

## HYRS Frequently Asked Questions

# Eligibility

### **Q1: I am a Grade 12 student interested in HYRS, am I eligible to apply?**

A: Grade 12 students are not eligible for HYRS. The HYRS program is intended for Grade 11 students as it helps them experience lab research as they prepare to apply to post-secondary education. If you are a Grade 12 student interested in conducting health research for the summer at the University of Calgary, please consider applying to other opportunities such as the Alberta Innovates [Summer Research Studentship](#) program.

### **Q2: Can I still apply for the HYRS program if I received 84% in one of the required courses?**

A: Unfortunately, you would not be eligible to apply with 84%. Applicants must meet the 85% grade requirement for further consideration of their application. If you are re-taking the course, or have taken a 30-level course instead, you could still be eligible to apply.

### **Q3: I am a Grade 10 student interested in HYRS, am I eligible to apply?**

A: The HYRS program is intended for Grade 11 students as it helps them experience lab research as they prepare to apply to post-secondary education, as they will be graduating the following year. Grade 10 students are not eligible for HYRS, however if you are working on an accelerated timeline, have taken the necessary Grade 11 courses (Math 20-1/20-2, Bio 20, and either Chem 20 or Physics 20) and will be graduating high school in the year following HYRS you may qualify. Please contact [hyrs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hyrs@ucalgary.ca) to confirm. A letter from your Principal or Vice-Principal may be required as proof of your accelerated timeline and expected graduation.

### **Q4: If I have completed both Biology 20 and 30 with an average of 85% or better but did not achieve 85% in another Grade 11 Science, can I substitute my Biology 30 mark for the second Grade 11 science requirement?**

A: No, unfortunately we need to see an *additional* science course (Chem or Phys 20 with 85% or higher). Therefore, you cannot use Bio 30 as a substitute for one of these other science requirements.

### **Q5: I have completed both Physics 20 and Chemistry 20 as well as the Math requirement for HYRS but have not taken Biology 20, can I be considered for HYRS?**

A: Training in biology is necessary for working in the relevant labs. If you have not already completed, and are not currently enrolled, in Bio 20 you are not eligible for HYRS.

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**Q6: I am currently taking Physics 20 and have above 85% in that course. My Chemistry mark is 83% and I have completed both Math 20 and Bio 20 with an average above 85%. In this scenario, will the only two science courses taken into account be Physics 20 and Bio 20?**

A: Yes, we require Bio 20, Math 20 and one other 20-level science course. In this case, we will consider your Physics 20 course, and will not consider your Chemistry mark. You will need to provide proof of your current enrolment in Physics 20 when submitting your application.

**Q7: I took a 20-level course and received less than 85%, but I took (or am taking) a 30-level course in that same subject. Can I use the 30-level course to meet the course requirement?**

A: Yes! We can use a 30-level course instead of a 20-level course. If you are currently enrolled in the 30-level course, we need to see a copy of your report card, interim report, or any other official form of proof that you are currently enrolled *and* what your current grade is in that course. You will need to submit this proof of enrollment in addition to your transcript/DAR/equivalent in order for your application to be deemed eligible.

## References

**Q1: The references process is confusing, what are my responsibilities for this section?**

A: For this application, you are required to have three (3) references – 2 from science teachers (or one science and one math teacher) and 1 from a Non-Academic referee. When you submit your application you will include the names and email addresses of your 3 references. They will then receive an automated email with a link to complete their reference. You need to ensure that the information you enter for your references is accurate and ensure that your references complete their reference form online by the posted deadline. Any references not received by the deadline will not be considered, and applications are considered incomplete and ineligible if they are missing a reference.

**Q2: What are some examples of an acceptable Non-Academic reference?**

A: The Non-Academic reference needs to be from an adult, who is not a relative, and is from outside of your school. *Exceptions are made for sports coaches and teachers leading school clubs who are not currently teaching the student.* Examples can include private music teachers, volunteer coordinators, work supervisors, scout or guide leaders, community sports coaches, etc. Teachers and other school

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staff overseeing activities relating to credit courses are not eligible; Work Experience supervisors, school Band/Choir executive team, Phys Ed teacher, etc

### **Q3: Does the Community Member reference need to live in the same community that the student lives in?**

A: The Community Member reference is an adult, who is not related to the student and is from outside of the student's school. They do not need to live in the same community as the student.

### **Q4: The structure of my school is not traditional, and I don't feel that I have the relationship or bond with any of my teachers to approach them in providing me with strong teacher references for this application. What can a student in my position do about references?**

A: It is vital that the adjudication committee have the opinions of independent authorities regarding your academic performance and abilities, so two teacher references must be provided. Please contact our office at [hyrs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hyrs@ucalgary.ca) to provide us with some more details about your situation.

### **Q5: Will I receive an email when all of my references have submitted their applications?**

A: Only the referee receives a confirmation email when their reference is submitted. Please ensure you communicate regularly with your references to ensure they have received the link to their reference form for your application and have completed it. In the event your reference did not receive the automated email please contact our office at [hyrs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hyrs@ucalgary.ca) or further instructions.

### **Q6: Will an email be sent out when all of my references have submitted their forms for the application?**

A: No, you will not receive a confirmation email in this scenario although your references will receive a confirmation once they have submitted their form. Please keep in regular contact with your references to ensure they have received the automated email and completed their reference prior to the posted deadline.

### **Q7: I applied for the HYRS program and used a family friend as my Non-Academic reference. Because of this, the questions regarding an organization do not really apply. What should my reference do for those questions?**

A: The Non-Academic reference should answer all of the reference questions within the context that they know you. If your referee does not feel they can appropriately evaluate you on the criteria in the reference form we recommend you find a different referee that can speak to your abilities in those areas.

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### **Q8: Is it possible to change my teacher reference after I have submitted my application?**

A: It may be possible to change a reference listed in your submitted application in exceptional circumstances. Please contact our office at [hyrs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hyrs@ucalgary.ca) for further information.

### **Q9: For this program, all of my teachers have given me written/ printed out references, not the online reference. Can I mail my application, essay, and references and everything else in an envelope stamped by the school in the mail?**

A: Only applications and references submitted online through our application portal will be considered.

### **Q10: I was requested to provide a reference for a student's application and have done so; however, I have now received an email requesting completion of a reference.**

A: The online application system generates an automated email to all listed references once the student's application is submitted online. If you are receiving this email for the second time it is possible we did not receive your reference, please contact our office at [hyrs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:hyrs@ucalgary.ca) with your name and the student's name that you are providing the reference for and we will confirm in our records.

## Transcripts, DARs, Report Cards, oh my!

### **Q1: Are the grades from MyPass acceptable to submit as proof of my academics?**

A: Yes, we may accept grades from MyPass. Please have this document stamped or signed by your school office to confirm that the information presented is accurate.

### **Q2: Is it advantageous to have all three level 20 science courses completed (ie. Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) for the application and does having Chemistry instead of Physics (or vice versa) have a difference in weight?**

A: No. Biology is a requirement for eligibility to the program and cannot be waived; however, Chemistry and Physics are treated equally in the eligibility requirements. The courses you have completed may affect which kinds of laboratories you could be matched with if you are awarded, but there is no preference between Chemistry and Physics in the selection process.

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### **Q3: Should I submit my transcript, DAR, or my report card?**

A: It depends. You should submit all necessary documentation to show proof of the grades you have achieved or are currently achieving in each of the required courses. For example:

1. If you have already completed all the courses required, we would only need a copy of your transcript/DAR/equivalent.
2. If you are currently taking all the courses required, we will need your current report card/interim report/alternative form of proof of enrolment (with current grades stated, and signed or stamped by your teacher or high school office).
3. If you have completed some of the required courses and are currently taking the other required courses, we will need one of each of these items to verify your grades in past and current courses. That is, your transcript/DAR/equivalent AND current report card/interim report/alternative form of proof of enrolment (with current grades stated, and signed or stamped by your teacher or high school office).

Please note the application webform only allows you to upload one document. This means that you may have to combine documents for upload if #3 applies to you.

## Administration

### **Q1: What are the specific hours a student will work if they are accepted into HYRS? Would this be in the morning, afternoon, or evening?**

A: Regular hours mean that students are expected to work 35 hours per week, Monday – Friday. The exact schedule within a given day will vary depending on the lab the student is matched with and will be communicated to the student at the start of the program.

### **Q2: Will the students be researching a predetermined project or will they have to choose one?**

A: Mentors for the HYRS program are recruited and asked to provide a brief description of a project for the student. Students will be matched with a supervisor who will determine the project that the student will work on.

### **Q3: Is any previous lab experience necessary?**

A: No, previous lab experience is not required, but may be beneficial.

### **Q4: I am interested in applying for the program but will be required to miss time during the scheduled 6 weeks of HYRS this summer. Am I still eligible?**

A: All applying students are required to give an attestation in the application that they are able to



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commit to the full 6 weeks of the program and understand and acknowledge that time off is not permitted. If you anticipate requiring time off during the scheduled program you will not be eligible for award.