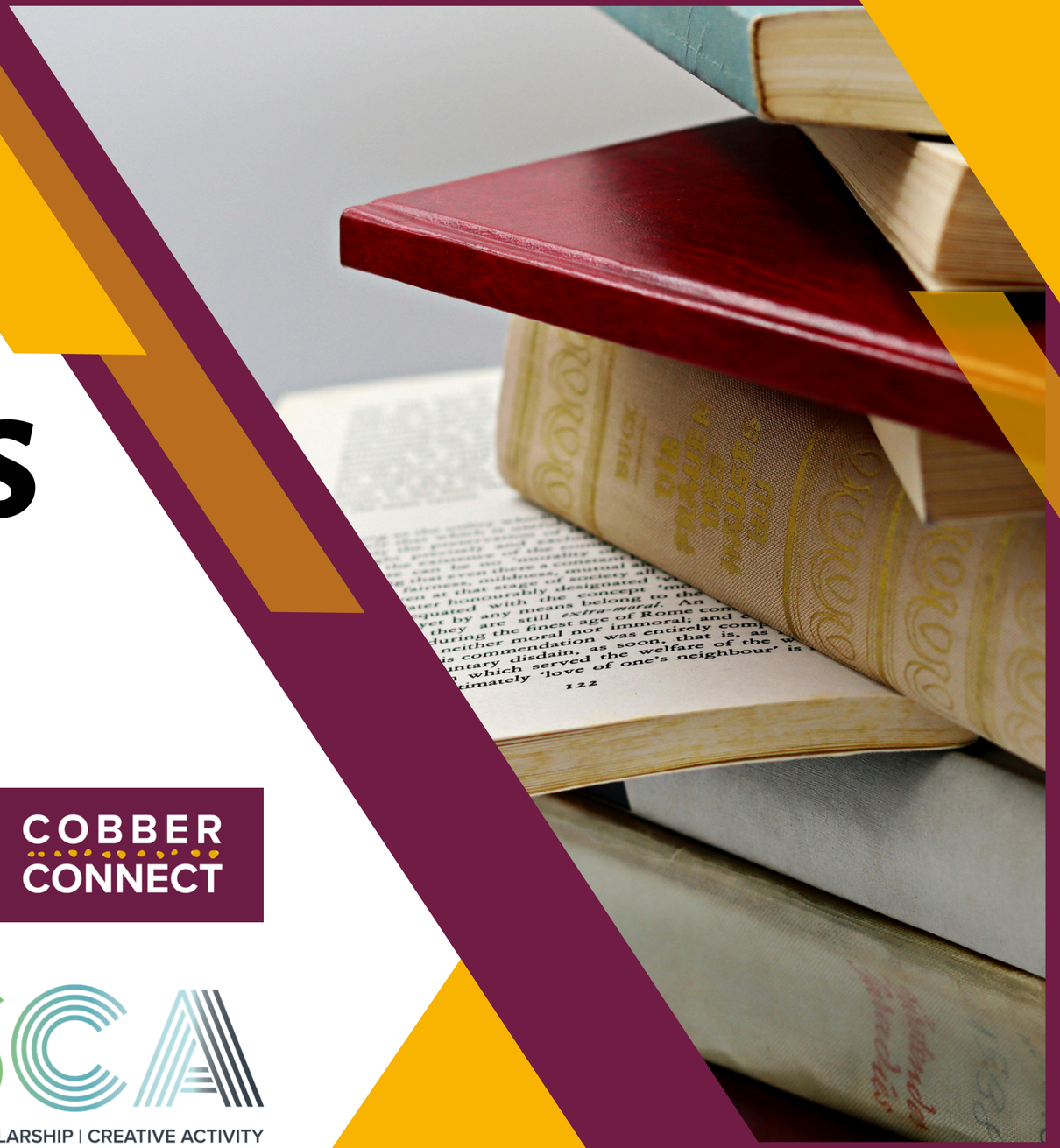
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES



OFFICE OF URSCA

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COBBER CONNECT

ursca.org

concordia_ursca

URSCA

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH | SCHOLARSHIP | CREATIVE ACTIVITY





What is URSCA?

Concordia defines URSCA as encompassing all forms of research, scholarship and creative activity, as an investigation or inquiry conducted by a student, under the mentorship of faculty or staff, which contributes to a high-level intellectual or creative outcome.

What are some benefits to conducting URSCA?

- Dive deeper into areas of interest that can sharpen your career focus
- Improve communication and networking skills; build relationships
- Increase confidence with new skills and competencies
- Increase opportunities for disseminating results and outcomes
- Foster innovative thinking, problem solving, and creativity
- Be more competitive for graduate schools, jobs, and fellowships



Types of URSCA Experiences

Summer

- On or off campus
- Work 1:1 or in small teams with mentor(s)
- Peak Optional
- May earn credits
- Paid + Free or reduced housing
- Typically 6-10 full-time weeks; some part-time
- Workshops
- Social activities
- Present at the URSCA Symposium (COSS)

Academic Year

- On or off campus
- Work 1:1 or in small teams with mentor(s)
- Peak Optional
- May earn 1-4 credits per semester (45hrs/credit)
- Some unpaid internship grants
- Few to several hours per week
- One or both semesters
- Present at the URSCA Symposium (COSS)

Getting Started





- Be inquisitive! Talk with faculty and staff about the research or creative scholarship they do.
- Meet with your advisor & the director of URSCA to talk about the opportunities that interest you most.
- Search online for programs that match your interests and eligibility.

Identifying URSCA Opportunities

ON CAMPUS

- Ask dept/pgm admins about application deadlines
- Talk with potential mentors
- Check ursca.org for any programs with special funding

OFF CAMPUS

- Search online
- Check eligibility requirements
  - enrolled students
  - many (but not all) require U.S. citizenship
  - time commitment
  - application deadline

SURF
SPUR
SURP
SURE
SURIP
STEP-UP
SIBS
SR-EIP
SROP

Leadership Alliance
National Archives
Sanford Research
Scripps Research
Smithsonian
Think Swiss
DC Internships
USA Jobs

REU and iREU

Pathwaystoscience.org

There are many programs!
Include your discipline of interest in your search terms.

Many off-campus summer internships open applications in the fall and are due in December, January, or February.
Concordia summer URSCA positions typically open applications in late January to mid February.

Programs Available Now





Innovation Challenge

- open to all majors
- teams forming now
- cobberneuro.org

Regolith Innovation Off-World Technologies Challenge

- open to all majors
- teams forming now
- email strand@cord.edu

Scripps Summer

- open to pre-PhD STEM students
- internal application to select 1 Cobber
- all students also apply to Scripps

Application Tips

TO DO

- Be authentic and articulate in your desire to conduct URSCA
- Back up general statements with specific examples
- Describe your contribution to prior related experiences
- Convey why you are excited about doing URSCA and what motivates you
- Explain how a summer URSCA experience will help you reach your career goals.

BE AUTHENTICALLY YOU!

A cover letter and statement of purpose contribute to your opportunity to introduce yourself and why you want to pursue research or creative scholarship.

TO AVOID

- Flowery language and hyperbole
- Inflating previous experiences
- Embellishing results of previous work
- Sounding arrogant
- Providing a list of skills
- Being vague
- Not answering application questions
- Telling the program how great they are (they already know that) :-)



Letters of Recommendation

- Most applications will ask for 2 to 3 letters of recommendation.
- Talk with faculty and mentors who can speak to your motivation for URSCA and any prior experiences you have had.
- Ask early! Give a minimum of 2 weeks for recommenders to submit their letter.
- Typically, students apply to ~10 summer programs if seeking off-campus experience.
    - You will submit your information to the program and list who will write a letter of recommendation for you.
    - The program will send an automated email to your letter writers with a link to submit their recommendation.

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