UTSC Undergraduate Research & Creative Prize

Program Purpose
The purpose of UTSC Undergraduate Research & Creative Prize is to honour UTSC students who have excelled in research, scholarship and creative activities. This program recognizes the research and creative activities of undergraduate students and their overall contribution to the University of Toronto Scarborough. It also illustrates the role of the library in students’ creative process and research activities. It is open to all students who have completed their first year of study and are currently enrolled in a UTSC undergraduate degree program. Students need to submit projects that have been completed within the previous year and that demonstrate a meaningful engagement with UTSC library resources and/or librarians. The UTSC Undergraduate Research & Creative Prize is a financial prize sponsored jointly by the UTSC Library and UTSC Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation.

The Judging Committee shall consist of UTSC faculty members and representatives from the Office of the Vice-Principal Research and Innovation. The judges evaluate the projects according to the Selection Criteria stated below in four categories: A) Humanities, B) Social Sciences, C) Sciences, and D) Creative.

Prize Value
Up to 4 (four) prizes may be given annually, distributed in the following categories: A) Humanities, B) Social Sciences, C) Sciences and D) Creative. Each prize has a monetary component of $1,000.

Guidelines
1. Eligibility: Applicants should be undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:
   • They are currently enrolled at UTSC;
   • They have completed their first year of study;
   • They are the project’s principal investigator or primary creator;
   • Their individual or group research project was completed within the previous year; and
   • They participated in meaningful engagement with UTSC library resources and/or Librarians while working on the project.

2. Other Conditions: The project may take many forms such as a traditional research project (e.g. paper, website, presentation) or a creative project (e.g., zine, play, painting, photography), including 2D or 3D works, a database, a website, or a digital project.

3. Application Materials: Complete application package includes (in this order):
   • Personal data (1 page), including the following:
     o Full name
     o UTSC department
     o Current program
     o Year of study
     o Category for which you are applying (Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, or Creative)
• Description of the submitted research or creative project, mentioning its wider implications using clear, non-specialist language (2 pages maximum)
• Applicant’s engagement in the research or creative process (1 page maximum). Include sources/databases-guides/software used and why those resources were chosen, any dates/names of library research workshops attended, consultation(s) with librarians, lessons learned and reflections on the process
• A signed reference letter on departmental letterhead from a U of T Scarborough faculty member or course instructor regarding the student's engagement in the research or creative process
• A copy of the submitted research project (e.g., paper, website, presentation) or creative project (e.g., zine, play, painting, photography). If the assignment/project cannot be submitted in an electronic format, please email researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca for assistance.

4. Submission: There is one submission deadline per academic year (to be determined yearly). Applicants are advised to use the coversheet/checklist provided on the OVPRI website to help ensure that all the application components are included in the correct order and compiled in a single PDF. Application packages for the UTSC Undergraduate Research Prize will be submitted to researchoffice.utsc@utoronto.ca, with the subject “Undergraduate Research & Creative Prize”. Late or incomplete submissions will not be considered.

5. Selection Criteria:
• Quality of the research and/or creative project
• Effective use of scholarly resources in the research or research-creative process

6. Announcement: Winners are usually announced and awarded in late May or early June. Prize winning projects and/or recipients will be featured on the UTSC Library website and OVPRI website. Recipients will be invited to submit their projects to TSpace (https://tspace.library.utoronto.ca/about/).

7. Limitations to Submissions: The same project may be submitted to the UTSC Undergraduate Research & Creative Forum and UTSC Undergraduate Research & Creative Prize, only if it was not specifically created for the Forum.