

EUC Undergraduate Research Award (EUCURA)

The EUCURA

The EUC Undergraduate Research Award (EUCURA) provides selected undergraduate students with an opportunity to tackle a focused research project with one of our faculty members. These awards, tenable over the over the summer term (May-August), provide students with hands-on experience and one-on-one mentoring in all aspects of the research process. They are intended as a form of intensive exposure to the research process and as such are intended for students who have a specific interest in environmental, urban and geographical research, and who may then pursue an honours thesis and/or an application to graduate school. They are research awards rather than employment-based forms of research assistance, and are thus intended to support a student's independent but guided work on a research project that is initially framed by an EUC faculty member.

Up to four EUCURAs will be awarded each year. Each EUCURA is valued at \$6000. Ordinarily the award will be paid over four months (May – August) with an expectation that the holder will be working intensively over that period on their project. However, there is no specified number of hours associated with the award. It may be compressed into part of the summer, and may be combined with other forms of paid work or care responsibilities. That said, the usual expectation is that the project will be of a magnitude that requires at least 8 weeks of full-time engagement (or an equivalent part-time commitment).

At the end of the award, some projects may lead to individual or collaborative research outputs for specialized audiences, but at a minimum each awardee is expected to share their research with a wider audience in three ways: a) a summary of 400-500 words that will be included in the online EUC Research Spotlight series; b) a 2-3 minute self-made video that describes the research and its findings and implications; and c) a presentation at an EUC undergraduate research fair in the Fall following the award.

The Process:

- 1) Individual (or collaborating) faculty members propose a research project, framed in such a way that an undergraduate student could successfully complete it within the four months of the summer term. Project outlines should be no longer than 1000 words and should enable the adjudication committee to assess the criteria below. Projects should not be directed to specific students (the expectation is that proposed projects will be conceivable tenable by a wide range of EUC students). Project proposals can, however, specify the skill set, background or experiences that applicants will need.
- 2) Proposed projects are assessed by the adjudication committee (comprising the EUC Research Committee, minus any members submitting EUCURA applications themselves) according to the following criteria:
 - a) Their feasibility for completion during the summer by an undergraduate student
 - b) The opportunities for hands-on and experiential learning provided by the project
 - c) The nature and extent of training, mentorship and supervision to be provided
 - d) The contribution of the project to urban, environmental and geographical scholarship
 - e) The impact of the project in advancing sustainability and social justice.

The adjudication committee will consider all of the factors above as well as being mindful of the distribution of awards across multiple EUC programs. The committee will also be mindful of equity, diversity and inclusivity in selecting fundable projects.

The committee will select no more than twice as many projects as there are EUCURAs available in a given year. (???????)

- 3) Selected projects will be posted to the EUC website and sent to all EUC undergraduate majors.
- 4) Students will apply by submitting the following:
 - a) A statement of interest (no more than 500 words) that explains why the student is drawn to a specific research project, based on their academic training and their life and work experiences. The statement should also explain how the project would fit into their academic and professional goals. Students are also asked to highlight their engagement with collegial and community life in EUC. (More on EDI?????)
 - b) Statements of recommendation from two EUC instructors (?? Needed??)
 - c) The applicant's current York transcript
 - d) The applicant's CV
- 5) The adjudication committee will assess and rank each application and will recommend the selected students to the faculty mentor. The award will be made if the faculty member concurs with the recommendation and accepts the student applicant. (OR just straight to the faculty member to choose and then confirmation by the adjudication committee???)

Eligibility

- Applicants should be full-time students at the time of application, with a declared major in one of EUC's undergraduate (or legacy) programs;
- Applicants should have completed a minimum of 30 credits of coursework at York;
- Applicants should be expecting to return to full-time undergraduate study in EUC after holding the award. (Hence, applicants will ordinarily be in their 2nd or 3rd year of study when they apply). Priority will be given students who have completed at least 84 credits of course work (i.e those about to enter their final year of undergraduate study).
- Usually, a minimum sessional GPA of B+ (or 7.0/9.0) is required during the applicant's last two terms of study, and academic excellence will be significant part of the selection process. However, the selection committee will also take into account the commitment of the student to the research project, the student's engagement with collegial and community life in EUC, any relevant life or work experiences that relate to the proposed project.
- Students from equity-deserving groups are especially encouraged to apply. We are committed to facilitating access for underrepresented groups in the areas of research offered in the EUCURA program.