We are pleased to announce the thirteenth edition of the Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering (SURE) program. For over a decade, SURE students have worked closely with engineering professors on innovative research projects for 16 weeks in the summer term.

The SURE program offers approximately 130 summer research awards valued at a minimum of $6,000. Approximately 40 research awards will be made available through the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (NSERC USRA) program, while the remaining research awards will be funded through the Faculty of Engineering, the Trottier Institute for Sustainable Engineering and Design (TISED), and by generous donors. In both cases, a portion of the support comes from the research funds of the professor supervising the project.

### Change to the value of the SURE Award

On December 8th, 2020, NSERC announced an increase to the value of Undergraduate Student Research Awards (USRA). Starting with the Summer 2021 competition, the value of the NSERC portion of the USRA will be increased from $4,500 to $6,000. The 25 per cent minimum contribution from the university will continue, meaning that the award will have a minimum value of $7,500 for the student.

For students who do not receive a USRA, the total award will be $6,000 ($3,000 from the supervisor and $3,000 from the Faculty). This is an increase from $5,625 in previous years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Supervisor contribution</th>
<th>NSERC contribution</th>
<th>Faculty contribution</th>
<th>TOTAL to student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-USRA students</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3000</td>
<td>$6000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSERC USRA students</td>
<td>$1500</td>
<td>$6000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$7500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In the SURE program, students work closely with a professor on one of their research projects for 16 weeks during the summer. The program provides exposure to the research experience, as well as opportunities to learn more about the graduate school experience and about careers in research.

The SURE research awards that are funded through the Faculty of Engineering are available to students irrespective of their citizenship or immigration status (i.e., the program is open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and international students). On the other hand, following NSERC regulations, NSERC USRA awards are available to Canadian citizens and permanent residents only.
SURE Program Details

*Application Period: January 13th-January 25th, 2021*

For details on the available projects and to access application forms, please visit the SURE webpage. Projects will be posted the week of January 11, 2021 and the application form will be available as of January 14, 2021.

1. Eligibility: Full-time students in Year 1 (having completed at least two semesters of study at the time of application; at least one completed semester for CEGEP entrants), Year 2, or Year 3, who have a CGPA of 3.0 or higher. The program is also open to May 2021 graduates. For the NSERC USRAs, there are additional eligibility requirements as stated on the NSERC webpage.

2. The participation in the SURE program will be recorded on continuing McGill students’ transcripts. Specific courses (FACC 351-354 – SURE Experience) have been created to offer continuing McGill students an official record of their participation in the SURE program. Supervisors and SURE participants need to complete a Confirmation Form at the end of the program, confirming that the student has completed the SURE program.

3. The SURE and NSERC USRA awards will be administered by the Faculty through the McGill Engineering Student Centre.

4. The duration of the SURE program is 16 weeks beginning on Monday, May 3, 2021 and ending on Friday, August 20, 2021. Students are required to participate in research on a full-time basis.

5. SURE awards are full time awards with a typical engagement from students of 35 to 40 hours weekly for 16 weeks (e.g., SURE participants should not be registered for any summer courses). A vacation request may be accommodated by the supervisor if not in conflict with any SURE events and if the student will make up the missed time. Students’ research schedule should be completed during reasonable business hours each day.

How to apply to SURE

1. The first step is to look up the available projects on the SURE website. All projects will be posted the week of January 11, 2021. Once you have settled on your preferred project(s), contact the supervisor(s) to discuss your interest in the research, and the anticipated research tasks and deliverables for the project.

2. If you and the supervisor tentatively agree that you should apply to the project, proceed to the Online Student Application form for which a link can be found on the SURE website under ‘Application’. The application form will become available on Thursday, January 14, 2020.

3. Students may submit a maximum of 3 applications. If a student qualifies for more than one project, it is assumed that they wish to work on all projects equally and thus may be placed in a project at random. Therefore, should the supervisor and student agree to work together, the supervisor should rank only one student and the student should apply to only one project.

4. Please use a new application form for each project you apply to. Once the Online Student Application has been completed and your transcript uploaded, please save a copy and email it to your prospective supervisor along with a copy of your Official University Transcript (McGill students may submit their unofficial Minerva transcripts). External students will be asked to submit an official transcript if they are selected.
5. Plan to attend one of the ‘How to Apply to SURE Information Session’, to be held:

- Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, January 14th, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom

6. The deadline for submitting application forms to your prospective supervisor is Monday, January 25, 2021. We anticipate a high level of participation in this program and we therefore recommend that you discuss your candidacy with potential supervisors well ahead of the deadline. Note: Application packages (i.e., application form and transcript) are to be submitted to your intended supervisor via email.

7. SURE and NSERC USRAs will be awarded on a competitive basis and award decisions will be based on CGPA and academic credentials. Award decisions will be announced the week of February 22, 2021.

I encourage you to apply to the SURE program and engage in one of the many exciting research projects available.

Thank you,

[Signature]

cc: Jim Nicell, Dean, Faculty of Engineering
    Kaila Folinsbee, Associate Director, Engineering Student Centre
    Administrative Assistants, all Engineering Departments/Schools