Selection criteria and indicators for USRA applications

The following table contains suggestions for evaluating the three selection criteria. Institutions are encouraged to develop their own evaluation methods.

Criteria	Description
Academic excellence	As demonstrated by past academic results, transcripts, awards and distinctions. Indicators of academic excellence: • Academic record • Scholarships and awards held • Duration of previous/current studies • Type of program and courses pursued • Course load • Relative standing in program (if available) Members should consider the entire academic record when assessing academic excellence. Members should favourably consider situations where an applicant has demonstrated an improving trend.
Research potential	As demonstrated by the applicant's research history, and their interest in discovery. Many institutions require students to submit additional material in order to evaluate this criterion, such as • a resume/CV • a statement of interest outlining the student's research interests and goals • a letter of support from the proposed supervisor • interviews with applicants • etc. Indicators of research potential: • Academic training • Previous research/work experience (can include co-op terms) (e.g., previous USRAs held) • Relevance of work experience and academic training to the proposed field of research • Judgement and ability to think critically • Ability to apply skills and knowledge • Enthusiasm for research, relevant community involvement and outreach • Initiative and autonomy • Research experience and achievements relative to expectations of someone with the applicant's academic experience
Expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received	As demonstrated by the proposed supervisor's plan for the student described in Form 202 Part II. Indicators of expected quality of the training and mentorship to be received: • Exposure to research team • Training in research techniques, skills • Expected contributions to research output • Proposed supervisor's past supervisory experience • Etc.