

## NSERC CREATE SERA Undergraduate Awards

Are you an Aboriginal student with an interest in renewable energy or sustainable building projects? Would you like to make some cash? The NSERC CREATE SERA program may be for you!

### ***What is NSERC CREATE SERA?***

Providing engineering services in northern and remote areas poses significant challenges and opportunities for Canada's future. The CREATE Training Program in Sustainable Engineering in Remote Areas (SERA) provides graduate students with training in sustainable building, energy projects, advanced sensing, cultural sensitivity, law, ethics and business skills. Although the training program is mainly geared towards graduate students, summer employment is also available for undergraduate students to help pay for your education!

### ***What kinds of jobs are available?***

Employment opportunities can be tailored based on your interests and availability. In general, the work will involve working with a research supervisor and/or graduate students on projects related to renewable energy (such as solar power, wind turbines, biomass, etc.) or sustainable building projects (such as renewable materials, lightweight structural systems, structural health monitoring technologies, advanced sensing technologies, etc.). You do not necessarily need to have expertise in these areas, but you should have a general interest and willingness to learn!

Full-time summer jobs are available.

### **How do I apply?**

**Step 1:** Contact Salah Sarhat at [sera@queensu.ca](mailto:sera@queensu.ca) for more information and assistance.

**Step 2:** Apply for the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA). Try to meet the NSERC USRA departmental deadline (likely in early February 2018). If you miss this deadline, do not panic as you may still be able to apply if your university is willing.

**Step 3:** Look through the supervisor profiles at [www.queensu.ca/sera/people/supervisors](http://www.queensu.ca/sera/people/supervisors) to find a potential supervisor with research topics that sound interesting to you. If you are unsure, contact Salah Sarhat at [sera@queensu.ca](mailto:sera@queensu.ca) for help selecting a supervisor or with any other questions.

**Step 4:** Send an email to your potential supervisor with a copy of your resume to introduce yourself. Be aware that many supervisors may be busy with other commitments including research, teaching, conferences, administration, etc. and may take a few days to get back to you. If you don't receive a response please contact [sera@queensu.ca](mailto:sera@queensu.ca).

**Step 5:** Send a copy of your NSERC USRA application form to Salah Sarhat at [sera@queensu.ca](mailto:sera@queensu.ca) with a cover letter indicating that you self-identify as an Aboriginal student and stating your interest to join the NSERC SERA program **no later than 4:30 pm EST on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018**.

Successful Undergraduate applicants **can hold both NSERC USRA and SERA awards at the same time**.

That's it! Hope to hear from you soon!