We are pleased to announce the eleventh edition of the Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering (SURE) program. For almost a decade, SURE students have worked closely with engineering professors on innovative research projects for 16 weeks in the summer term.

The SURE program offers approximately 130 summer research awards valued at a minimum of $5,625. Approximately 40 research awards will be made available through the NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Awards (NSERC USRA) program, while the remaining research awards will be funded through the Faculty of Engineering, the Trottier Institute for Sustainable Engineering and Design (TISED), and by generous donors. In both cases, a portion of the support comes from the research funds of the professor supervising the project.

In the SURE program, students work closely with a professor on one of their research projects for 16 weeks during the summer. The program provides exposure to the research experience, as well as opportunities to learn more about the graduate school experience and about careers in research.

The SURE research awards that are funded through the Faculty of Engineering are available to students irrespective of their citizenship or immigration status (i.e., the program is open to Canadian citizens, permanent residents, and international students). On the other hand, as per NSERC regulations, the NSERC USRA awards are available to Canadian citizens or permanent residents only.

SURE Program Details
*Application Period: January 14th-January 25th 2019*

For details on the available projects and to access application forms, please visit the SURE webpage. Projects will be posted on January 7, 2019 and the application form will be available as of January 14th, 2019.

1. Eligibility: Full-time students in Year 1 (having completed at least two semesters of study at the time of application; at least one completed semester for CEGEP entrants), Year 2, or Year 3, who have a CGPA of 3.0 or higher. The program is also open to May 2019 (Winter 2019) graduates. For the NSERC USRAs, there are additional eligibility requirements as stated on the NSERC webpage.

2. The participation in the SURE program will be recorded on continuing McGill students’ transcripts. Specific courses (FACC 351-354 – SURE Experience) have been created to offer continuing McGill students an official record of their participation in the SURE program. Supervisors and SURE participants need to complete a Confirmation Form at the end of the program, confirming that the student has completed the SURE program.

3. The SURE and NSERC USRA awards will be administered by the Faculty through the McGill Engineering Student Centre.

4. The duration of the SURE program is 16 weeks beginning on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 and ending on Tuesday, August 20, 2019. Students are required to participate in research on a full-time basis.

5. SURE positions are full-time positions (minimum 35 hours, maximum 40 hours per week) for the entire 16 weeks, e.g., SURE participants should not be registered for any summer courses. A vacation request may be accommodated by the supervisor if not in conflict with any SURE events and if the student will make up for
the missed time. Students’ research schedule should be completed during reasonable working hours each week.

How to apply to SURE

1. The first step is to look up the available projects on the SURE website. All projects will be posted on January 7, 2019. Once you have settled on your preferred project(s), contact the supervisor(s) to discuss your interest in the research, and the anticipated research tasks and deliverables for the project.

2. If you and the supervisor tentatively agree that you should apply to the project, proceed to the Online Student Application form for which a link can be found on the SURE website under ‘Application’. The application form will become available on Monday, January 14, 2019.

3. Students may submit a maximum of 3 applications. If a student qualifies for more than one project, it is assumed that they wish to work on all projects equally and thus may be placed in a project at random. Therefore, should the supervisor and student agree to work together, the supervisor should rank only one student and the student should apply to only one project.

4. Please use a new application form for each project you apply to. Once the Online Student Application has been completed and your transcript uploaded, please print a copy and bring it to your prospective supervisor along with your Official University Transcript (McGill students may submit their unofficial Minerva transcripts).

5. Plan to attend the ‘How to Apply to SURE Information Session’, to be held Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 11:35 a.m. in the McConnell Engineering Building, Room 13.

6. The deadline for submitting application forms to your prospective supervisor is Friday, January 25, 2019. We anticipate a high level of participation in this program and we therefore recommend that you discuss your candidacy with potential supervisors well ahead of the deadline. Note: Application packages (i.e., application form and transcript) are to be submitted to your intended supervisor.

7. SURE and NSERC USRAs will be awarded on a competitive basis and award decisions will be based on CGPA and academic credentials. Award decisions will be announced by February 20, 2019.

I encourage you to apply to the SURE program and engage in one of the many exciting research projects available.

Thank you,

David Frost

cc: Jim Nicell, Dean, Faculty of Engineering
    Kaila Folinsbee, Associate Director, Engineering Student Centre
    Administrative Assistants, all Engineering Departments/Schools