

RNA Innovation Undergraduate Research Award

Application Form

Description:

The RNA Innovation Undergraduate Research Award aims to encourage students to undertake RNA-related research projects and advance their training at the University of Lethbridge or the Université de Sherbrooke. Students will receive the chance to learn more about the RNA Innovation training program and meet with current trainees and participate in program events.

The RNA Innovation Undergraduate Research Award is valued at \$1125/semester.

Eligibility:

At the time of application, the student must:

- Have completed all the course requirements of at least the first year of university study (or two academic terms) of their bachelor's degree;
- Have been registered in at least one of the two terms immediately before holding the award in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible university;
- Not have started a program of graduate studies in the natural sciences or engineering at any time; and
- Be engaged on a full-time basis in research and development activities in the natural sciences or engineering during the tenure of the award.
- Not take courses during the work hours of the USRA (the student may take up to 1 course if special arrangements are made). For the purposes of the USRA program, the credits assigned to co-op placements are not considered academic credits.
- Not work on thesis research during the term of the award.

How to Apply:

Please submit the following as a single PDF:

1. Student Letter: A detailed, one-page letter describing your education, leadership roles, research experience, relevant work experience and how they fit with the objectives of the RNA Innovation program (<https://rnainnovation.ca/>). Please include a detailed explanation of your research plans with your proposed supervisor and why you have chosen to work in their lab. Also include a list of any other awards and scholarships that you have previously received. Please indicate the potential start date for your research position.
2. Supervisor Letter: As a proposed supervisor, please provide a short abstract of the research program (no more than 1800 characters) and indicate the role the student will play in completing this research (maximum 500 characters). Please include details on why you are supporting this particular student in their application to the RNA Innovation program.
3. Official Transcript(s)

Application Submission Instructions:

Completed applications must be submitted by 11:59 MST on April 2, 2021 directly to admin@RNAInnovation.ca. Late applications will not be accepted.

Conditions of the Award:

1. Use of funds: Funds will be disbursed to the successful applicant at the end of the first month of their research project.
2. Term: Students are expected to work with their supervisors for a single semester (4 months/16 weeks). Work can be completed during any semester (Fall, Spring, Summer). Exact hours and scheduling should be made in cooperation with the supervisor and student.

Evaluation Criteria and Process:

The following evaluation criteria applies to all applicants:

1. Student (68%): Transcripts, GPA, Supervisor Recommendation and the Student Letter will be evaluated for research/scholarly/creative achievements as well as how well the student has identified how their objectives fit within the RNA Innovation mandate.
2. Supervisor (32%): The letter will be evaluated based on project description and the proposed role the student will play in this research project.

NOTE: Supervisors can only have one (1) student receive the award each semester, therefore each supervisor should choose their best candidate for the program to support in their application.

Applications will be reviewed by the RNA Innovation Executive Committee members.