

2026/27 Graduate Student Scholarships

Updated October 2025

The information below outlines the 2026/27 Graduate Student Scholarships program. This program is administered by Athabasca University, Concordia University of Edmonton, 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 13 of this document.

This document provides information for scholarship applicants and additionally describes the terms and conditions for recipients of an Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship.

About Alberta Innovates

Innovation is the catalyst for sustainable jobs, economic and community strength, improved health, and environmental benefits. [Alberta Innovates](#) leads and accelerates innovation from discovery to use across all sectors in all parts of the province. As Alberta's largest research and innovation agency, we are uniquely positioned to propel great ideas forward to improve the lives of Albertans today and for generations to come.

Alberta Innovates believes the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly representative of the overall diversity of our community. We strive to ensure that all interested and qualified parties have an equitable opportunity to participate and contribute to the ecosystem and that our processes are inclusive.

The projects that our programs invest in are critical to how Alberta Innovates achieves positive impact for Albertans in alignment with the Government of Alberta's R&I priorities, as expressed in our corporate Business Plan. (See the most recent Business Plan on our [Publications](#) page on our website.) Accordingly, it is essential for project outcomes to align with those of the program.

The Graduate Student Scholarships program is administered by Alberta universities and overseen by Emerging Technology & Talent (ETT) team within Alberta Innovates. ETT provides funding, enabling and matchmaking to emerging technology inventors to increase the volume of commercial outcomes for Alberta's future prosperity.

General Conditions

These scholarships are intended for graduate students conducting full-time research in key applied digital and emerging technology areas, ensuring that Albertan universities and companies are able to recruit top talent. Learn more about the applied digital and emerging technology areas [here](#).

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 applied digital and emerging technology areas of scientific research which are strategically important to Alberta.

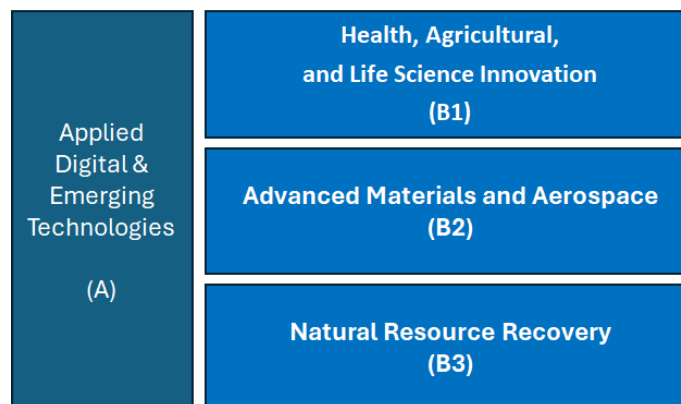
Applied Digital & Emerging Technologies positions Alberta at the cutting edge of next-generation industries. Strategic investments in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, cybersecurity, and data-driven decision-making will power key sectors like healthcare, energy and agriculture. These technologies transform how businesses and governments operate, enabling areas such as precision medicine, digital health breakthroughs, and industrial automation. By supporting the building of a robust digital infrastructure, Alberta Innovates helps to ensure the province remains a leader in applied digital technologies and smart infrastructure. From supporting the expansion of data centres to advancing real-time analytics, these investments position Alberta to be more globally competitive and elevate Alberta's digital future.

Proposed projects must advance Applied Digital & Emerging Technology areas in natural sciences and engineering ...

Applied Digital & Emerging Technology Topics (Not Exhaustive)

- Communications networks and services
- Internet of Things (IoT)/Machine-to-machine systems
- Advanced data management and analytics (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning)
- Cybersecurity
- Human interaction with digital media
- Quantum computing
- Robotics, Automation
- Additive manufacturing
- Drone technologies
- Lightweight materials and technologies
- Nanotechnology
- Quantum materials

.....in and of themselves or which additionally support at least one of the following **Thematic Areas of Focus** i) Health, Agricultural, and Life Science Innovation, ii) Advanced Materials, Defence and Aerospace, iii) Natural Resource Recovery



Eligible Projects

- focus on **A only**
- focuses on (**A + at least one of B**), e.g., A+B1, A+B2 or A+B3

Further explanation of the eligible Emerging Technology Areas of Research can be found [here](#).

Please note: If the student's project involves developing or advancing an emerging technology (ET) listed [here](#), it is considered development (eligible). The primary objective must be the advancement of the ET itself, rather than improvements in other products. Conversely, if the project involves developing a technology that is not an ET but utilizes ET as a tool, it would be categorized as the use of ET (ineligible), rather than ET development.



The scholarship is intended to support the recipient in concentrating their 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

Eligibility (Please refer to Eligibility and Term of Scholarship chart on page 14)

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 one of the research areas described below and sufficient resources to ensure the satisfactory conduct of the research.

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 13)

University Review Procedure and Selection Criteria

Each Alberta university will review all applications and evaluate them based on excellence and strategic alignment in applied digital and emerging technology areas of scientific research important to Alberta. These areas include:

- Communications networks and services
- Internet of Things (IoT)/Machine-to-machine systems

- Advanced data management and analytics (Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning)
- Cybersecurity
- Human interaction with digital media
- Quantum computing
- Robotics, Automation
- Additive manufacturing
- Drone technologies
- Lightweight materials and technologies
- Nanotechnology
- Quantum materials

in and of themselves or which additionally support one at least one of the Thematic Areas of Focus i) Health, Agricultural, and Life Science Innovation, ii) Advanced Materials Defence, and Aerospace, iii) Natural Resource Recovery

Alberta Innovates Evaluation Process

Alberta Innovates will then review applications forwarded by the universities for alignment with Government of Alberta, Alberta Innovates, and Emerging Technology & Talent (ETT) priorities. **The applicant must clearly articulate in the application how the results of the research can produce potential economic, health, environmental, social and other impacts for Alberta.** For example, the applicant can demonstrate knowledge generated from this research could be applied specifically to Alberta's current or emerging industries, current environmental or health challenges facing Alberta, etc.

Additionally, applicants must articulate in the application regarding how they will engage with industry in their graduate studies, and how they will develop their professional skills during the project.

For example, students may engage with industry member(s) through informal or formal consultation, feedback gathering, informal and formal mentorships with industry professionals/ entrepreneurs, discussing pain points with industry, testing, proof of concept demonstration, industry-academic workshops, research partnerships, career fairs, conferences, etc.

Professional skills developed can include leadership, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship. All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine fit with the Graduate Student Scholarship program objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

Start Date:

Recipients may choose to commence the GSS on September 1, 2026, or January 1, 2027, subject to the rules and regulations governing graduate awards at the chosen university.

Location of Award

Scholarships are only valid at the following Alberta universities:

- Athabasca University
- Concordia University of Edmonton
- University of Alberta
- University of Calgary
- University of Lethbridge

Term of Scholarship (Refer to eligibility and Term of Scholarship chart on page 14):

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 7**). 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 2026 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) may receive an AGES top-up award. This top-up reflects changes to the recent 2026 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.*

Students who transfer to a doctoral program during the tenure of their master's award may continue to hold the master's level GSS at its original value and duration until the end date of their award. The GSS is to be held at the same institution, whether or not they have completed the master's degree, provided there is no gap in registration and/or enrolment.

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.

Award terms for Athabasca University applicants are determined by time remaining to program completion. See page 15 for more information.

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
2026 AGES AWARD TOP-UP**	VARIES	VARIES	VARIES

***Please note**, GSS stipend values listed above apply to the 2018/19 to 2026/27 scholarship recipients. They are not applicable to students awarded funding in previous competitions from Alberta Innovates.

****This top-up refers to students that have been awarded an AB Innovates GSS. If the student holds both a GSS and for example, an AGES, the GSS award will be adjusted accordingly. Scholarships are provided to the sponsoring university for distribution through the institution's payment 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.

Professional Development Participation:

Scholarship recipients will be invited to participate in professional development opportunities such as workshops, events, etc. provided by Alberta Innovates during the term of the award. The goal of these opportunities is to prepare students for post-graduation employment by fostering work readiness skill development, increasing entrepreneurship knowledge, and developing connections/networking with future employers. Students will be contacted by Alberta Innovates regarding these opportunities.

Reporting:

Annual Reports (To University)

Scholarships are annual and 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 completed within the student's [Alberta Innovates account](#). 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, the report information may also be shared with the Government of Alberta's Ministry of 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 Internship)

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.

Privacy

Alberta Innovates reserves the right to publish and/or disseminate information regarding its scholarships, including titles and non-proprietary 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.

Student personal information will be collected by the university from the application form and shared with Alberta Innovates for the purposes of administering, evaluating, and reporting the program. The information will also be used to provide reporting to the Government of Alberta.

Information collected is subject to disclosure under the [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy \(FOIP\)](#) Act, any Personal information is collected specifically pursuant to Section 33(c). This collection is in relation directly to the Graduate Student Scholarships program. Should you have any questions about the collection of this information, you may contact the Senior Business Partner, Talent, at (780) 450-5553.

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. Please contact communications@albertainnovates.ca for further information regarding how to acknowledge our support.

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, (i.e., 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 if you have questions about 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 in the student's [Alberta Innovates account](#).

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.

During the tenure of the award, students are expected to make satisfactory academic progress to maintain their scholarship eligibility.

Contact Information:

Athabasca University
Graduate Awards Scholarship Liaison Officer
fgsawards@athabascau.ca

Concordia University of Edmonton
Financial Aid and Awards Office
finaid@concordia.ab.ca

University of Alberta:
Graduate Scholarship Services
grad.awards@ualberta.ca

University of Calgary:
Graduate Scholarship Office
gsaward@ucalgary.ca

University of Lethbridge:
Graduate Funding Facilitator
sgs.awards@uleth.ca

Alberta Innovates
Sarah Lee
Senior Business Partner
Talent & Emerging Technology
Sarah.lee@albertainnovates.ca

Eligibility and Term of Scholarship Chart

Applicable to Concordia University of Edmonton, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge Applicants
(Students can receive no more than four years of combined/total funding from Alberta Innovates)

Graduate Program Start Date	Graduate Program Level	Eligible Years of Funding
Spring 2024	Master's	Ineligible
Spring 2025	Master's	1
Spring 2026	Master's	2
Summer 2024	Master's	Ineligible
Summer 2025	Master's	1
Summer 2026	Master's	2
Fall 2024	Master's	Ineligible
Fall 2025	Master's	1
Fall 2026	Master's	2
Winter 2025	Master's	Ineligible
Winter 2026	Master's	1
Winter 2027	Master's	2
Spring 2022	Doctoral	Ineligible
Spring 2023	Doctoral	1**
Spring 2024	Doctoral	2**
Spring 2025	Doctoral	3**
Spring 2026	Doctoral	4**
Summer 2022	Doctoral	Ineligible
Summer 2023	Doctoral	1**
Summer 2024	Doctoral	2**
Summer 2025	Doctoral	3**
Summer 2026	Doctoral	4**
Fall 2022	Doctoral	Ineligible
Fall 2023	Doctoral	1**
Fall 2024	Doctoral	2**
Fall 2025	Doctoral	3**
Fall 2026	Doctoral	4**
Winter 2023	Doctoral	Ineligible
Winter 2024	Doctoral	1**
Winter 2025	Doctoral	2**
Winter 2026	Doctoral	3**
Winter 2027	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.

Eligibility and Term of Scholarship (Athabasca University Pilot Program)

Athabasca University is Canada's open university. Its [mission](#) is dedicated to the removal of the barriers that restrict access to and success in university-level study and to increasing equality of educational opportunities for adult learners worldwide.

Set apart from traditional universities, Athabasca University's world-class accredited online programs and courses offer students the flexibility to learn at their own pace, on a schedule that suits their lifestyle. This unique programming, combined with the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship, allows Alberta's students the capacity to advance their careers, gain industry experience, build partnerships, and engage in meaningful research that can benefit the province.

Students can receive no more than four years of combined/total funding from Alberta Innovates

The following term and eligibility requirements are applicable to Athabasca University students only.

To be eligible for **two years** of combined/total funding (i.e. full award valued at \$26,000 per year for up to two years for a total of up to \$52,000, paid in equal installments), the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have a minimum of **two full years** remaining to program completion.

To be eligible for **one year** of combined/total funding (i.e. partial award valued at \$26,000 for one year, paid in equal installments), the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have a minimum of **one full year** remaining to program completion.

Applicants **must** include a cover letter including a program plan/schedule to be signed by the faculty Dean, project supervisor, Dean (Faculty of Graduate Studies), or other approved designate.

IMPORTANT: Award terms for students who transfer from a Master's program into a doctoral program without completing a Master's degree will continue until the tenure of the award term has been completed. The award total will not be modified.

Award terms for students who withdraw or complete their program earlier than the anticipated timeline will not receive payments beyond the date of withdrawal or program completion.

Visit <https://www.athabascau.ca/graduate-studies/about/graduate-funding/index.html> for more details about eligibility.