

Graduate Financial Aid

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Faculty of Science
2001 Award for Excellence
in Mentoring

180 Introduction

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) administers several graduate awards programs and distributes information on sources of graduate student funding.

The FGSR is neither aware of, nor administers every award available. Although the FGSR tries to provide comprehensive information on financial support, the following material is not exhaustive. Students should continue to explore other avenues of funding.

180.1 Financing Graduate Education

Graduate students can finance their studies at the University of Alberta in several ways. Some financial assistance programs are administered by the FGSR, and others are administered by other campus offices or outside organizations.

- Graduate Teaching or Research Assistantships
- Other Departmental Support
- University-Administered Awards
- Awards Administered by Other Agencies
- Loans and Bursaries
- Funds for Study Abroad/International Student Exchanges

For information on University-administered awards and awards from outside agencies refer to www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies

180.2 Graduate Teaching or Research Assistantships

Graduate Assistantships involve teaching or research duties and are administered according to a central policy of the University. Students must apply directly to their chosen department and should contact the graduate coordinator of that department for details and deadlines. Assistantships are awarded by departments primarily on the basis of academic standing and ability to perform the required duties.

Most departments suggest that students apply by March 1 before the Winter Term (beginning in September) in which the student hopes to receive an assistantship. Full-time assistantships require an equivalent of 12 hours of work per week over the four-month term of appointment. Part-time assistantships are available in some departments. More detailed information is found in the *Regulations Governing Graduate Assistantships*, available from the FGSR or departments or at www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies.

Foreign students must obtain a Student Authorization from Employment and Immigration Canada to be eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.

180.2.1 Other Departmental Support

Some departments offer other opportunities for graduate student support. Departments may appoint students as graduate interns. Departments also may elect to offer students appointed as graduate interns a Graduate Intern Tuition Supplement. One full Graduate Intern Tuition Supplement is equal to 42 units of graduate fee index over the Fall and Winter terms. Contact the department directly regarding such support.

180.2.2 Research Grant Support

Support may be available to some students from research grants made to departments or staff members. The amount of support will vary with the nature of the research grant and the regulations of the granting agency. Students should contact their supervisor for more information.

180.3 University-Administered Awards—General Information

Through the Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC), the FGSR adjudicates many awards. The GSC also administers and adjudicates the annual general awards competition, approves new awards, and develops graduate awards policy. There are other graduate awards in specific fields, which are administered by individual departments and faculties. To be eligible

for graduate scholarships, a First Class academic standing (7.5-9.0 GPA) must be maintained. Unless otherwise stated in the award description, to take up an award, students must be registered full-time in a graduate degree program at the University of Alberta.

In the general awards competition, graduate awards are offered primarily based on superior academic standing and demonstrated potential for advanced study and research. Applicants are assessed according to a combination of departmental evaluation and recommendation, grade point average, reference letters, statement of program, research potential and productivity where it has been demonstrated, and evidence of publications or other scholarly achievement. In all cases, the GSC only considers applicants who have been nominated by the department.

Applicants must either be continuing in a degree program in the FGSR or have been recommended for admission to a degree program in FGSR at the University of Alberta. Students admitted as Qualifying or Probationary graduate students are not eligible for scholarships and fellowships.

Students must contact their department directly for information on applying for these general awards and to ascertain whether they are eligible to receive an application form or to apply. Strong competition exists for these general awards, and all departments have a limit on the number of applicants who can be nominated for these general awards. Students who have been supplied with an “Application for General Awards” should send all documentation to the department to which they are applying or in which they are registered.

The FGSR has a deadline of **February 1** for receipt of applications for general awards from departments; however, students should contact their department regarding internal deadlines for receipt of documents and application forms. The general awards consist of the following:

- Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarships
- Dissertation Fellowships
- Province of Alberta Graduate Fellowships
- Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarships
- Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prizes

Before completing an Application for General Awards, you should ensure that you meet the eligibility requirements for the awards in which you are interested.

For information on University-administered awards, please refer to www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies

Regulations Governing Graduate Awards Administered by the Graduate Scholarship Committee

Regulations governing graduate awards administered by the Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) are outlined in the *Graduate Scholarship Committee Award Winner's Handbook*. The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research provides a copy of this Handbook to all winners of GSC administered awards and it is available at www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies

180.4 Awards Administered by Other Agencies—General Information

Students are urged to seek awards from other agencies (such as SSHRC, NSERC, etc.). NSERC and SSHRC no longer produce hard copies of their application forms or Guides. These documents are available on the NSERC and SSHRC websites.

NSERC website: www.nserc.ca

SSHRC website: www.sshrc.ca

For information on awards from outside agencies, please refer to www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies

180.5 Loans and Bursaries

180.5.1 Government Financial Assistance (Student Loan Programs)

The Canada Student Loans Plan permits full-time and part-time students to borrow money based on financial need. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or have permanent resident status, have lived in Canada for at least one year and state an intention to live in Canada after graduation. Students whose home residence is, or has been, in another province during the past 12 months should apply through that Province.

In Alberta, the same application form serves the Provincial Students Finance Act and the Canada Student Loans Plan. Assistance may be given under one or the other or both plans in response to the application form.

For further details and application forms, contact

Student Financial Aid and Information Centre, 2-700 Students' Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2J7; phone (780) 492-3483; fax (780) 492-9607;

or

Students Finance Board, 9th Floor, Sterling Place, 9940 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2V1; phone (780) 427-8640.

180.5.2 Financial Need Bursaries

Administered by the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre (see address above), bursaries are available to students who meet specific criteria. Financial need bursaries are non-repayable awards allocated primarily based on financial need. Because bursary funding is limited, awards are normally made only after a student has explored all other avenues of financial aid. Contact the Centre for additional information.

180.5.3 Emergency Loans

Loans are administered by the Student Financial Aid and Information Centre (see address above). Emergency loans are available to cover essential living expenses when an unanticipated event has caused a shortfall in a student's budget. Contact the Centre for additional information.

180.5.4 Foreign Students

At this University, foreign students may hold departmental teaching or research assistantships, stipends from some research grants, the Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship, the University of Alberta Master's Scholarship, and the FS Chia PhD Scholarship.

Foreign students are not eligible to apply for funding from provincial and federal government loan programs. The Ministry of Education in your home country may have information regarding possible sources of funding.

For information on University-administered awards and awards from outside agencies, refer to www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies

180.5.5 Study Abroad/International Student Exchanges

The International Centre, at 172 HUB International, offers a comprehensive resource area containing information on opportunities for students to work, study and volunteer abroad.

One such opportunity is an "International Student Exchange," an agreement between this University and certain foreign institutions to allow registered students to spend a term, session, semester or year at the other institution. All or a portion of the student's course work completed at the exchange institution will be considered for credit by the appropriate faculty or school of the home institution.

At this University, an exchange student from a foreign institution is normally registered as a Visiting Student. Non-reciprocal agreements whereby University of Alberta students study in a foreign institution also are available. The *Guide to International Student Exchanges*, which contains descriptions and criteria of each exchange, is available for consultation at the Centre.

For information on University-administered awards and awards from outside agencies, refer to www.ualberta.ca/gradstudies