

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS MANUAL

Graduate Scholarship Committee

The regulations in this Manual apply to all merit based graduate student supports administered by the Graduate Scholarship Committee of the University of Alberta.

Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies



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1. INTRODUCTION

The information provided is based on the policies of the Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) of the University of Alberta (U of A), and on the procedures used in the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) for the management of graduate awards. Note the regulations and dollar amounts in this Manual are subject to change.

Award applicants and recipients, and U of A Department Nominators, are to refer to this Manual in addition to the Graduate Studies Management Solutions (GSMS) Awards Portal and [GPS's awards website](#) (procedures specific to each competition) for application, nomination, and award management processes. For regulations regarding specific awards administered by the Graduate Scholarship Committee, refer to [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#).

The majority of the awards administered by the U of A will be governed solely by the regulations published in this Manual. However, awards from other granting agencies may have published regulations that differ from, or are in addition to, those in this Manual.

1.1 Contact GPS Award Services

For more information or questions, Students and U of A Department Nominators may contact a Graduate Student Services Specialist – Awards for assistance:

Email: grad.awards@ualberta.ca

Local telephone number: 780-492-9460

Toll-free telephone number: 1-800-758-7136

1.2 Official Version

Once a document has been published on the [GPS website](#), the only official copy of that document is the online version. The material can be printed if necessary, but the printout should be considered an unofficial copy. Before using printed material in any capacity, users should always check the online system again to ensure that they have the latest version of the material.

2. DEFINITIONS

Any scholarships, fellowships, prizes, medals or awards administered by the GSC of U of A will be referred to as "awards". For awards administration purposes, "student" can include applicant, recipient, or recent graduate (convocated). Unless explicitly stated otherwise in the terms of reference or offer letter of an award, the following definitions and regulations will apply:

2.1 Scholarships and Fellowships

Scholarships and Fellowships are intended to support future work and can only be awarded to students with superior academic achievement (equivalent to a grade point average of 3.5 or

greater on the University of Alberta grading scale); additional selection criteria may be considered. Scholarships and Fellowships are awarded competitively. ALL graded courses (extra to degree, transfer credit, exchange) are included in GPA calculation.

2.2 Prizes and Medals

Prizes and medals recognize past accomplishments and are not intended to support future work.

2.3 Awards

Generally, awards are intended to support future work and are awarded competitively to students with satisfactory academic standing (equivalent to a grade point average of 3.0 or greater for awards offered to students newly admitted to a graduate degree program or a grade point average of 2.7 or greater for awards offered to students continuing in a graduate program); additional selection criteria may be considered, and may include financial need. ALL graded courses (extra to degree, transfer credit, exchange) are included in GPA calculation.

2.4 Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC)

A standing committee of the Council of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS), the GSC administers and adjudicates the various awards competitions, approves new awards, and develops policy for graduate awards managed by the University of Alberta. The information in this Handbook is based on policies approved by the Graduate Scholarship Committee. The GSC is chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of GPS or designate. More information on the GSC is posted on the GPS website.

2.5 University Term

"University Terms" means the four terms in the academic year (i.e., Fall Term (September 1 to December 31); Winter Term (January 1 to April 30); Spring Term (May 1 to June 30); and Summer Term (July 1 to August 31)).

U of A spring/summer terms (course and thesis-based graduate programs) are normally counted as full-time. For GPS-administered award eligibility and award payments, course-based master's students are considered to be working full time on their program, regardless of whether they have course registration or not in spring/summer terms.

2.6 Academic Standing

The University of Alberta [Access, Community & Belonging Strategic Plan](#) sets out a commitment to provide equitable access for students to scholarly opportunities and to address barriers to inclusion and success. Under this umbrella, the GPS is committed to the equitable adjudication of all graduate scholarship applications. This is done by evaluating academic achievement in a manner appropriate to graduate students that includes consideration not only of previous education, GPA and course work, but also research training, contribution and significance, and the impact of lived experiences on individuals and communities.

The adjudication processes take into account graduate program types, a student's time in program,

fundamental differences in approaches and contributions between research fields, and unique individual experiences that affect a student's success and the impact they have on society. The aim is to review graduate scholarship applications in a manner that is inclusive of all programs, research areas, and individuals and in so doing to remove barriers to diversity in our graduate student award recipients.

3. HONORARY SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Some U of A graduate awards can be held in some form together with specific external awards. In some cases, the U of A award is then designated as being an honorary award, and its value, if greater than the value of the external award, may be reduced by the value of the external award. See [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#) for specifics.

- Students are encouraged to accept external awards offered to them, as doing so will not adversely affect their U of A award, unless otherwise stated in [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#).
- Honorary scholarships are noted on a students' transcript.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Students must be actively engaged in their program to hold awards and scholarships.

4.1 Registration Status

- **Part-time**

Part-time students are not typically eligible, unless specified in the terms of reference for the award. If a student is selected as the recipient of one of the limited number of Department-Specific or Inter-Departmental awards for which part-time students are eligible, the student is required to register either part-time or full-time in each term for the duration of the award.

- **Full-time**

Full-time students are required to be registered full-time in each Fall and Winter terms.

- **Leave of Absences**

Students on an approved leave of absence from their program are not eligible to hold awards during the leave of absence period.

- **M REG 900 – Maintaining Registration while on approved regular leave of absence**

Students enrolled in M REG 900 do not qualify for awards, nor will be paid during this period if actively holding an award. The regular leave period will be included in the time period allowed for the completion of the student's program of study; refer to [Section 4.5: Years in Program](#).

- **MD/PhD Joint/Dual Degree Programs**

Students enrolled in MD/PhD programs are eligible for graduate awards if they are registered in the

graduate portion of the program, or if they are in the dual MD/PhD program, which falls under undergraduate registration, and the department has confirmed that they are engaged in PhD level research.

4.2 Research Requirement

Unless otherwise indicated in the terms of reference or eligibility description for a scholarship, award or prize, applicants must be engaged in a graduate degree program with a significant, independent research component that results in a peer reviewed research output (for example a thesis, dissertation, publication, performance, recital, or exhibit) that is a required part of the graduate program.

Completing a capstone or research project (Course number XXXX 900 - Directed Research Project/Capstone Project/Directed Final Project) does not alone meet the research requirement. Departments with solely or primarily a course-based program with no research requirement, and/or professional programs do not meet the research requirement. Course-based capstone/research projects must demonstrate evidence of the research output. The work completed in the course-based master's program is to be considered equivalent to a major research project and is appropriate for students who intend to proceed to doctoral studies.

4.3 Graduate Certificate & Diploma Registrants

Students registered in Graduate Certificate and Diploma programs are not typically eligible, unless specified in the terms of reference for the award. If a student is selected as the recipient of one of the limited number of awards for which Graduate Certificate and Diploma students are eligible, the student is required to register in each term for the duration of the award.

4.4 Ineligible Student Categories

Qualifying students, special students, and visiting students are not eligible to hold GPS-administered awards, unless specified in the terms of reference for the award. Students must be in good academic standing to hold GPS-administered awards.

4.5 Years in Program

Unless otherwise stated in [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#), or specified in the terms of reference for the award, applicants registered in master's programs are eligible to hold awards during the first four years of their program. Applicants in doctoral programs are eligible to hold awards during the first six years of their program.

- **University Terms**

The University Terms as stated in [Section 2.5: University Term](#) are counted towards time in program effective the date of admission into the program.

- **Master's Bypass to Doctoral**

For students who transfer from a master's to a doctoral program, the time spent in the master's program counts towards the time spent in the doctoral. For students registered in course based masters programs who have a break in term registration, the University Term is still counted towards

time in program (ie. registration in Fall/Winter, no registration in Spring/Summer, Spring/Summer terms will be counted towards time in program).

- **Registered Accommodations**

For students with a registered disability/accessibility indicator who are registered part time but considered full time for enrolment purposes, the University Terms will be counted as full time when counting time in program.

5. PAYMENT OF TUITION AND FEES

Unless otherwise stated in [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#), students are responsible for paying their [tuition and related fees](#) via Bear Tracks. Tuition cannot be deducted from the award stipend. Students are to contact [Shared Services](#) for tuition payment options, if available.

6. CONCURRENT AWARDS

- **University of Alberta Awards**

A student may hold any number of U of A awards (unless specified in the terms of the award) concurrently and at full value, except for certain combinations of awards as noted in [Section 3: Honorary Scholarships and Fellowships](#) and [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#).

- **External Awards**

The Graduate Scholarship Committee does not limit the number or total value of external awards that a student may hold. However, the external agencies for these awards may have their own restrictions. Students should consult the external agencies directly for their policies.

7. EMPLOYMENT WHILE HOLDING AN AWARD

7.1 Devotion of Hours to Degree

A student is expected to devote most of their working time to completion of their graduate degree. Before accepting employment, for example, a graduate assistantship, first a student should discuss this action with, and receive consent from, the supervisor and department to ensure the total workload is compatible with the expected activities as a full-time graduate student and award holder. Graduate students who work under the [CAST agreement](#) are treated as graduate assistants for matters related to awards.

7.2 Graduate Assistantships

If a student accepts awards from any source, and the regulations for the award(s) and the department permit, the student may hold a graduate (teaching or research) assistantship at any point in the duration of the award(s) (also refer to Sections 7.1 and 7.3). Certain University of Alberta awards stipulate or

restrict the graduate assistantship duties a student may perform. No decisions regarding assistantship appointments or their payment are made by GPS; Students are advised to contact their department or [Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment](#) with questions. For additional information contact the Graduate Student Association (GSA).

7.3 External Funding Agencies

External funding agencies may restrict the number of hours of employment permitted. Students should consult the external agencies directly for their policies in this regard.

8. ACCEPTANCE OR DECLINATION OF AWARDS

For the majority of GPS administered awards, the acceptance or declination are managed through the GSMS Awards Portal. Certain external funding agency awards administered by GPS may require additional documentation, in which case recipients will be directly notified with specific instructions.

8.1 Acceptance Required for Payments

Unless a student is offered an award that does not require acceptance, the student is required to accept the award offered in order to receive payments. For awards offered via GSMS, students are to view the status of the award offer by logging into to their GSMS Awards dashboard. Instructions are available on [GPS's website](#).

By accepting the award in GSMS, students agree to comply with the terms and conditions as stated in the letter of offer, and as described in this manual. Students agree to the following: if they are unable to comply with these regulations at any time, they must notify GPS Awards Services in writing and that the award will be terminated according to the regulations outlined in this manual; they certify that the particulars furnished on the GSMS acceptance form are true and complete in all respects and that no information has been withheld; they authorize GPS to report their name, contact information and award status to donor(s) of awards and university officials, if applicable, and to use their name in various U of A publications.

They confirm that they will be working full-time on their graduate program, including the May to August period. They understand that it is the policy of the Graduate Scholarship Committee to confirm that students who registered full-time in their graduate program during the preceding Fall/Winter Terms, and who will begin tenure of an award in Spring/Summer Terms, will conduct research on a full-time basis during the Spring/Summer Terms, even though they may not be officially registered in courses or thesis registration. They understand that if they are beginning a new graduate program in Spring or Summer Term, they will need to register full-time in that term to be eligible to hold the award.

8.2 Acceptance or Declination Response Deadlines

For awards offered to the applicant via GSMS, a status of "Offer Made" will be present in the online Award Applications panel. The applicant may accept or decline the offer online after reviewing the status letter and this Manual.

The letter of offer includes a deadline for acceptance/declination (30 days from the date of the letter of offer). If GPS does not hear from the applicant by the date stipulated in that letter, the award cannot be guaranteed beyond the deadline and it may be offered to another eligible student.

8.3 Deferrals

If a student accepts an award but wishes to defer the date the award begins due to a program deferral or approved leave of absence, the student must notify GPS Award Services and the graduate department with the details of the specific case. These situations are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and the offer may be subject to expiration, or may not be approved. Students may notify GPS Award Services in writing by email (grad.awards@ualberta.ca), or send a message through the GSMS Awards Portal.

9. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Acceptance of an award administered through the GPS indicates that the applicant understands that certain elements of the personal information may be shared for publicity or reporting purposes with the broader University community, the public (e.g. the University website) or certain agencies. Any collection or sharing of information is conducted under the authority of Section 33(c) of Alberta's FOIP Act for authorized purposes including admission and registration; administration of records, scholarships and awards, student services; and university planning and research. Students' personal information may be disclosed to academic and administrative units according to university policy, federal and provincial reporting requirements, data sharing agreements with student governance associations, and to contracted or public health care providers as required. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at 780-492-3499 or see <http://www.ipo.ualberta.ca/>.

10. AWARD RENEWALS

10.1 Initiating a Renewal

If the graduate award is renewable and to ensure there is no disruption to a student's payments, it is the student's responsibility to initiate payment for the renewal year by logging into the GSMS Awards Portal at least 6 weeks before the start of the renewal year (instructions are available on GPS's website). Any awards with the status "Awaiting Renewal" will be present in the online My Awards panel. If eligible for renewal, authorization will be provided by the GPS and may include changes to the award value, status or duration.

10.2 Renewal Eligibility

To be eligible for renewal of a graduate scholarship, First Class academic standing (equivalent to a

grade point average of 3.5 or greater) must be maintained, unless the terms of reference for the specific award indicate otherwise. All courses (extra to degree, transfer credit, exchange) are included in GPA calculation.

To be eligible for renewal of a graduate award, satisfactory academic standing (equivalent to 3.0) must be maintained, unless the terms of reference for the specific award indicate otherwise. All courses (extra to degree, transfer credit, exchange) are included in GPA calculation.

10.3 Additional Documents or Progress Reports

Renewals may require additional documentation or progress reports as required by the terms of the award. Refer to [Award Resources/Renew my Award](#) for more information.

11. PAYMENT OF AWARDS

11.1 Tenure and Value

The duration and value of an award are outlined in the letter of offer, available in the GSMS Awards Portal.

11.2 Payroll Deadlines

In order to ensure timely payment, acceptance must be received in GPS well before the payroll deadline date of the relevant semi-monthly pay period, as defined by Human Resources, Health, Safety and Environment (HRHSE), in which award payments are expected to begin. See HRHSE's [Pay Period Schedules & Definitions](#) webpage for details on pay dates.

11.3 Direct Deposit

Payment of awards is processed by direct deposit to the recipient's personal Canadian bank account. In order to receive payments, recipients must set up direct deposit (the University's required payment process) and update their address in Bear Tracks to their current Canadian address. It is the students' responsibility to ensure their information is up to date in Bear Tracks prior to the start date of the award.

11.4 Payment Disbursement

Award payments are made in arrears:

- Awards valued up to and including \$7,100 are paid in a one-time payment, within the time frame noted on the offer letter.
- Awards valued over \$7,100 up to and including \$11,999.99 are typically paid in two equal lump sums, usually at the beginning of each of two successive university terms, after confirmation of full-time registration (if required). Such awards may have their second installment canceled after the first term, if the requirements of the award are no longer met.

- Awards valued at \$12,000 and over will be paid in equal semi-monthly installments in accordance with HRHSE's semi-monthly pay dates over a 12 month period. Such awards may have their remaining instalments canceled if the requirements of the award are no longer met.
- Some awards payments may not follow the schedule outlined above for reasons which may include specific payment structure dictated by an external agency. Students are encouraged to check [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#) for additional regulations, and/or review the terms of reference of the award.

11.5 Changes to Payment Disbursement

It is not possible to change the method and timing of payments. As noted in [Section 5: Payment of Tuition and Fees](#), and unless otherwise stated in [Section 15: Additional Specific Regulations](#), the student is responsible for paying his/her tuition and related fees directly to [Shared Services](#). A student's tuition cannot be deducted from the award stipend.

12. INCOME TAX

Currently, most awards income is non-taxable, though the [Canada Revenue Agency](#) regulations and Income Tax Act are subject to change at any time; students are to contact the CRA with questions about any income tax payable from award income (CRA Individual income tax enquiries: 1-800-959-8281).

13. CHANGES AFFECTING A STUDENT'S AWARD

It is the students' responsibility to notify GPS in writing (grad.awards@ualberta.ca) or through the GSMS Awards Portal of any changes that will affect their registration, immigration, student or employment status, or affect the assessment of the international differential fee. Depending on the situation, the value of the award may be prorated or the award may be terminated.

13.1 Changes in Student Status

If a change to the student status makes the student ineligible to hold all or some specific portion of the award, any award funding that the student is ineligible to hold will be cancelled or terminated on the date the change to the program is effective. A student may be required to repay all, or a portion of, the award stipend (including any tuition and fees paid on the student's behalf). Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with all guidelines under Section 13. Changes Affecting a Student's Award and Section 15. Additional Specific Regulations. Changes affecting an award may include:

- No longer in good academic standing;
- Withdrawing from the program, being required to withdraw;
- Change in registration from full-time to part-time status;
- Change in program (program deferrals [Section 8.1], transfers between thesis based and course

- based masters programs or between masters and doctoral; department transfers;
- Not being registered;
- Accepting another award that precludes holding concurrent awards;
- Change in employment status;
- Leave of absence

13.2 Repayment of Funds

If for any reason a student continues to accept award funds in excess of amounts forgiven under [Section 13.5: Forgiveness Policy](#) after they become ineligible for the award, or if the value of the award is prorated, the student will be required to reimburse the University of Alberta.

13.3 Changes to Immigration Status

If the student's immigration status changes and the student is no longer required to pay the international differential fee, or if the student holds an award that provides payment of [tuition and fees](#), the student may be required to repay all or a portion of the tuition and fees paid on the student's behalf or any payments the student has received for a tuition and fees component.

13.4 Prizes

Prizes are awarded in recognition of past accomplishments. With the exception of the President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction (see [Section 15.6: PDPD](#)), a student will not be required to return any portion of the prize monies received should the student's enrolment status change.

13.5 Forgiveness Policy

In the event of a change to the student's status affecting the student's eligibility to hold an award, and unless otherwise stipulated by an external funding agency or by the terms of reference of an award, GPS will not pursue a refund of award monies paid to the following situations; this policy is enforced at the sole discretion of GPS and may change at any time, without notice:

- For an award valued at or under \$7,100, GPS will not pursue a refund of award monies paid to the student.
- For awards valued over \$7,100 up to and including \$11,999.99, if the student has been paid for a university term in which the student registered, then GPS will not pursue a refund of award monies paid to the student, but will withhold the second half of the award if the student does not register for the following university term.
- For awards valued at \$12,000 and over, GPS will terminate semi-monthly installments based on the date the status change is effective.

13.6 Exceptions and Compelling Circumstances

Under certain compelling circumstances, exceptions to the rules in this Section may be approved by the

Dean, GPS (or designate). Compelling circumstances include unanticipated events unrelated to the academic program that could not have been avoided, such as medical emergencies, compassionate leave, or unique program requirements. The department should submit a written request to GPS Award Services at grad.awards@ualberta.ca.

13.7 Award Interruptions

Students planning for or have been approved by GPS for an approved leave of absence from their program may be eligible to interrupt their award. Students are to complete GPS's [Award Interruption Request Form](#) and submit to grad.awards@ualberta.ca. Certain external funding agency awards administered by GPS may require additional documentation, in which case recipients will be directly notified with specific instructions.

14. PROGRAM COMPLETION AND AWARDS

14.1 Thesis-Based Programs

For thesis-based programs, payment of awards will be terminated:

- ***For awards paid semi-monthly***

At the end of the month following the month in which GPS receives the Thesis Approval/Program Completion form. Tri-Council Awards will be terminated due to the completion of degree requirements. GPS will follow Tri-Council regulations and GPS's submission of the Thesis Approval/Program Completion form to terminate Tri-Council award payments.

- ***For awards paid in one or two installments***

The installment will be canceled if there is no registration in the university term in which it was scheduled to be paid.

14.2 Course-Based Programs

For course-based programs, payment of awards will be terminated:

- ***For awards paid semi-monthly***

At the end of the month following the completion date listed on the Report of Completion of Course-based Master's Degree form submitted to GPS. Tri-Council Awards will be terminated due to the completion of degree requirements. GPS will follow Tri-Council regulations and GPS's submission of the Report of Completion form to terminate Tri-Council award payments.

- ***For awards paid in one or two installments***

The installment will be canceled if there is no registration in the university term in which it was scheduled to be paid.

- If a student has completed all coursework and is not required to register in a Fall/Winter term in which the student holds an award, the student may be allowed to continue holding the award if GPS

receives a confirmation from their department that they are working on their program while not registered.

15. ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

15.1 Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship

15.1.1 The Killam Scholarship is offered to students registered full-time in, or admissible to, a doctoral program. The Killam Scholarship may begin either May 1st or September 1st. The award is valued at \$45,000 for 12 months and it is renewable for a second 12-month period provided all renewal conditions, including first-class standing are met (refer to [Section 2.1: Scholarships and Fellowships](#)).

15.1.2 Students are responsible for payment of their [tuition and fees](#). However, the scholarship will cover the International Graduate Student Differential Fee associated with full-time registration, if applicable. The differential fee, if applicable, will be paid directly to [Shared Services](#) on the students' behalf. If a student's immigration status changes and they are no longer required to pay the differential fee, any inapplicable portion of the international differential fee paid on the student's behalf must be returned to the U of A.

15.1.3 A student may hold any number of GPS administered U of A awards concurrently with the Killam Scholarship.

15.1.4 If a student wins an external scholarship, the student is required to accept the external award, and is to inform GPS of their offer. The Killam Scholarship might then become honorary (see [Section 3: Honorary Scholarships and Fellowships](#) for details). The Honorary Killam Scholarship is renewable for a second year; the student must complete a renewal request to GPS through the GSMS Awards Portal for it to be activated (subject to the conditions outlined in [Section 10: Award Renewals](#)).

A full-value Killam Scholarship is available in the renewal year (subject to the conditions outlined in [Section 10: Award Renewals](#)) should the external award not be available for a second year.

15.1.5 Before commencing the Killam Scholarship, a student may defer it for up to a maximum of one year, but only for reasons of maternity, child rearing, illness, or health-related family responsibilities. A student may not defer their award in order to take up another award, or to accept or hold employment, or to pursue studies other than those for which the student received funding. The student must request the deferral as soon as possible **but no later than one month after** the scheduled start date of the award. The student must be on an approved leave of absence from the program to be eligible for the deferral.

15.1.6 The Killam Scholarship offers a paid parental leave program for award holders. This program allows for a period of up to 12 months of parental leave, with a monthly stipend of \$1875. To be eligible for this program, interruptions for parental leave must be taken within six months following the birth or adoption of the child or in alignment with the student's Leave of Absence.

Award holders may request a parental leave for every occasion of birth or adoption that occurs during the tenure of their award. Note that multiple births or adoptions upon the same occasion (for example, twins or sibling adoptions) do not increase the duration or value of the leave. The award holder must be the primary caregiver for the duration of the interruption. If both parents hold Killam funding, they must share the paid leave for a cumulative maximum of 12 months.

Approval of paid parental leave is subject to the availability of Killam funds. To request a leave, award holders are to contact GPS who will confirm the availability of funding and process the parental leave. It is important to note that these benefits are intended to support those students who do not have access to other paid parental leave supports through Tri-agency research or scholarship funding. For students receiving a 6 month parental support from Alberta Innovates (AI), they may hold a Killam parental leave for 6 months after the completion of the AI support.

15.2 University of Alberta Graduate Recruitment Scholarship

15.2.1 The Recruitment Scholarship is offered to U of A students who will be registered full-time in a thesis program after the offer of the award. The award commences in the first term of registration. The award value and duration vary. Additional program-specific conditions may also apply.

15.2.2 Students are responsible for payment of their [tuition and fees](#).

15.2.3 Students are strongly encouraged to apply for scholarships from external funding agencies, if eligible (ex. Tri-Council [CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC], Alberta Innovates, etc.). The expectation is that students will also apply for all other scholarships for which they are qualified during the duration of the Recruitment Scholarship.

15.2.4 Students may hold any number of GPS administered U of A awards concurrently with a Recruitment Scholarship.

15.2.5 If a student wins an external or non-GPS administered award, the student will retain the Recruitment Scholarship unless prohibited by non-GPS external funding regulations.

15.3 Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize

15.3.1 This prize is valued at \$5,000 and is available to full-time doctoral students who have completed two or more years of their doctoral program and are actively engaged in thesis research at the time of the award offering.

15.3.2 A student may hold any number of awards concurrently with an Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize.

15.4 University of Alberta Graduate Entrance Scholarship

15.4.1 The Entrance Scholarship is offered to newly admitted U of A students who will be registered full-time in a doctoral or master's degree program. The scholarship is valued at \$17,500

for masters and \$21,000 for doctoral, and it may commence September 1st (regardless of the admit term of the student). The scholarship is not renewable and may not be deferred beyond the September 1st start date.

15.4.2 This scholarship will also receive a top-up amount applied directly to tuition and fees. Any tuition and fees above and beyond the top-up are the responsibility of the student to pay.

15.4.3 A student may hold any number of GPS administered U of A awards concurrently with this scholarship, however;

- If the student is awarded and accepts another award (external, GPS administered, or other U of A administered award) that is valued \$17,500 (masters) or \$21,000 (doctoral) and higher, the student must inform GPS about the other award offer. The Entrance Scholarship may become honorary (see [Sections 3: Honorary Scholarships and Fellowships](#)).
- If the tuition and fees are covered by the other award, whether external, GPS administered, or other U of A administered award, tuition and fees will not be covered by the Entrance Scholarship.
- The student cannot hold GPS's Tri-Council Top-up awards (the Walter H Johns Graduate Fellowship and the President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction) and the Entrance Scholarship tuition and fees top-up funding at the same time.

15.4.4 Recipients may not continue to hold the Entrance Scholarship if they switch between a course-based and thesis-based program.

15.5 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES)

15.5.1 The AGES recognizes outstanding academic achievement of students pursuing graduate studies in Alberta. Students must be registered full-time in a course-based Master's, thesis-based Master's, or Doctoral degree program, or a graduate level credential program that can ladder into a Master's degree program, approved by the Minister of Advanced Education.

15.5.2 The full-value of the AGES will be paid in one lump sum before March 31. Note that the payment schedule for this award differs from the standard schedule as outlined in [Section 11: Payment of Awards](#).

15.5.3 Students are responsible for payment of their [tuition and fees](#), including the international differential fee, if applicable.

15.5.4 Students may concurrently hold any number of U of A awards with the AGES. This scholarship is not renewable, but the student's department may nominate the same student for a new award in each year during which the student meets the eligibility requirements.

15.5.5 Indigenous students may apply for the AGES through the Faculty/Department that they

reside in or directly to the GPS. A student may only hold one AGES in a given academic year.

15.6 President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction (PDPD)

15.6.1 This Prize is awarded to students registered full-time in a doctoral degree program who have won one or more of a [specific list of external doctoral-level awards](#). The prize (value determined each fiscal year) is for the first year that the student holds the eligible external award. If there are subsequent years that a student holds the eligible external award, the PDPD has a value equal to that of the Walter H Johns Graduate Fellowship (see [Section 15.7: WHJ](#)).

15.6.2 Students cannot receive PDPD payments in those terms in which they do not receive payments from their [eligible external award](#).

15.6.3 This prize is awarded automatically. No additional application is required.

15.6.4 Students are responsible for payment of their tuition and fees, including the international differential fee, if applicable.

15.6.5 Recipients of [eligible scholarships](#) will be awarded the President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction (PDPD). Recipients of eligible NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, Vanier, or Trudeau Foundation Awards should forward their Notification of Award, and their email accepting that award, 6 weeks in advance of their start date, to GPS Award Services via email at grad.awards@ualberta.ca.

15.6.6 The PDPD will be paid upon receipt of the required external acceptance form(s); refer to the external award's website for the applicable form(s). The student is required to manually accept the PDPD through the GSMS Awards Portal.

15.6.7 Renewal of the PDPD is contingent upon the successful renewal of the eligible scholarships. Refer to [Section 10: Award Renewals](#) for more information.

15.6.8 As long as the student continues to hold the eligible external doctoral-level scholarship, the student can continue to receive payments beyond regular eligibility as identified in [Section 4.5: Years in Program](#).

15.6.9 This funding is not guaranteed, and is subject to availability each year.

15.7 Walter H Johns (WHJ) Graduate Fellowship

15.7.1 This fellowship is awarded to students registered full-time in a graduate degree program who hold eligible Tri-Council master's-level scholarships (value determined each fiscal year).

15.7.2 A student cannot receive WHJ payments in those terms in which the student

does not receive payments from the [eligible external award](#).

15.7.3 Students are responsible for payment of their [tuition and fees](#).

15.7.4 Recipients of eligible scholarships may be awarded the WHJ upon acceptance of the eligible Tri-Council scholarship. The student is required to manually accept the WHJ award through the GSMS Awards Portal.

15.7.5 This funding is not guaranteed, and is subject to availability each year.

15.8 GPS Graduate Travel Awards

Detailed regulations are on the [GPS website](#). A student is not required to manually accept this award. It will be automatically paid to the student following the offer.

15.9 Departmental Awards (Department Specific and Inter-Department)

15.9.1 The majority of awards have a tenure of September 1 – August 31 whereby students must be registered and working full-time on their graduate program during this period (unless otherwise stated in the award Terms of Reference). Note that eligibility criteria must be met effective the September 1 start date that immediately follows submission of the nomination.

15.9.2 GPA's for Department Specific and Inter-Department awards are calculated using a minimum of 15 credits in the current program. If there are less than 15 credits, the Admission Grade Point Average (AGPA) is used in combination with the current program. If there is no graded coursework, the AGPA of the current program (or newly admitted program) will be used. NOTE: The Terms of Reference will always supersede this calculation.

15.10 Friends of the University of Alberta Society Graduate Award

This is a fee based award whereby up to \$5,000.00 in funding is credited directly towards fees by distributing across terms (Fall/Winter/Spring/Summer). Any funds not used are returned to GPS.

15.11 Special Awards

At the discretion of GPS, special awards may be created with additional funding that may not follow payment or eligibility requirements of the awards outlined in this document. These awards are often one-time awards with no renewals and are not guaranteed to exist past the year given.

15.12 Alberta Innovates Graduate Scholarships

GPS Award Services administers part or in whole the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships (AIGSS) and the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) Graduate Studentships on behalf of Alberta Innovates (AI). In addition to GPS's information and guidelines, applicants and recipients are to also check the applicable AI Program Guidelines and Handbook for detailed requirements on applying for, holding, and renewing awards.

15.12.1 Students may hold the AGES concurrently with the AIGSS and AbSPORU.

15.12.2 A student may hold any number of U of A awards concurrently with AI awards; however if the student is awarded and accepts another award (external, GPS administered, or other U of A administered award) that is valued \$17,500 and higher, the student must inform GPS about the other award offer and the AI may be converted to a top-up award as outlined in the applicable AI Program Guidelines and Handbook. Effective 2025/26 AI GSS competition only: if the student is awarded and accepts another award (external, GPS administered, or other U of A administered award) that is valued \$21,000 and higher, the student must inform GPS about the other award offer and the AI may be converted to a top-up award as outlined in the applicable AI Program Guidelines and Handbook.

15.13 Tri-Agency Postgraduate Programs

GPS Award Services administers, and is the U of A's designated institutional signing authority (Scholarship Liaison Officer) for the following external Tri-Agency awards to be held at the U of A (host institution). Applicants and recipients are to follow the Tri-Agency Research Training Award Holder's guide; payment of award and changes (degree completion, termination, interruptions, etc.) go through GPS:

- **Doctoral Scholarships**

- Canada Graduate Research Scholarships – Doctoral (CGRS D) (effective 2025/26)
- Canada Graduate Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (CGS- MSFSS)
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Canada Graduate Scholarships – Doctoral Program
- Doctoral Research Award Priority Announcement (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Postgraduate Scholarships – Doctoral (PGS D) (program change to CGRS D effective 2025/26)
 - NSERC Canadian Forest Sector Workforce Supplement
 - Department of National Defence (DND)/ NSERC supplemental funding award
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) – Doctoral Fellowships (program change to CGRS D effective 2025/26)
 - SSHRC Impact Talent Award
 - MINDS Initiative Doctoral Awards
 - Initiative for Digital Citizen Research
 - Sport Participation Research Initiative
- Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships (Vanier CGS) (program change to CGRS D effective 2025/26)

- **Masters Scholarships**

- Canada Graduate Research Scholarships – Master's (CGRS M): the CGRS M program at the U of A (applications, review and adjudication, award results, payments) is administered by GPS on behalf of the agencies (formerly Canada Graduate Scholarship – CGS M)
 - Indigenous Scholars Awards and Supplements
 - Black scholars initiative

- Canada Graduate Research Scholarships – Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement (CGS-MSFSS)

15.13.1 Students may hold the AGES concurrently with a Tri-Agency Postgraduate awards administered by GPS.

15.13.2 A student may hold any number of GPS administered U of A awards concurrently with Tri-Agency Postgraduate awards provided the Terms of Reference for that award does not specify otherwise. For other external or U of A awards, students are to consult the funding source for any specific regulations. Students with Graduate Assistantships are to consult directly with their department.

15.13.3 U of A spring/summer terms (course and thesis-based graduate programs) are normally counted as full-time. For CGS M eligibility and award payments, course-based master's students are considered to be working full time on their program, regardless of whether they have course registration or not in spring/summer terms.