

EUC Undergraduate Research Award (EUCURA)

Summer 2023

The EUCURA

The EUC Undergraduate Research Awards (EUCURA) provide opportunities for selected students enrolled in EUC undergraduate majors to tackle a focused research project under the mentorship of a faculty member. These awards, tenable over the over the summer term (May-August), provide students with hands-on experience and one-on-one mentoring in the completion of a research project. They are intended as a form of intensive exposure to research and as such are designed 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 opportunities, and they support substantive independent research by the student rather than research assistance for faculty-led projects. They are, however, mentored by, and initially framed by, an EUC faculty member and may fit into a faculty member's larger program of research.

In keeping with EUC's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusivity, students from equity-deserving groups are especially encouraged to apply: women, racialized people (with particular emphasis on Black people), Indigenous people, people with disabilities, and lesbian, gays, bisexual, transgender, queer, and Two Spirit (LGBTQ2S) people. We are committed to facilitating access for underrepresented groups in the areas of research undertaken at EUC.

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 through: a) a summary of 400-500 words that will be included in the online EUC Research Spotlight series; and, b) 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 summer term. Project outlines should be approximately 500 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 conceivably tenable by a range of EUC students). Project proposals should outline the nature of the research project and specify the skill set, background or experiences that applicants will need, and the likely time line and time commitment required. Proposals should be sent to Denise McLeod (dm200098@yorku.ca) **by 3pm on Friday January 27th 2023.**

- 2) Proposed projects will be assessed and selected by an adjudication committee (comprising the EUC Research Committee, but without the undergraduate student member, or faculty 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: distributing awards across multiple EUC programs; supporting the research teams of early career researchers; and, ensuring that equity-deserving groups are provided opportunities to participate in research activities.

- 3) Selected projects will be posted to the EUC website and sent to all EUC undergraduate majors.
- 4) Students will apply for the award in relation to a specific project 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.
 - b) The applicant's current York transcript.
 - c) The applicant's CV.
- 5) Student applications will be sent to the relevant faculty member(s), who will rank the applicants to their proposed research project. The adjudication committee will then make the final allocation of EUCURAs based on: a) the eligibility criteria below; b) the fit between the project and the student; and c) the criteria and considerations in point (2) above.

Eligibility

- Applicants should be full-time students at the time of their application, with a declared major in one of EUC's undergraduate (or legacy) programs;
- Students cannot hold an external undergraduate research award (e.g. NSERC's USRA) at the same time as the EUCURA;
- Applicants should expect to be returning to undergraduate studies in EUC after holding the award. (Hence, applicants will ordinarily be in their 2nd, 3rd or perhaps 4th year of study when they apply). Priority will be given students who are entering their final year of undergraduate studies in the academic year following the award;
- Usually, a minimum sessional GPA of at least B+ (or 7.0/9.0) is required during the applicant's last two completed terms of study, and academic excellence will be a significant part of the selection process. However, the adjudication committee will also take into account the commitment of the student to the area of research, and any relevant life or work experiences that relate to the proposed project.