UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP (URS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

How is sessional Grade Point Average (GPA) calculated for the purposes of the award?
The sessional GPA is defined in the 2009/10 UVic Calendar as follows:
The sessional GPA is based on all courses completed in a session which have a unit value.
Courses bearing the grade COM are not included in the calculation of the GPA. A sessional GPA
is found by multiplying the grade point value of each final grade by the number of units, totaling
the grade points for all the grades, and dividing the total grade points by the total number of
units.

Scholarship eligibility is based on a student’s sessional GPA in the previous Winter Session
(September to April) unless that student was on a co-op term in the previous Winter Session. It
does not include the summer term. For Co-op students, we would calculate the GPA based on
their two previous study terms.

Please note: Departments are responsible for ensuring that the GPA as defined is at a 7.0 or
above before submitting the nomination.

How does the scholarship translate into hours of work?
This is a scholarship, so it is NOT hours worked for pay. The students will receive the
scholarship monies as they would any other scholarship from Student Awards & Financial Aid
(SAFA). The scholarship is for the experience not for a certain number of hours otherwise it
would be research assistantship. Thus you cannot require a number of hours worked. The
consensus seems to be that about 5-7 hours a week would be fair but we recommend that the
supervisor thinks about this more as a learning contract (what the student will learn) rather than a
work contract which is NOT appropriate in this context.

Must I be registered in 12.0 units, or is this flexible?
The scholarship regulations specify that students are required to register in a full course load (12
units) to qualify for scholarships. The exception to the regulation is registration in a co-op work
term. Co-op work terms, while they only have a unit value of 2, are the equivalent of a full time
study term. If a student is registered in one co-op term plus one term in which they are registered
in 6.0 units of course work they will have met the course load requirement for the URS.
What is considered an academic unit in terms of eligibility for nominating a scholar?
A unit is usually a department or a school. In the case of decanal faculties (e.g. Law), it is the faculty. Please see our website for the list of departments eligible to nominate someone for this scholarship. [http://ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/urs.php](http://ltc.uvic.ca/scholarships/urs.php)

How are students paid? Do they get a cheque?
The undergraduate scholarship regulations specify that undergraduate scholarship funds are credited towards a student’s fee account to be applied towards their fees for the academic year. If their fees are paid and a credit remains in their account, students can request that Accounting Services produce a cheque for the amount of the credit in their fee account.

Can the URS be used toward my honours thesis?
It could be but this would be decided by the department.

What is the time period that the URS recipient should work in (e.g. Winter Session, September to April)?
Please note this is not work. But, in general, for departments awarding one scholar, September to April and for split awards it could be September to December or January to April or September to April but for less time.