

Undergraduate Research Excellence Awards - 2026

Deadline to nominate: Friday, APRIL 24

CRITERIA

The student must have completed outstanding research work based on discipline criteria, while a full-time student during the Summer 2025, Fall 2025, or Winter 2026 semester.

A. **Department Award** - You may nominate 1 student per eligible department.

- In the case of group projects, the award may be presented to a group of 2 students who meet the criteria, and it will be divided between them. They must have worked together on the same project.
- The award will not be split between students for separate individual projects within a discipline or department, or for larger groups.
- In the case of a class where all students work individually on the same project, the instructor will determine which student should be nominated. An entire class or large group project will not be considered.

NOTE: Your department may not have a specific degree but may nominate a student from a degree program who has done excellent research work in your discipline. E.g., a BSc student may do a research project for an upper-level course in Communications as part of their degree and be nominated for a Communications award.

B. **Special Awards** - You may also nominate another student(s) for 3 special awards (*these are Competitive - one only per year and not one for each department*):

- **Community Engagement Research Award** – for outstanding research done for or with a regional community partner.
- **Community Service Research Award** – for outstanding research done for or with a community service agency.
- **Indigenous Research Award** – for outstanding research conducted by an Indigenous researcher, or with an Indigenous community, regarding concerns of Indigenous people.

Indigenous research is defined by SSHRC as research in any field or discipline that is conducted by, grounded in, or engaged with, First Nations, Inuit, Métis, or other communities, societies or individuals and their wisdom, cultures, experiences, or knowledge systems, as expressed in their dynamic forms, past and present. Indigenous research can embrace the intellectual, physical, emotional and/or spiritual dimensions of knowledge in creative and interconnected relationships with people, places, and the natural environment.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

1. Make this an agenda item for your next department meeting. Department heads/directors should inform all faculty (including sessionals) of the award.
2. The department determines a list of criteria that reflect excellence in student research in their discipline.
3. The department establishes a departmental review subcommittee of at least 3 members.
4. Faculty prepare nominations and submit them to the departmental review subcommittee.
Nominations should include:
 - a. a memo of support with the rationale for proposing the student for the award
 - b. a detailed description of the research (or copy of the research paper) in which the student was involved
5. The subcommittee uses the established criteria to review the nominations and make a recommendation to the department.
6. The department head / director submits the approved nomination to the Research Office along with required documentation using the online form. Supporting documents should be sent to Ana.Adamik@ufv.ca.
7. The AVP Research and Graduate Studies committee reviews recommendations and makes the final decision. *No appeals will be considered.*

Final decisions on the nominations will be made by Monday, May 4.

Once nominations have been reviewed and approved, recipients will be asked to complete a mach form with the following additional information for the URE Award program to Ana.Adamik@ufv.ca.

Deadline is Friday, May 8, (more details will be sent in an email to recipients.)

1. **Personal Statement:** For the program, we would like **2-3 sentences about you**, your goals, education and career plans, how engaging in research enhanced your education experience at UFV, why you chose this project, etc.
2. **Project Summary: A short paragraph (about 100-150 words)** that briefly outlines the project and the significance of the findings.

Additional Information

The URE Award is meant for a single student and single project. The ideal situation is when a student has been involved in the project from the beginning until the dissemination of results including: defining of the research question and methodology, data collection, analysis, writing up of project results, and dissemination.

However, we recognize that there is great diversity at UFV including basic and applied science, social sciences, humanities, professional studies, trades, and creative arts. There are also a range of situations such as a multi-semester honours project, paid research positions for a single semester on a faculty member's funded research and Directed Studies.

It is not required for students to publish in a peer reviewed journal, but it does happen. Sometimes the product is a conference presentation (poster or paper), a report to an industry association, government, project partners or a public production (play, exhibit or reading).

Beyond the single student and single project criteria, we are looking for students that are doing more than one research activity as part of the project. In other words, more than only data collection or a literature review or only the final dissemination of results.

Data collection or dissemination are important research activities, but the URE Award is meant to recognize excellence throughout the research process, and we allow for flexibility in the diversity of projects and disciplines. We also know that not all students will have the opportunity to include all aspects of the process in their projects, but we are looking for as much of a full research experience as possible.