

Ready for Research

Summer Studentship Information Session



Please mute your mic as you enter.

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Allison Cormier, Student
Andel Anderson, EL Specialist
Jennifer Logan, BHSc Program Coordinator

We would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 3.





This session is being recorded

- The recording will be shared afterwards
- The chat box and your name display will be edited out of the final recording
- All microphones are turned off
- Please use the chat to ask questions. We will address the questions at the end of the presentation

Ready for Research - Goals

- Background information on summer studentships
- Explore ideas for how to find a research supervisor
- Develop a strategy for contacting potential supervisors
- How to begin developing your proposal in collaboration with your supervisor
- Hear from a previous summer research student!
- Clarify the summer studentship application system, process and timelines
- How applications are evaluated



Summer Studentships

What are they?

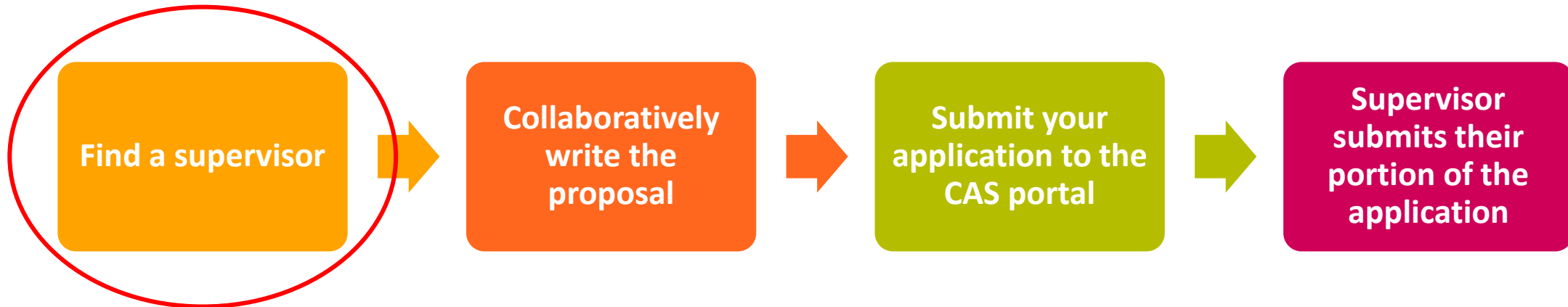
Summer studentships allow students to experience research outside of the classroom, pursue research passions and work with world-class researchers. Full-time paid summer research opportunity!

You apply for summer studentships through the Consolidated Application System (CAS) **AND** even if you are applying for one program (i.e. PURE) **you application is considered for all awards you qualify for!**



Student-Supervisor Partnership

These are awards you apply for in *partnership* with a UCalgary academic staff member.



Who can be a supervisor?

Eligible

Supervisors must be a **full-time University of Calgary academic staff member**. Supervisors can support a maximum of **two students** through the CAS.

- Full-time UCalgary Academic Staff
- Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors (Research stream)
- Assistant, Associate, and Full Professors (Teaching stream)
- Clinical Faculty Appointments
- Librarians, archivists, curators (who are full-time academic staff)
- Professors Emeritus with an active UCID

Co-Supervisor Eligible

UCalgary academic staff who are not full-time can co-supervise, but **will require an eligible full-time academic staff member to co-supervise and be listed as the primary reference on the application.**

- Sessional or Affiliated Instructors
- Postdoctoral Fellowship Holders
- Guest Postdoctoral Scholars
- Adjunct Professors and Instructors
- Postdoctoral Associates

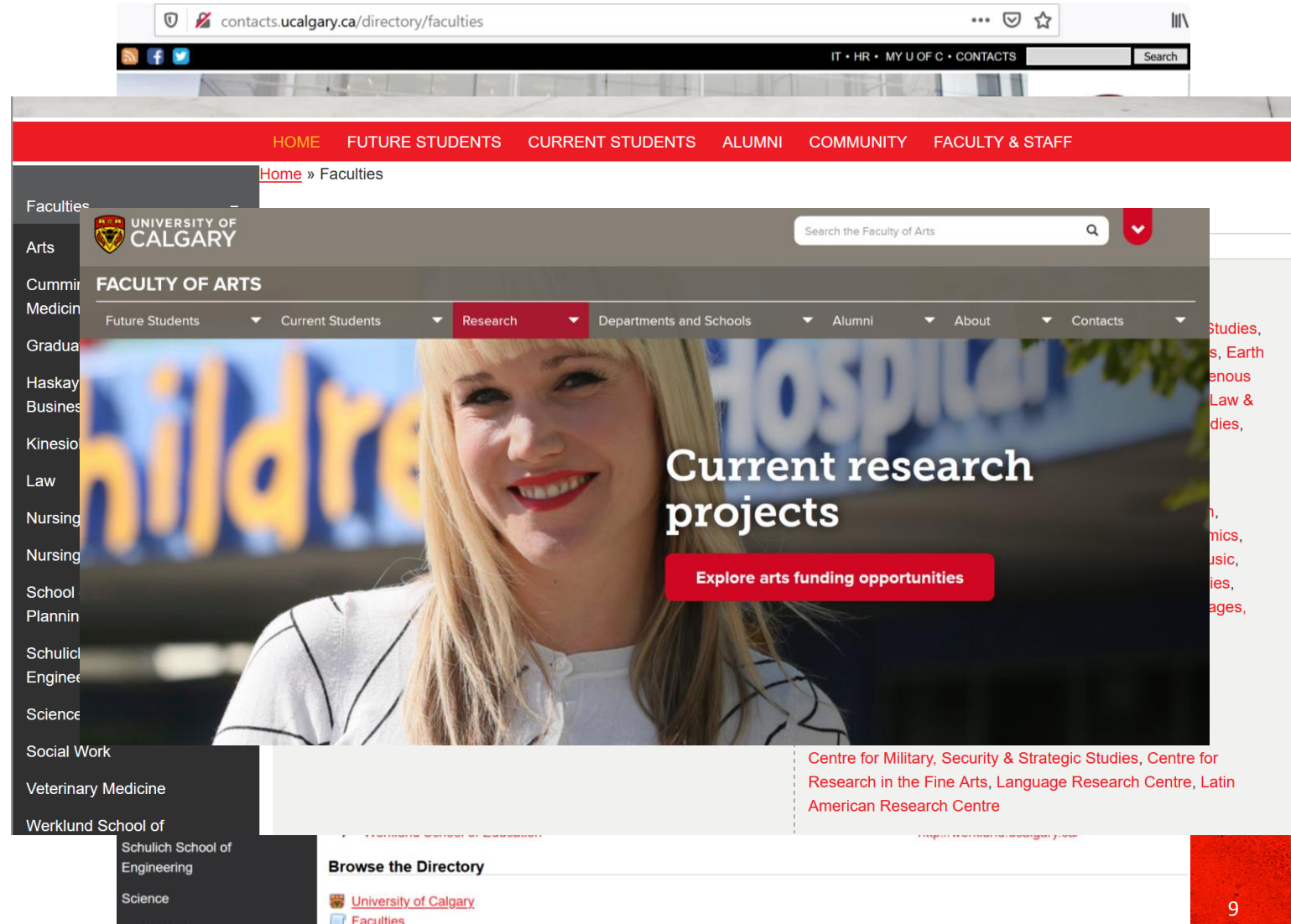
3 Approaches for Finding a Supervisor



1. Explore the UCalgary directory and Faculty member's webpages in your academic unit
2. Search UCalgary researchers beyond your academic unit
3. Talk to your course instructors

1. Finding a Supervisor: Explore the UCalgary Directory

- contacts.ucalgary.ca/directory/faculties
- Start with your academic unit
- Research institutes/units
- Faculty webpage > “Research”
- Look at individual faculty member’s webpages
- Read some of their research articles





UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Google Scholar

Google Scholar

Lisa Gieg



Lisa Gieg



Articles

About 398 results (0.04 sec)

Any time

Since 2020

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Google Scholar



SIGN IN

Articles about C

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Nature

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Lisa M Gieg

University of Calgary

Verified email at ucalgary.ca

FOLLOW

GET MY OWN PROFILE

TITLE

CITED BY

YEAR

Bioenergy production via microbial conversion of residual oil to natural gas

LM Gieg, KE Duncan, JM Suflita

Applied and environmental microbiology 74 (10), 3022-3029

241

2008

Biological souring and mitigation in oil reservoirs

LM Gieg, TR Jack, JM Foght

Applied microbiology and biotechnology 92 (2), 263

229

2011

Biocorrosive thermophilic microbial communities in Alaskan North Slope oil facilities

KE Duncan, LM Gieg, VA Parisi, RS Tanner, SG Tringe, J Bristow, ...

Environmental science & technology 43 (20), 7977-7984

180

2009

Carbon and sulfur cycling by microbial communities in a gypsum-treated oil sands tailings pond

F Ramos-Padrón, S Bordenave, S Lin, JM Bhaskar, Y Dong, CW Hansen

165

2011

Cited by

VIEW ALL

All

Since 2015

Citations

3824

2297

h-index

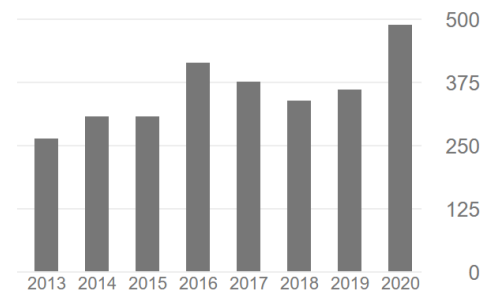
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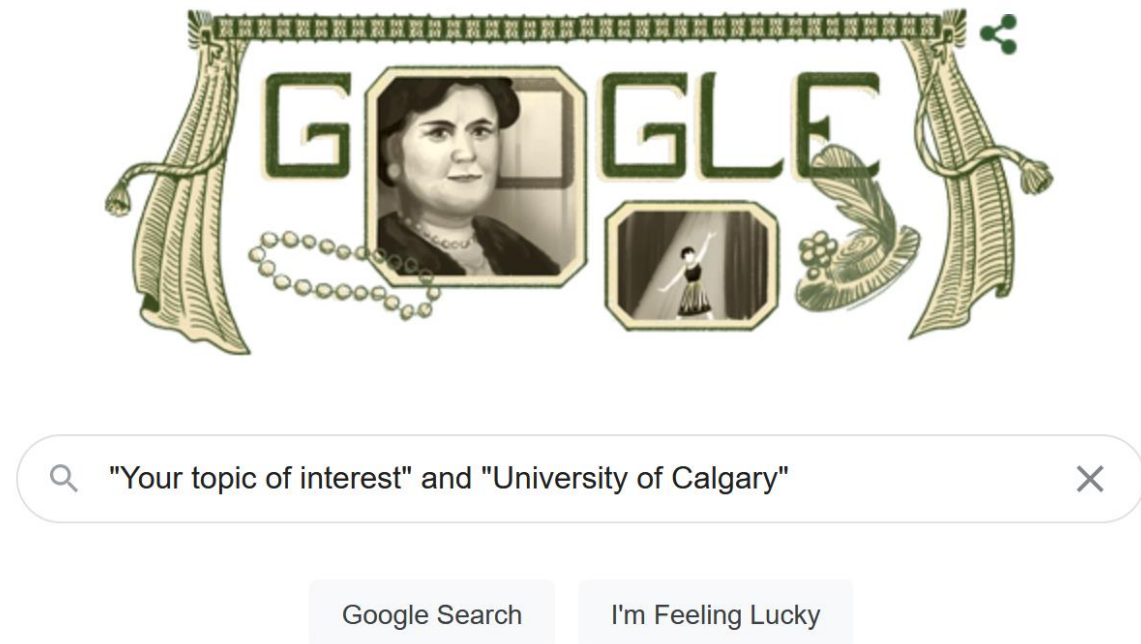
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46



2. Finding a Supervisor - Search UCalgary Researchers Beyond Your Academic Unit

- You are **not limited** to working with a research supervisor in your home faculty/department. Use the directory for related areas of interest.
- explore.ucalgary.ca
- Google & Google Scholar
- Join ResearchGate
- Academia.edu
- LinkedIn



3. Finding a Supervisor: Talk to Your Course Instructors

- Be respectful of people's time!
- Your instructor may hang out at the end of the class to answer questions. Use this time!
- Go to “office” hours. You can discuss the course content, but also use this time to express your interest in summer research.
- Ask for advice on finding a research supervisor, ask if they are interested in supervising undergraduate summer student researchers
- Build a relationship with your instructors

Emailing Potential Supervisors

Some useful things to keep in mind when sending emails to supervisors:

- **Short and specific is key.** Long, generic emails are often ignored.
- Use a **specific subject line** for your email.
- Use your potential supervisor's **formal title** (e.g. Dr. X) until you know their preference.
- Double-check spelling and grammar.
- Use your **university email address**
- Include an **email signature** that includes your name, major/minor, and expected graduation year.



An example...

Subject Line: Undergraduate Interested in Communications and Food Culture Research

Keep the subject line succinct and clear on why you are emailing the faculty member.

Good morning Dr. ProfessorName,

My name is Undergraduate Student and I am currently in my third year of a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications Studies. Having taken several courses where I've learned about the research process and methodologies within the communications discipline, I am looking for opportunities to expand my experience in conducting research.

Professionalism is key. Include a professional salutation, and always use "Dr." or "Prof." when addressing a faculty member.

I am particularly interested in the portrayal of family archetypes in food and culture television shows, such as Samin Nosrat's Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat or the Netflix programme, *Chef's Table*. I read your recent paper, *Gender Roles in Food Network Television*, and am fascinated by the exploration of how narratives can shift dramatically depending on a subject's gender despite similar backgrounds and achievements. After reviewing several of your other publications, I am very interested in both learning more about the intersections of food and culture and how I can contribute to that area of research.

Clearly state your degree and any relevant background information. This is valuable for the faculty member to determine if you may be a good fit for their research.

If you are available, I would love to meet to further discuss your research and if there is opportunity for undergraduate students to participate. I hope to apply for the PURE awards program for a 16-week term during the spring and summer of 20xx, but am also open to considering other opportunities.

Show that you've done research ahead of time. This is a good indicator for the faculty member that you are able to take initiative.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ask for a meeting in the initial email. This is important to facilitating the next steps of determining whether a faculty member may be able to supervise your research.

Regards,
Undergraduate Student
Major/Minor, Class of 20xx

Identifying what you hope to accomplish is important for the faculty member, but keep your options and your mind open in case the faculty member has other suggestions!

Always include a thank you, but keep it short.

Emailing Potential Supervisors

- **Do your research.** Look at faculty/department web pages to get acquainted with your potential supervisor's research interests.
- Demonstrate your own interest in your supervisor by mentioning what you find interesting about their research. This helps communicate to the supervisor **why you chose them** specifically.





Emailing Potential Supervisors

- Remember, if you put in the time and effort to craft a specific email that demonstrates your interest in your potential supervisor's research, the supervisor will be much more likely to respond to you!
- Be prepared to answer questions about summer studentships (i.e. deadlines, research term lengths, etc.)
- Some professors may ask you for a cover letter, CV and/or transcripts. Be prepared to have those ready



What Does “No” Mean?

- **Don’t panic!** Have you not received a response to your email? It’s okay to send a gentle reminder email after a couple of weeks. If you still don't receive a response after a reminder, don’t take it personally - move on and explore alternative supervisors.
- If a supervisor replies and is unable to supervise you, don’t take this personally. Everyone has lots on their plate right now.

Mentorship Practices of Potential Supervisors

- Research and career-based skills are important to consider when selecting a supervisor.
- However, there is also a mentorship component that is just as important as the other two.
- Some things to investigate before contacting your supervisor:
 - Research website – look for research environment description, mentorship statement, EDI statement
 - Contacting current and past students



Once you've found a supervisor...develop your proposal

- **Read** a LOT about your project topic
- You don't need to envision the entire project at the start
- Be **flexible**, project ideas are fluid at the planning stage
- Be **creative**

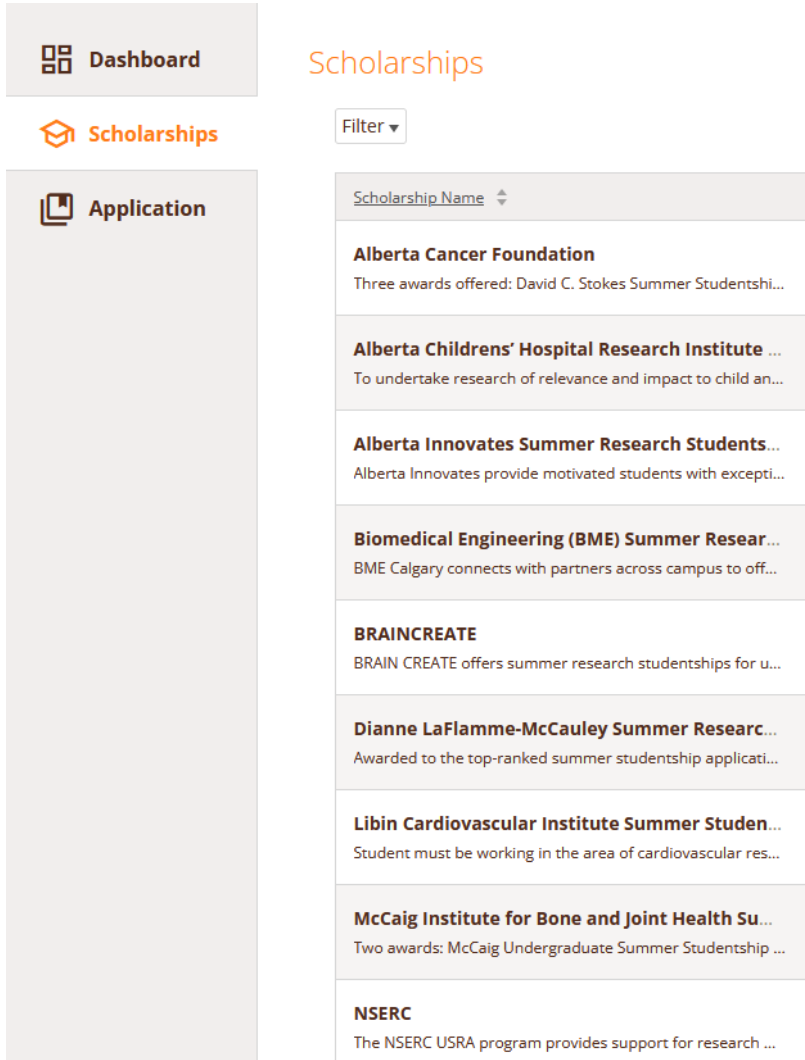


The Student Experience: Allison Cormier

- 2020 & 2021 PURE award recipient
- Winter 2021 Research on Global Challenges student
- Fall 2021 Research on Global Challenges Research Coach
- 2022 ACHRI award winner
- 2022-2023 Honours Research project



Consolidated Application System – How does it work?





The screenshot displays the CAS interface. On the left is a sidebar with three menu items: 'Dashboard' (with a grid icon), 'Scholarships' (with a graduation cap icon), and 'Application' (with a document icon). The 'Scholarships' section is active, showing a list of available awards. At the top of this section is a 'Filter' dropdown menu. The list of scholarships includes:


- Scholarship Name** (with a dropdown arrow)
- Alberta Cancer Foundation**
Three awards offered: David C. Stokes Summer Studentshi...
- Alberta Childrens' Hospital Research Institute ...**
To undertake research of relevance and impact to child an...
- Alberta Innovates Summer Research Students...**
Alberta Innovates provide motivated students with excepti...
- Biomedical Engineering (BME) Summer Resear...**
BME Calgary connects with partners across campus to off...
- BRAINCREATE**
BRAIN CREATE offers summer research studentships for u...
- Dianne LaFlamme-McCauley Summer Researc...**
Awarded to the top-ranked summer studentship applicati...
- Libin Cardiovascular Institute Summer Studen...**
Student must be working in the area of cardiovascular res...
- McCaig Institute for Bone and Joint Health Su...**
Two awards: McCaig Undergraduate Summer Studentship ...
- NSERC**
The NSERC USRA program provides support for research ...

- At UCalgary we have a **single** Consolidated Application system (CAS) for many summer studentships
- Students submit **one** application per academic year and are considered for the CAS awards for which they are eligible
- Successful applications are offered **one CAS award** per academic year

Eligibility

 Dashboard

 Scholarships

 Application

Application for Kyla Test

Part A: Demographic Questions
Completed

Part B: Award Eligibility questions
In Progress

Part C: Research Project Details & Supervisor Letter
Completed

Part D: Consent & Acknowledgement
Completed

The application system assesses eligibility as you complete it

- Eligibility varies by award
- External applicants
 - eligible for certain awards
- Graduating students
 - eligible for certain awards
- Supervisor eligibility
 - supervisors must be full-time UCalgary academic staff members
 - **supervisors can support a maximum of two student applications** through the Consolidated Application System per academic year

Consolidated Application System (CAS) Awards

- 8, 12 or 16 week terms from May 1, 2023 – August 25, 2023
 - Please note that award-funded summer research terms cannot start before May 1 or end after August 25 as per the UCalgary academic calendar
- Awards offered through the Consolidated Application System are considered scholarships/awards and are not taxed
- Award Values
 - 16-week term: \$7,500
 - 12-week term: \$5,625
 - 8-week term: \$3,750

Summer Studentships Process & Timeline

Apply

- Applicant deadline: **February 3, 2023 @ 11:59 PM**
- Supervisor deadline: **February 10, 2023 @ 11:59 PM**

Adjudication

- Adjudication begins after supervisor deadline

Results

- Successful applicants notified 6-8 weeks after application deadline (Late-March/Early-April)

Research

- Successful applicants participate in 8-, 12-, or 16-week research projects starting May – August

Preparing Your Application

The Consolidated Application System (CAS) will open in **early December** for students to start submitting applications.



- Enter the system early to see the application process:
 - **Title** of proposed research project (10 words)
 - **Overview/abstract of the research project:** Provide a short abstract or overview of the proposed research project, including the background and context, purpose, objectives and methodological approach of the project. Please use language for a broad audience (300 words)
 - **Originality, Creativity and Significance:** Highlight the originality, creative aspects, and significance of your research project. Please use language for a broad audience (300 words)
 - **Potential Benefit:** Briefly explain the potential benefit this project will provide to you (300 words)
 - **Relevant Experience:** Tell us about any relevant professional, volunteer or academic experience that prepared you for succeeding with the proposed project (300 words)

Adjudication of Applications



Project Description

- a) Background info, purpose, objectives, methodological approach
- b) Originality and Significance



Student Preparedness

- a) Background preparation and research potential
- b) Benefits to you



Mentorship & Research environment

- a) Supervisors statement of mentorship (research, career, and psychosocial), role clarity, benefits to mentor
- b) Research environment



Other Funding Opportunities

- Check with your Faculty/Department for opportunities!
- Also see, Mitacs: research.ucalgary.ca/mitacs

NOTE: Students **cannot** simultaneously hold more than one research studentship or any other similar award (exceptions are made for top-up funding)

Commitments and Next Steps

- Start researching on Faculty webpages
- Send an email to a potential supervisor
- Go to office hours for a class this week!
- Try to have a supervisor confirmed by mid-January. If not, keep trying.
- Register for the January Summer Studentship Information Sessions taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/pure-awards

Questions?

FAQ: taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/pure-awards/students

Summer Studentships Email: summerstudent@ucalgary.ca