

To be considered for the UWaterloo's USRA interdisciplinary quota, the proposed research must meet one of the following definitions and clearly identify the different disciplines involved:

- research that involves the interaction among two or more different disciplines and occurs at the interface between disciplines. This may range from the sharing of ideas to the full integration of concepts, methodology, procedures, theory, terminology, data, organization of research and training.
- research that draws on knowledge from different disciplines but stays within the boundary of one primary field.
- Research intended to impart knowledge and train a student coming from a discipline that is different from the one the student is being trained on.

This aligns with NSERC's definition of interdisciplinary found here: https://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/Policies-Politiques/prepInterdiscip-prepInterdiscip_eng.asp

UWaterloo's USRA Proposed Process for Allocating the Interdisciplinary Award:

1. Supervisors to provide a statement (one or two paragraphs, max 250 words) describing how the proposed project meets the interdisciplinary definition.
2. Each supervisor can submit up to two interdisciplinary applications, each with a unique statement (maximum 250 words each).
3. Interdisciplinary statement goes to the faculty for review and selection of students to be nominated for an interdisciplinary award.
4. If a supervisor has 2 students in the interdisciplinary competition, the department will rank them #1 and #2.
5. The faculty forwards the list and ranking of selected USRA students for consideration of the central interdisciplinary award run by the Office of Research.
6. OR allocates interdisciplinary awards to all #1 USRA students received by the interdisciplinary deadline.
 - a. If the applications exceed the quota, they will be allocated and ranked starting with highest GPA.
 - b. If the quota exceeds the number of #1 USRA students put forward, OR extends the interdisciplinary allocation to all #2 USRA students until the interdisciplinary quota is met with the same criteria as above, they will be allocated and ranked starting with highest GPA.
7. Faculties will be notified by the Office of Research of the students receiving the USRA interdisciplinary award. The faculty allocation quota will be returned to them to be allocated to another student.