



CNS University Student Representative Program Program Details & Responsibilities (2020/21)

The CNS University Student Representative (USR) program was developed with input from faculty, student, and recent graduate members of CNS. It is designed to maximize student engagement in educational, professional development, and networking opportunities within the nutrition and related fields. USRs play an important role, as student leaders, in growing and sustaining their institution's student nutrition community. During physical distancing, this role is especially important to engage and support fellow nutrition trainees.

The USR program offers the opportunity for students to develop personal and professional skills in organization, communication, and networking. **CNS aims to secure one volunteer student or post-doctoral fellow USR and one Faculty Advisor at every Canadian institution with a nutrition or related program.**

The CNS USR program is currently overseen by the following members of the CNS Trainee Leadership Committee (TLC), in addition to CNS Administrators:

- Danyelle Liddle, PhD Candidate, Dep't of Human Health & Nutritional Sciences, University of Guelph
- Sylvia Rinaldi, PhD Candidate, Dep't of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Western Ontario
- Brock Williams, PhD Candidate, Food, Nutrition and Health Program, University of British Columbia

USR responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Circulating notice of CNS and other relevant events, webinars, networking opportunities, and news among students at their institution
- Encouraging and, when possible, facilitating student attendance to the CNS Annual Conference and other CNS events (whether in-person or via live-stream)
- Organizing educational, professional development, and/or networking opportunities for students that align with the CNS mission to *promote nutrition science and education, and advocate for best practices and policies that value the importance of nutrition to the health of all Canadian*
 - *Minimum: one opportunity / semester, in-person or virtually
- Liaising with the TLC to bring forward any questions/concerns/requests from students
- Maintaining regular communication with students at their institution
 - *Minimum: one communication / month
- Encouraging student CNS membership
- (Optional) Organizing fundraising to support one student in attending the CNS Annual Conference

The time commitment is estimated to be 10 hours / semester.

USRs hold a 1-year tenure, beginning in August (or immediately thereafter) and ending the following July.

USRs will be supported by the TLC and provided with sample communication strategies, emails, posters, newsletters, events, etc.

How to apply?

Interested USR candidates are invited to submit an application to universitystudentrep@cns-scn.ca. Candidates must be current CNS members. Applications must include an up to date Curriculum Vitae and cover letter, as a single PDF. Letters of recommendation will also be accepted but are not mandatory.

Faculty Advisor responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Circulating the call for applications for the USR position (if required)
- Reviewing USR applications and participating in the selection of the best candidate (if required)
- Supporting the USR in organizing educational, professional development, and/or networking opportunities
- Assisting the USR with securing guest speakers for local CNS seminars
- Supporting the USR with identifying and securing sources of funding (in addition to what may be available from CNS), venues, etc.
- Providing feedback on USR communication materials (such as newsletters)
- Encouraging CNS membership and involvement within and outside of his/her faculty

The time commitment is estimated to be 4 hours per semester.

How to get involved?

Interested Faculty Advisors may contact universitystudentrep@cns-scn.ca for more information.