

2025 University of Toronto Excellence Awards (UTEA)

Program Guidelines

Purpose:

To provide opportunities for research experience at the undergraduate level in the natural sciences and engineering (**NSE**), social sciences and humanities (**SSH**), or health and life sciences (**HLS**); to augment the formal research courses offered by the University of Toronto; to provide undergraduate students opportunities to gain direct research experience on a faculty-led project; to help students learn and appreciate the investigative methodologies of areas of particular interest; and to foster interest in and knowledge of careers in research.

Award Value:

UTEA awards are valued at a minimum of \$7,500. Of this minimum total, \$5,250 is provided by the University and must be matched by a minimum of \$2,250 from the student's supervisor or the academic unit. Any supplement above this level may be set at the supervisor's or department's discretion.

Award Duration:

The award period is 14 full weeks during the summer term, beginning no earlier than May 1, 2025, and ending no later than September 30, 2025.

Eligibility of Students:

To be eligible to hold a UTEA, a student must:

- be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, or international student with valid student visa for the full summer work term;
- be registered in a Bachelor's degree program at the University of Toronto either as 1) a full-time student, or 2) a part-time student **only** if the UTEA will be held during the student's final session and the student requires only a part-time courseload to complete their degree;
- be registered either at the time of application or in the term immediately before the award start date. Graduating students may hold an award in the term immediately following the completion of their undergraduate program, as long as they have not started a graduate program; and
- have obtained a cumulative average of "B+" or higher. For students in higher years, this average can be applied to the best two years of study.

Eligible students may already hold a Bachelor's degree in any discipline and be studying towards a second Bachelor's degree in NSE, SSH, or HLS.

A student is **ineligible** to hold a UTEA if they:

- are currently enrolled in an undergraduate professional degree program in the health sciences (e.g., M.D., D.D.S., B.Sc.N.);
- hold a degree above a Bachelor's in NSE, HLS, or SSH; or
- are currently enrolled in graduate studies

Please also note:

- A student may only apply for one UTEA opportunity per year.
- A student may not concurrently hold a UTEA **and** an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) or other equivalent summer research award.
- Preference will be given to second- and third-year students.
- A student may hold a maximum of three UTEAs throughout their university career, with priority given to first-time applicants.

Eligibility of Supervisors:

To be eligible as a UTEA supervisor, a faculty member must be:

- A faculty member whose primary employer is the University of Toronto
- As a **principal investigator (PI)**, either holding an active NSERC, SSHRC, or CIHR grant, or having a pending application with one of those agencies at the time of application to the division

A faculty member can be the supervisor on a maximum of 2 UTEA awards per year.

Research Expenses and Fieldwork:

The entire UTEA funding is to be awarded to the student as a stipend. Any additional costs, e.g. supplies, services, fieldwork (travel expenses) are the responsibility of the supervisor or the department.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion:

The University of Toronto embraces Diversity and is building a culture of belonging that increases our capacity to effectively address and serve the interests of our global community. We strongly encourage applications from Indigenous Peoples, Black and racialized persons, women, persons with disabilities, and people of diverse sexual and gender identities.

Divisions are expected to post opportunities widely to attract a broad/diverse pool of students. Academic divisions/units must establish a peer review committee to make award decisions. Academic units make award decisions through their own competitive, peer-review process. In the absence of such a committee, academic divisions can rely on their executive committee or other existing committee of faculty members.

Review committees are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion, and to adopt equitable and consistent peer review processes. Committees must develop and consistently apply predetermined selection criteria that align with information found in the posting and account for and not penalize academic interruptions/leaves/extenuating circumstances.

Activity Report:

It is the responsibility of the student to submit a Research Report no later than October 1, 2025, to Cheryl Nash (cheryl.nash@utoronto.ca), Research Funding Officer. The report template will be distributed with the UTEA award letters.