

PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND HANDBOOK: 2020/21 GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The information below outlines the 2020/21 Graduate Student Scholarships program. This program is administered and adjudicated by the University of Alberta, University of Calgary and University of Lethbridge.

Please contact your Alberta university of choice for information regarding university-specific application processes and procedures. University contact information is located on page 12 of this document.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

This document describes the terms and conditions for recipients of an Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship.

The Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships are open to Canadian, Permanent Resident and International Students.

Students in the following categories may apply, provided that they are pursuing graduate studies at an Alberta university in one of the research areas outlined below and meet eligibility requirements:

- Canadian candidates, whether or not they hold a major (i.e. NSERC) award;
- International candidates

All applications should be made to the appropriate university.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each year, Alberta Advanced Education, in partnership with Alberta Innovates invests in the support of academically superior graduate students undertaking full-time research education at an Alberta university, leading to a research-based Master's or doctoral degree.

The Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships program (GSS) is designed to enable these promising students to succeed in Emerging Technology Areas of scientific research which are strategically important to Alberta. These areas are: **Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Nanotechnology, and Omics**; (Omics consists of: Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, Transcriptomics and Regulomics) in and of themselves or which additionally support the innovation priority areas of Environment & Climate, Energy, Food & Agriculture, Fibre/Bioindustrial and Health.

Further explanation of the eligible Emerging Technology Areas of Research are as follows:

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

ICT, sometimes referred to as **informatics**, is a broad-based foundational and enabling discipline. ICT includes a range of study areas encompassing human-computer interaction, computer science, information science, information technology, algorithms, areas of mathematics and social sciences. Activities link theoretical results with application development.

The enabling aspects of ICT support all research fields including, but not limited to, computer science, mathematics, biology, physics and applications in all branches of science, engineering and medicine.

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is a broad, enabling discipline that crosses a range of research fields including chemistry, physics, computer science, biology, mathematics, many areas of engineering, and medicine.

Nanotechnology research includes the development of modelling and prediction tools and techniques, and control of matter at minute dimensions in the order of one to 100 nanometres. The breadth of research in the nanotechnology field encompasses imaging, measuring, modelling, and manipulating matter at the atomic and molecular scale.

Of particular interest is work at the interface of nanotechnology and the life sciences. At the nano scale it is possible to engineer biological molecules that function differently than they would in nature. It is also possible to manipulate and engineer biological systems using methods other than traditional molecular biological, synthetic chemical, or biochemical approaches. Activities in these areas often become nanotechnology projects.

Omics

Omics is the term used to describe a range of disciplines in the field of biology including genomics, metagenomics, metabolomics, glycomics and proteomics.

Through the last decade, improvements in a wide range of technologies including molecular biology, chemistry, physics, Information and Communications Technology and nanotechnology, have generated a variety of advances in the computational aspects of modelling and prediction associated with bioinformatics (management and manipulation of sequencing technologies and large data), and the multi-scale modelling of systems biology.

The scholarship is intended to support the recipient in concentrating his/her full-time attention to the proposed research. In addition to living expenses, tuition, etc., recipients are encouraged to use a portion of the scholarship for the following:

- Travel expenses to attend scientific meetings and conferences
- Travel expenses for relocation
- Purchase of scientific materials, books, periodicals and journals
- Supplies and expendables
- Computer hardware and software
- Costs for the use of libraries, computer and animal facilities
- Costs associated with the publication of research results

TIMELINE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Specific to each individual university; please contact your university of choice for deadline information. (Contact information can be found on page 12)

ELIGIBILITY (Please refer to Eligibility and Term of Scholarship chart on page 13)

If a candidate is not yet registered at an Alberta university, their eligibility to apply for the GSS is contingent upon meeting all eligibility requirements for admission to an Alberta university. The candidate should contact the university of their choice for information on those requirements.

Students cannot simultaneously hold support from more than one Alberta Innovates studentship program.

A student cannot receive more than a total of four years of combined master's/doctoral support from Alberta Innovates (across all programs). This includes support from the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship, Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship for Data-Enabled Innovation, the Alberta Innovates Graduate Studentship (Health), and the Alberta SPOR SUPPORT Unit (AbSPORU) Graduate Studentship.

SPONSORING SUPERVISOR

Each candidate must be sponsored by a faculty supervisor, possessing both a record of productive research within a research area described below and sufficient resources to ensure the satisfactory conduct of the research.

REVIEW PROCEDURE AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Each Alberta university will review all applications and evaluate them based on excellence and strategic alignment in Emerging Technology Areas of scientific research important to Alberta. These Areas are: **Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Nanotechnology, and Omics**; (Omics consists of: Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics, Transcriptomics and Regulomics) in and of themselves, or which additionally support the innovation priority areas of Environment & Climate, Energy, Food & Agriculture, Fibre/Bioindustrial and Health.

START DATE:

Recipients may choose to commence the GSS on May 1, 2020, September 1, 2020, or January 1, 2021, subject to the rules and regulations governing graduate awards at the chosen university.

LOCATION OF AWARD

Scholarships are only valid at the following three Alberta universities:

- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge

TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP (Refer to Eligibility and Term of Scholarship chart on page 13):

Master's students awarded a scholarship, when not holding a major (i.e. NSERC) award, will receive a stipend of \$26,000 per year.

Doctoral students awarded a scholarship, when not holding a major (i.e. NSERC) award, will receive a stipend of \$31,000 per year.

Students who receive a major (i.e. NSERC) award do not receive the full GSS stipend but do receive a top-up award (see **Funding and Payments chart on page 5**). The Faculty of Graduate Studies at each Alberta University determines which awards are considered major awards for the purposes of Alberta Innovates scholarship terms.

Students who receive a 2020 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) may receive an AGES top-up award. This top-up reflects changes to the recent 2020 AGES and the amount is determined by the Faculty of Graduate Studies at each Alberta University. Please contact your university of choice for further information.

Master's students are eligible for a maximum of two years of funding. This would apply to a student

who has not yet begun their master’s program at the competition deadline. For degrees already in progress, the term of the scholarship will be reduced by one year for each academic year or portion of an academic year spent participating in the graduate program, prior to commencing the scholarship, as determined by the registration date on their transcripts. * *see note below.*

If a Master’s student who holds a GSS scholarship transfers to a doctoral program during the scholarship tenure, the term of scholarship *may* be extended up to a maximum of four years. The total award term is dependent on the start date of the student’s Master’s program. * *see note below.* To determine whether you may be eligible for a stipend increase to the doctoral level, please consult the university at which you are registered for details. The stipend increase is not automatic and the student must request the increase to the doctoral scholarship rate.

Doctoral students are eligible for a maximum of four years of funding. This would apply to a student who has not yet begun their doctoral program at the competition deadline. For degrees already in progress, the term of scholarship will be reduced by one year for each academic year or portion of an academic year spent participating in the graduate program, prior to commencing the scholarship, as determined by the registration date on their transcripts. This includes any time spent in a Master’s program (transfer from Master’s to doctoral program). * *see note below.*

***Please note:** Alberta Innovates considers an academic year to be any time (up to and including the last month of study in a term) spent participating in a program. For example, if a candidate begins their first year of study in September, and applies for a scholarship in January, that time will be considered their first year of study and one full year would be reduced from the candidate’s term. The candidate’s first year of study (although only partially complete upon application) would be reduced from the term of the scholarship. That candidate would be eligible for one year if they are a master’s candidate and three years if they are a doctoral candidate.

FUNDING AND PAYMENTS*:

SCHOLARSHIP	GSS STIPEND VALUE (PER YEAR)	OTHER MAJOR (i.e. NSERC) AWARD VALUE	TOTAL (PER YEAR)
MASTER’S GSS	\$26,000	\$0	\$26,000
DOCTORAL GSS	\$31,000	\$0	\$31,000
MAJOR (i.e. NSERC) AWARD TOP-UP	\$12,000	VARIES	VARIES
2020 AGES AWARD TOP-UP	VARIES	VARIES	VARIES

**Please Note: GSS Stipend Values listed in the chart apply to the 2018, 2019 and 2020 scholarship recipients. They are not applicable to students awarded funding in previous competitions from Alberta Innovates.*

Scholarships are provided to the sponsoring university for distribution through the institution's payroll system.

For students who receive a major (i.e. NSERC) award, the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships stipend will increase to a rate of \$26,000 (Master's) or \$31,000 (doctoral) per year when the external funding ends, for the remainder of the scholarship term.

It is the student's responsibility to inform their institution of any changes to funding as soon as he/she becomes aware of them.

REPORTING:

Annual Reports to the University

Scholarships are set up in 12-month intervals. Recipients may renew the scholarship, if eligible, up to the maximum term as indicated in the Program Guidelines and Handbook, provided acceptable progress report(s) are received. Details on progress reports and deadlines to renew a scholarship are university-specific. Students should contact their university for further information.

Reports to Alberta Innovates

A condition of accepting the scholarship is that scholarship recipients will be contacted and must respond to Alberta Innovates reporting requests during and after the scholarship tenure.

A scholarship report will be requested of and must be completed by each scholarship recipient. The scholarship recipient will be contacted during the last year of their scholarship tenure requesting submission of this report. This report will describe the outcome(s) of the funded research project, and both the recipient's immediate and long-term plans. Alberta Innovates will specify the due date and the completed report should be sent directly to Alberta Innovates. Report forms and further information on the requirements of this report will be provided by Alberta Innovates.

Failure to submit the final report may result in withholding remaining scholarship payments until the report is received.

Alberta Innovates scholarship recipients will also be surveyed over several years after the end of the scholarship to measure the impact and benefits of Alberta Innovates funding for recipients and for Alberta. Recipients will be asked to report on research and training achievements, current location, and ongoing career progression.

Please note, report information may also be shared with Alberta Advanced Education.

CHANGES TO APPROVED AWARDS

Students must seek and receive approval in writing from the university prior to any significant changes to the research as outlined in the approved application. This includes, but is not limited to, changes in supervisor, project, department and program of study.

Further, Alberta Innovates and Alberta Advanced Education require the university to be responsible for monitoring any changes to a recipient's graduate registration that would affect eligibility for this scholarship, including termination of graduate studies, completion of degree requirements, leaves of absence, etc.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE:

Unpaid Leave of Absence (For leave of absence other than internships)

Unpaid leaves of absence which result in the Alberta Innovates scholarship being put on hold will be granted with approval of the sponsoring university. Students considering leave should contact their Graduate Awards office.

Internships & Co-ops

Alberta Innovates and the Government of Alberta recognizes the importance of internships and co-op opportunities to graduate student professional development. Internships and co-ops are intended to support the transition of graduate students to the work environment, allowing them to gain valuable industrial experience and exposure to potential career opportunities prior to completing their degree.

Students may participate in multiple internships and co-ops, up to a cumulative maximum of twelve months during the tenure of their Alberta Innovates scholarship, providing the following terms and conditions are met:

- The internship is taken during the tenure of the Alberta Innovates scholarship
- A written request is provided to the host institution at least six weeks prior to the start of the internship or co-op, outlining the expected term of the internship/co-op
- The internship leave is approved by the student's academic graduate program/department and supervisor

The student's Alberta Innovates scholarship will be paused and reinstated once the Faculty of Graduate Studies is notified of the student's return from the internship or co-op opportunity.

The scholarship term will be extended for the duration of the internship/co-op.

Mitacs

The terms and conditions above apply to students participating in a Mitacs internship(s). It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the Mitacs award.

Paid Parental Leave

Students may request a paid parental leave at the current stipend level for up to six months, providing the following terms and conditions are met:

- The parental leave must be taken within six months following the birth or adoption of the child.
- Scholarship recipients may request a paid parental leave for every occasion of birth and/or adoption that occurs during the tenure of their award.
- Multiple births upon the same occasion (e.g., twins) do not increase the duration or the value of the leave.
- Requests require supporting documentation such as proof of birth or adoption before reinstatement of the scholarship.
- Recipients receiving a paid parental leave must be the primary caregivers for the entire duration of the interruption.
- The stipend is equivalent to the value of the monthly stipend for up to six months.
- If both parents hold an Alberta Innovates scholarship and both choose to request paid parental leave, they must share the paid leave for a cumulative maximum of six months.
- Interruptions for this purpose do not affect the period of time allowed for other interruptions.
- Approval of paid parental leave is subject to the availability of Alberta Innovates scholarship funds at the home university.
- A written request is provided to the host institution at least six weeks prior to the start of the leave outlining the expected term of the leave
- The student's university/supervisor verifies that during this leave of absence, the student will not be engaged in research activities or employment and will resume full-time research activities upon return from the leave

The scholarship term will be extended for the duration of the parental leave.

NON-RESEARCH ACTIVITIES/EMPLOYMENT

Scholarship recipients are expected to devote their time to the completion of their degree program. Thus, Alberta Innovates requires that scholarship holders commit no more than 450 hours per year to non-research

activities for supplemental income, such as teaching assistantship, laboratory preparation, employment, etc. Scholarship recipients may not hold full-time employment during any period of the scholarship support. A student may elect to take an unpaid leave to pursue an industrial internship opportunity; refer to the Leaves of Absence section in this document for more information.

PRIVACY

Alberta Innovates reserves the right to publish and/or disseminate information regarding its scholarships; including titles and nonproprietary details of the research, images, researcher's names and photos. Alberta Innovates also reserves the right to contact funded researchers, their supervisors and university to involve them in events, news and happenings related to Alberta Innovates and Alberta's innovation system.

As a public body, Alberta Innovates is regulated by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) of Alberta. As such, Alberta Innovates will not communicate personal data of scholarship recipients. This includes information as outlined on the Government of Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy [website](#).

CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION: ALBERTA INNOVATES

From time to time, Alberta Innovates may audit scholarship recipients. When scholarships are granted, recipient names and contact information will be forwarded to Alberta Innovates so that Alberta Innovates representatives may contact the student for auditing and communications purposes.

Visits

From time to time, Alberta Innovates representatives may arrange visits with scholarship recipients. The purpose of these visits is to get to know the graduate students, and see the research being funded. Further information will be provided if the recipient is contacted to set up a visit.

OUTCOMES & INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Publication of Results

Results of the supported research must be available in the public domain. The recipient, each supervisor and the sponsoring institution are encouraged to structure the proposed research project in a way that permits the publication of non-proprietary research findings in a timely manner. When commercialization of research outcomes is planned, a delay of up to one year in publication or public presentation will be allowed to support filing for intellectual property protection or commercializing findings.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (IP) developed during the Alberta Innovates graduate student's tenure will fall under the sponsoring institution's IP policy. If the student is hosted at another institution, the student and sponsoring institution must ensure that IP arrangements are made between the sponsoring and host institutions.

COMMUNICATING RESEARCH:

Acknowledging Support

All publications, presentations and public messages arising from Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships funding must acknowledge the support of Alberta Innovates and Alberta Advanced Education.

Please use the full corporate Alberta Innovates, rather than any acronym.

Alberta Innovates Logo

Alberta Innovates' logo is a proprietary symbol. Without exception, prior written approval from the Communications department is required before the logo may be used. Subsequently, and thereafter, if any changes are made, a copy of the material on which the logo is to be used must be provided to the Communications department to ensure the symbol is being used correctly, (e.g. placement, size, screens, colour, etc.).

Anyone with permission to use the logo in an electronic form must ensure that there is a link to albertainnovates.ca from the logo.

Please contact communications@albertainnovates.ca to access the Alberta Innovates logo.

AWARD TERMINATION

When a student completes or terminates the research program, or the university terminates the program during the tenure of the scholarship, funding will also terminate.

A final report is required at the end of the funding term. The final report can be found on the Alberta Innovates [website](#) and should be sent via email to Alberta Innovates at gss@albertainnovates.ca.

Unused Funds

Any funds remaining in the stipend account as of the scholarship end date will be re-claimed by the university. These funds are only considered unused if the account has a credit balance after the award end date **(not annual renewal dates)**.

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The scholarship is subject to the terms and conditions described in the most current version of the Program Guidelines and Handbook, including any amendments to these documents.

All scholarships are subject to the availability of funds.

It is the responsibility of the scholarship recipient to stay apprised of the Program Guidelines and Handbook, as they may be updated from time to time.

Students should also consult the rules and regulations governing graduate awards at their chosen university.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI)

Alberta Innovates believes the Research and Innovation ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly reflective of the overall diversity of our community and therefore embraces the principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

University of Alberta:

Graduate Scholarship Services 780.492.9460

grad.awards@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary:

Graduate Scholarship Office

gsaward@ucalgary.ca

University of Lethbridge:

Deirdre Coburn

Graduate Awards Advisor 403.329.2741

sgs.awards@uleth.ca

Alberta Innovates:

Graduate Student Scholarships Program Post Secondary Investments

Alberta Innovates

250 Karl Clark Road

Edmonton, AB T6N 1E4 gss@albertainnovates.ca

ELIGIBILITY AND TERM OF SCHOLARSHIP CHART

(Students can receive no more than four years of funding from Alberta Innovates)

Graduate Program Start Date	Graduate Program Level	Eligible Years of Funding
Spring 2018	Master's	Ineligible
Spring 2019	Master's	1 (+3)*
Spring 2020	Master's	2 (+2)*

Summer 2018	Master's	Ineligible
Summer 2019	Master's	1 (+3)*
Summer 2020	Master's	2 (+2)*

Fall 2018	Master's	Ineligible
Fall 2019	Master's	1 (+3)*
Fall 2020	Master's	2 (+2)*

Winter 2019	Master's	Ineligible
Winter 2020	Master's	1 (+3)*
Winter 2021	Master's	2 (+2)*

*If a Master's student who holds a GSS transfers to a doctoral program during the scholarship tenure, the term of scholarship may be extended to a maximum of four years in total. The total award term is dependent on the start date of the student's Master's program.

Spring 2016	Doctoral	Ineligible
Spring 2017	Doctoral	1**
Spring 2018	Doctoral	2**
Spring 2019	Doctoral	3**
Spring 2020	Doctoral	4**

Summer 2016	Doctoral	Ineligible
Summer 2017	Doctoral	1**
Summer 2018	Doctoral	2**
Summer 2019	Doctoral	3**
Summer 2020	Doctoral	4**

Fall 2016	Doctoral	Ineligible
Fall 2017	Doctoral	1**
Fall 2018	Doctoral	2**
Fall 2019	Doctoral	3**
Fall 2020	Doctoral	4**

Winter 2017	Doctoral	Ineligible
Winter 2018	Doctoral	1**
Winter 2019	Doctoral	2**
Winter 2020	Doctoral	3**
Winter 2021	Doctoral	4**

**Award terms for students who transfer from a Master's program into a doctoral program without completing a Master's degree will be based on the start date of the master's program.