FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Questions about Eligibility

Q. Can students from other universities apply?
A. No, the award is intended to provide University of Calgary students with a research experience and University of Calgary funds are dedicated for this purpose.

Q. Can students apply if they are convocating in June?
Students who plan to graduate in June are not eligible for a PURE Award.

Q. Are international students eligible to apply?
A. Yes, if the international student is a registered full time, undergraduate student. We will require a valid Study Permit number instead of a Social Insurance Number. This is found on the back of your passport.

Q. Can I do my research project at another university or in another country?
A. Yes, as long as your supervisor is a member of the faculty at the University of Calgary and willing to support your project.

Q. Can a student receive an award in consecutive years and is there a limit to how many awards one student can receive?
A. There is no limit on the number of PURE awards a student can receive. All interested students are encouraged to submit applications for their research projects.

Q. If my research project involves human subjects, animals, or biohazard materials do I require Ethics Approval?
A. All projects must abide by the University of Calgary's policies and procedures governing the pursuit of research. All research that involves the use of human subjects, animal care and use, and the handling and storage of bio-hazardous materials must be reviewed and certified by the appropriate University Compliance Committee before the research may commence.

The Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (CHREB) reviews and approves research with human participants for researchers in medical faculties, and for research with subjects recruited wholly or substantially through Alberta Health Services.

CHREB approval of projects for which the principal investigator is an undergraduate student is carried out at the faculty level under processes established by the Associate Dean of Research. The undergraduate student should direct her/his request to the faculty's Associate Dean of Research.
Please refer to the Compliance and Ethics website or contact the Manager, Research Compliance at 403.210.8811 for assistance.

Q. Can a PURE award recipient take summer courses?
A. PURE award recipients are expected to devote themselves full time for the period of the award. Awards are for 8, 12 or 16 weeks. If an applicant chooses, in consultation with his/her supervisor, to apply for a short term award then it may be possible to take summer courses.

Questions about Research Project Supervision

Q. How do I arrange for a faculty supervisor?
A. It is the applicant’s responsibility to find a faculty supervisor.

Q. Who can supervise a PURE Project?
A. Students may have a supervisor from their own Faculty or a supervisor from a different Faculty (Interdisciplinary Award).

Q. Do I have to create my own research project or can I assist a faculty member with his/her research project?
A. Applicants may choose to approach a faculty member engaged in an ongoing research project of interest. The research proposal must be prepared by the student outlining their specific roles, responsibilities and expected learning objectives.

Q. How many students can a supervisor oversee?
A. To create the maximum number of PURE opportunities for students and supervisors, a supervisor may oversee only one student.

Q. If the student’s supervisor is away in the summer can he/she still supervise a PURE award recipient?
A. If the supervisor is willing to supervise the student and makes appropriate arrangements for ongoing supervision and communication, location is not an issue. However, students should be informed if a prolonged absence is planned.

Q. Is a supervisor’s reference needed too?
A. Yes. The supervisor’s reference form is required to consider the overall application complete. The supervisor reference can only be started after the student’s application is submitted.

Q. Can a professor recruit a student from another university?
A. No, the award is intended to provide University of Calgary students with a research experience and University of Calgary funds are dedicated for this purpose.

Q. Can I undertake a research project at another university with a supervisor from that university?
A. No, the PURE award is intended to provide University of Calgary students with a research experience supervised by a member of the University of Calgary’s faculty.

Q. Are professors required to pay students any additional money besides the amount of the award?
A. Professors are not required to provide additional money to supplement the PURE Award. If they do so, it is at their discretion.

Questions about the Application Process

Q. How can applications be submitted electronically?
A. Electronic applications are required. You are strongly encouraged to review the user guide associated with the application process.

Q. Will applicants receive an acknowledgement that his/her application has been received?
A. No, you will not get an email advising you that your application has been received; however you will be able to see on your application website that your application is labeled submitted. You will also be able to see when your supervisor has completed their reference but you will not be able to see your supervisor’s comments.

Q. Can I apply for other similar awards?
A. Yes, but you may accept only one award.

Q. When can my supervisor complete their reference?
A. Your supervisor will not be able to start their reference until you have completed and submitted your application. In this document and the supervisor’s user guide there is a copy of the supervisor reference form questions.

Q. Can I change or view my application once it is submitted?
A. Once an application is submitted, it cannot be reviewed or changed. However, your supervisor will be able to view the application.

Q. What happens if I have submitted my application and I need to make a change or view it again?
A. Once an application is submitted, it cannot be reviewed or changed. If you need to reopen the application, you should send an email to pure@ucalgary.ca Please note that it may take several days to reopen an application.

Questions about the Application Form, Transcripts and GPA Calculations

Q. Are official transcripts required?
A. We will accept unofficial transcript copies from your “myUofC” account on the website. Please refer to the registrar’s page for more information on transcripts.

Q. How is a GPA calculated?
A. The cumulative GPA in your current program is considered during the review process. Please check with Registration Services for advice, or refer to the registrar’s page or the “Academic Standing” section of the Calendar.

Q. What questions are asked in the application form?
A. The following questions are the main questions asked in the application form:

Title of Proposed Research Project:

Overview/Abstract of the Proposed Research Project:

Provide a short abstract or overview of the proposed research project, including the objects of the project. Please use language for a broad audience. (Maximum 300 words)

Originality and Creativity

Highlight the originality and creative aspects of your research project. Please use language for a broad audience. (Maximum 300 words)

Briefly explain the potential benefit this project will provide to you (Maximum 200 words)

Q. What questions are asked in the supervisor reference form?
A. The following questions are the main questions asked in the supervisor reference form:

Student’s First Name:

Student’s Surname:

Title of Proposed Research Project:

Please provide a brief evaluation of the applicant’s proposal including the likelihood of meeting the project’s objectives. (Maximum 250 words)

Describe the research environment in which the student will be working and include mentoring opportunities (Maximum 150 words)

If resources beyond the student’s salary are required to complete the project, will those resources be made available to the student? YES/NO
If NO, please explain: 
Q. What are the criteria used to evaluate the proposals?

A. Submissions will be evaluated using the following criteria (maximum 45 marks in total)
Submission rubric

Questions about the Final Report

Q. When and where should final reports be submitted?

A. PURE award holders must file a report, summarizing the results of their research by September 30, 2015. Details on the submission process will be communicated in June 2015.

Q. What format is required for the report?

A. The report should be no more than 5 pages in length (including appendices), singed spaced, using 12 point Times Roman font. The report should include a description of the project and results, what the student gained from the experience, and what, if anything was published.

Q. What is the Students’ Union (SU) Annual Research Symposium?

A. Recipients are encouraged to participate in the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium sponsored by the University of Calgary Students’ Union (SU). The University of Calgary is one of Canada’s leading research universities and undergrad students have played an important role in securing that reputation.

Every year the SU holds a research symposium to offer undergrads from across campus an opportunity to demonstrate their exceptional research, and celebrate the value of an undergraduate’s place in a research intensive institution. The Students’ Union website has more information on the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Other General Questions

Q. How many awards are given in a year?

There is an annual budget set aside for these awards. The University averages about 60 awards per year depending on the amounts requested. For example: 8-week awards – $3,000; 12-week awards – $4,500; 16-week awards – $6,000.

Q. How will students be paid?

A. The award is paid to the student in equal amounts on the 25th of each month via payroll deposit to the student’s bank account according to the university’s policy on payments.

Q. Will students receive a T4A from the University for income tax?

A. Yes, students will receive a T4A form. Should they not receive one, they should contact the Student Financial Assistance and Awards department at 403.220.7625. For information on how to claim your award on your income tax, refer to the Revenue Canada Agency website at www.cra-arc.gc.ca for additional information.
If you have other questions about the PURE awards, please refer to www.ucalgary.ca/provost/TLFC/awards/undergrad or contact Dr. Brian Moorman at pure@ucalgary.ca