

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards

APPLICATION DEADLINE: February 13, 2026 – 11:59 pm

The Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (MME) has been awarded 9 NSERC USRA and 3 USSRF awards for 2026. Additional awards are available for students who identify as Indigenous and Black student researchers. Please self-identify on the application form.

In MME, any student from Queen's or beyond may apply if they meet the eligibility below. To apply for one of the MME awards, the supervisor must be an MME faculty member. Each applicant will complete an application package and submit it to the email address below and copy their potential supervisor. If you have any question, please contact the department at mmeadmin@queensu.ca

Applicant Eligibility:

- be a Canadian citizen, a permanent resident of Canada or a Protected Person under subsection 95(2) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (Canada) (USRA ONLY)
- Eligible to work in Canada
- have obtained, over the previous years of study, a cumulative average of at least a GPA of 2.7
- be registered, as of the deadline date for applications at the institution, in a bachelor's degree program at an eligible institution. Not open to graduate students
- Applicants can only hold 1 USRA award per year and a maximum of 3 USRA awards throughout their undergraduate career
- Students are encouraged to participate and present their research at other forums throughout the year. USSRF students are also expected to submit an abstract of their summer research to the Student Inquiry at Queen's Journal

Criteria: Applications will be evaluated based on the academic record and the research aptitude of the applicant as well as the quality of the training to be received. All applicants will be notified within two weeks of the due date of the outcome of the competition.

Value: Student will be paid a minimum salary rate of \$18.60/hour for an overall minimum value of \$10,416 plus vacation pay. An additional supplement may be offered by the supervisor based on availability of funds.

Please Note:

- Students must hold the award for 16 consecutive weeks, full-time (35 hr/wk), (normally May 4, 2026 – August 21, 2026). The USRA program makes no provision for interruptions of awards. Awards may not be deferred.
- Students are not permitted to take courses or do thesis research **during** working hours throughout the term of their award. Work completed during the term of the award can not be used towards their degree program (undergrad or graduate).

- Applicants who are not awarded a USRA will have their applications automatically put forward for inclusion in additional internal awards including summer fellowships and the Charles A Thompson Award.

Summer Research Awards Internal Application Process:

*NOTE: The MME process is slightly different than other departments or the NSERC process posted online in order to give some flexibility. Please follow **this process**.*

Please review the posted [Summer Research Projects](#) for EXAMPLES of projects. This list of projects are a starting point only. Applicants should reach out to the individual faculty members to see if they have summer projects. You are encouraged to discuss other projects with faculty members. Check out our [faculty profiles pages](#) for more info on faculty and their research areas.

Part I: Application Form Personal Information

Complete the [2026 MME Summer Research Application Form](#).

Part II: Research Statement

Prepare a 1-page max statement answering the following 3 questions:

(This statement should be written by you and without the aid of your prospective research supervisor)

1. **Elevator pitch:** Imagine you have 1 minute to tell someone about your research plans, and to convince them it is important and meaningful research. Tell us what you would say.
2. **Personal Impact:** Describe how this opportunity will contribute to your academic experience.
3. **Broader Impact:** Describe the potential relevance of the research to (a) the field of study, and (b) a broader audience beyond your field of study (in/outside academia). E.g., What new knowledge will your research contribute, and who will benefit?

Part III: Transcript

Download a copy of your **unofficial** transcript from SOLUS. (Non-Queen's University applicants, will need to submit an official transcript with legend from your institution).

Submit your all three parts of the application by email to mmeadmin@queensu.ca and copy your potential supervisor before the deadline.

Successful applicants will be contacted to complete the NSERC USRA online forms following a decision by the department. If a project is not posted, a project proposal will need to be agreed upon prior to final approval.

Please contact the department via mmeadmin@queensu.ca if you have any questions or need assistance.

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