE award application, a supervisor 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 be listed as the primary reference for the application. This includes:

- 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
- Mentorship and research environment

Student applications are assessed with a rubric that includes the assessment of the proposal abstract, creativity of the research question or method, potential benefit to the student, mentorship and research environment, 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. The PURE team may allocate studentships for Indigenous students. Successful students will be notified in early April in coordination with other summer studentship awards. Unsuccessful students will be notified before May.

PURE Award Application Process: Student

Candidates must apply for the PURE award through the online summer studentships application portal and submit their application by 11:59 PM on the first Friday of February. Proposals for PURE program research projects must originate with and be drafted chiefly by the student applicant.

In addition to the PURE award, students' applications will be considered for multiple awards through the summer studentship application portal, including the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute (ACHRI) award, the Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF) award, NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA), Alberta Innovates (AI), O'Brien Centre Summer Studentships (OCSS), the Libin Cardiovascular Health Research award, and other awards. Students will automatically be considered for multiple awards in the summer studentship application portal. Eligibility will be determined based on the qualifications of the awards.

PURE Award Application process: Supervisor

After submitting a student application, supervisors will be asked to comment on the merits of both the applicant and the research project through an online evaluation form. Supervisors will have one week after the student submission deadline to complete their review.

PURE Award holder responsibilities

- Students must submit the required banking information to the University of Calgary 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 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 commit full-time 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 offer notification.
- PURE award holders may not simultaneously hold similar awards, such as the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards, O'Brien Centre Awards, or Alberta Innovates.
- 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 supervisor and PURE student jointly share the responsibility for adhering to these guidelines.
- PURE award holders are to conduct their research safely and ethically 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 regularly interact with their supervisor.
- During their research term, PURE students must 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 the supervisor. Failure to submit a final report may render a student 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 must ensure the student can conduct their research experience in a safe and ethical environment, following the 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. The Award Services Office will allocate student award amounts in conjunction with the Registrar's office.

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 designing, planning, and implementing a research, scholarly, or creative 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 various 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.
- *Appreciate* the value of diverse perspectives throughout all aspects of a research project
- Feel *welcomed* into a community of scholars that actively recognizes stereotype threat, bias, and microaggressions and acknowledges intersecting professional and personal identities.