

Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
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Date: Friday, September 26, 2025

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators,
Students/Applicants

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Re: **2025-2026 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES)**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) has received confirmation of funding for the 2025-2026 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarships (AGES) from the Government of Alberta, and we are pleased to announce details of this competition.

The AGES, valued at \$12,000, recognizes outstanding academic achievement of students pursuing graduate studies in Alberta. It was established to incent the best and the brightest students, including international students, to study in Alberta. There are two categories of AGES: AGES Indigenous (Indigenous students apply directly to GPS), and AGES Faculty Nomination to GPS (allocations provided to faculties).

Effective 2025/26, faculties are responsible for the effective deployment of the AGES allocations, and please note there will no longer be an alternate competition. Departments are to consult with their Faculty for their internal selection process.

AGES – Indigenous

Eligible Indigenous graduate students are encouraged to apply directly to GPS via the GSMS Awards Portal for the AGES prior to faculty nomination of the regular allocations. Refer to [GPS' website](#) for complete details on eligibility criteria and the application procedure on the Indigenous portion of the AGES competition.

Application Deadline: the deadline for students to apply to GPS is **Friday, October 10, 2025**.

AGES – Faculty Nomination

All faculties receive at least one AGES allocation, and a quota of at least 1 allocation for which an international student with a study permit may be nominated. Refer to [GPS' website](#) for complete details on eligibility criteria, and for the allocation table with the specified allotments for domestic and international students.

Nomination Deadline: nominations must be submitted via the [GSMS Awards portal](#) by **Friday, November 14, 2025**.

The GSMS nomination package submission must consist of the AGES Student Declaration Form and an up-to-date unofficial U of A transcript only. Please do not upload department/faculty internal applications, CV's, research proposals, or reference letters. Additional documents uploaded other than the Declaration Form and U of A transcript can delay nomination review and processing time:

i) Completed [AGES Student Declaration Form](#).

- Faculty nominators are responsible for ensuring students' personal information in Campus Solutions is updated with their current Alberta home/residential address prior to nomination submission. Note university department addresses are not considered home/residential addresses. As Alberta residency is an eligibility requirement, this should be confirmed in respect to all other eligibility criteria when selecting candidates as part of the faculty internal review process.
- Faculty nominators are also responsible for ensuring the AGES Student Declaration Form is signed by the student and completed in full before nomination submission to GPS. Information missing/incomplete will render the nomination being returned to the faculty.

ii) Up-to-date Unofficial U of A transcript

- Faculty nominators are responsible for ensuring an up-to-date unofficial U of A transcript is uploaded to GSMS. Up-to-date is defined as showing current Fall 2025 registration (or Winter 2026 for January admitted students).
- Please do not upload transcripts from other institutions, including transcripts for newly admitted students; only a current U of A transcript is required. If a newly admitted student for Winter 2026 term is not yet registered (and has no previous U of A degrees/course work), upload a blank unofficial U of A transcript of the student.
- Please do not upload outdated transcripts to GSMS that were used during your internal application and selection process (ex. if a student provided an out-of-date as part of their application). Faculty nominators are responsible for reprinting an up-to-date unofficial transcript as part of the GSMS nomination submission and sign off. **Uploading outdated transcripts to GSMS will significantly delay nomination review and processing time.**

Important:

- **Faculties may nominate eligible international students up to the prescribed limits within the table;** however, nomination of students on study permits is not mandatory and the allocation may be used for students with Canadian/Permanent Resident citizenship. Our contract from the Government of

Alberta mandates how many awards may be offered to international students; therefore, we cannot exceed the limits outlined in the allocation table.

- **Faculties may use their allocations to nominate either masters or doctoral students as the award value is the same.** Refer to [GPS' website](#) for complete eligibility requirements. Departments are to use the 'GPA Guidelines - Awards' procedures available in [Canvas](#) for calculating the GPA on the last 15 credits. Faculty nominators are to ensure there are no outstanding graded course grades in the current program preceding Fall 2025 term. All grades in the current program are to be officially posted, in order to calculate the GPA on the last 15 credits.
- **Allocations cannot be split.** One allocation is equivalent to one \$12,000 scholarship and is paid to students in one lump sum (as per the Government of Alberta's directive) via their direct deposit account only.
- **A student may only receive one AGES per year.** This scholarship is not renewable, but Faculties may nominate students for a new award in each year during which they meet the eligibility requirements (refer to GPS' [Scholarships and Awards Manual](#) for details).
- **Faculties are responsible for notifying their students on whether or not they have been nominated to GPS for an AGES.** GPS is not responsible for responding to student inquiries related to faculties' internal results statuses.
- **Faculties are responsible for ensuring their selected candidates will remain eligible during the tenure of the award, and do not hold other awards that may conflict with the AGES.** For GPS administered awards, recipient award information is viewable by running an Awards Tenure Report in the GSMS Awards Portal. Faculties are also refer to GPS's Scholarships and Awards Manual for additional information on eligibility (registration statuses, years in program, ineligible student categories), and changes in a student's status that would affect an award.

Sincerely,

GPS Awards Services