ALBERTA INNOVATES GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

2026/27 PROGRAM GUIDE

The information below outlines the 2026/27 Graduate Student Scholarships (GSS) 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 associated Alberta University for information regarding university-specific application processes and procedures. University contact information is in the Contact Information section below.

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 the Emerging Technology & Talent (ET&T) team within Alberta Innovates. ET&T provides funding, enabling, and matchmaking to emerging technology inventors to increase the volume of commercial outcomes for Alberta's future prosperity.

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 areas of scientific research aligned with Alberta Innovates' priority focus areas, which are strategically important to Alberta.

Alberta Innovates invests across four priority focus areas: Applied Digital and Emerging Technologies; Health, Agricultural, and Life Science Innovation; Advanced Materials and Aerospace; and Natural Resource Recovery. Together, these areas span next-generation digital and computing technologies, biotechnology and sustainable agriculture, advanced materials and aerospace innovation, and the responsible development of Alberta's natural resources. A GSS scholarship area of study should align with any one (or more) of these four areas — see Appendix A for a full description of each.

MORE THAN A SCHOLARSHIP: THE GSS INNOVATION TALENT PATHWAY

A great discovery is only the beginning. The students who go furthest are the ones who start asking, early, whether their research could become a technology, a company, or a career at the centre of Alberta's innovation economy. The GSS is built to make that question part of the journey from day one — not an afterthought after the degree is done.

That's why Alberta Innovates has evolved the GSS from a scholarship alone into a complete innovation talent pathway. Every recipient's award is now built on three connected pillars:

- **Scholarship** — funding that lets a top graduate student concentrate on full-time research, described throughout this guide.
- **Commercialization Capacity Building** — hands-on training and connections that build entrepreneurial thinking and commercialization awareness, such as intellectual property and patent workshops, commercialization boot camps, customer discovery and market validation programs, pitch competitions, industry speaker series, and mentorship with entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders.
- **Work-Integrated Learning** — real experience inside Alberta's innovation economy, such as industry internships, wage-subsidized placements with Alberta companies, startup internships, commercialization fellowships, and placements with incubators, accelerators, and technology transfer offices.

Together, these three pillars make the GSS Alberta's premier graduate scholarship — the only award in the province that pairs research funding with a direct, built-in pathway into Alberta's commercialization and innovation ecosystem. Recipients graduate not only with a research

record, but with the commercialization skills, industry relationships, and hands-on experience to turn a discovery into real impact — as a founder, an employee of a growing technology company, a researcher, or a future mentor to the next generation of Alberta innovators.

The exact mix of commercialization capacity building and work-integrated learning activities is being co-designed with each university's innovation and graduate studies offices, therefore, the specific opportunities available to a given recipient will vary by institution.

Alberta Innovates encourages every applicant to see the GSS as more than a scholarship grant: it's an invitation to think like an innovator from the very start of your graduate research, and to use the scholarship, the training, and the industry placements together to build the skills and network of someone who can carry a discovery all the way to market.

ALBERTA INNOVATES PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

Scholarship areas of study must align with at least one of Alberta Innovates' four priority focus areas:

- Applied Digital and Emerging Technologies
- Health, Agricultural, and Life Science Innovation
- Advanced Materials, Defence and Aerospace
- Natural Resource Recovery

See Appendix A for a full description of each priority focus area.

FUNDING

Scholarships are provided to the sponsoring university for distribution through the institution's payment system and range from $12,000 to $40,000 per year.

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

Scholarship	GSS Stipend Value (per year)	Other Major (i.e., NSERC) Award Value	Total (per year)
Master's GSS	$26,000	$0	Up to $26,000
Doctoral GSS	$31,000 - $40,000	$0	Up to $40,000
Major (i.e., NSERC) award top-up	$12,000	Varies	Varies
2026 AGES award top-up*	Varies	Varies	Varies

** This top-up refers to students who have been awarded an Alberta Innovates GSS. If the student holds both a GSS and, for example, an AGES, the GSS award will be adjusted accordingly. The GSS stipend values above apply to 2026/27 scholarship recipients; they are not applicable to students awarded funding in previous competitions from Alberta Innovates.*

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

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).

Doctoral students awarded a scholarship, when not holding a major (i.e., NSERC) award, will receive a stipend of $31,000 to $40,000 per year.

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 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. This includes any time spent in a master's program (transfer from master's to doctoral program); see note below.

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 — even though their first year of study was only partially complete upon application. That candidate would be eligible for one year if they are a master's candidate, and three years if they are a doctoral candidate.

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.

Award terms for Athabasca University applicants are determined by time remaining to program completion; see the Athabasca University Pilot Program section in Appendix B for more information.

The scholarship is intended to support the recipient in concentrating their full-time attention on 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.

Selected Students are entitled to accept other awards e.g. NSERC, teaching assignments or other remunerative assignments.

- 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 table above). The Faculty of Graduate Studies at each Alberta University determines which awards are considered major awards for the purposes of Alberta Innovates scholarship terms. For students who receive a major (i.e., NSERC) award, the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships stipend will increase to a rate of

up to $26,000 (master's) or up to $40,000 (doctoral) per year when the external funding ends, for the remainder of the scholarship term.

- 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.

It is the student's responsibility to inform their institution of any changes to funding as soon as they become aware of them.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate Student Scholarships are intended for graduate students conducting full-time research aligned with Alberta Innovates' priority focus areas.

Students must meet the following eligibility requirements:

1. Residency Requirements:

- The student must be a Domestic Student (Canadian/Permanent Resident) or an International Student.
- The student must be enrolled at the Institution.

2. **Course Load Requirement:**

- The student must be in full-time studies. The Institution may determine what constitutes full-time studies.

3. **Credential Types and Academic Achievement:**

- The student must be enrolled in a research-based Master's or Doctoral/PhD degree program.
- The student must be achieving academic excellence as determined by the Institution.
- The student must be in good standing, as determined by the Institution.

4. **Alberta Innovates Focus Area Alignment**

- The student must be pursuing scientific research that advances technology development in one of the Alberta Innovates focus areas outlined in Schedule B.

In addition, each candidate must be **sponsored by a faculty supervisor**, possessing both a record of productive research within one of the research areas described above and sufficient resources to ensure the satisfactory conduct of the research.

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. This does not restrict a student from also holding other, non-Alberta-Innovates awards — for example, a major award such as NSERC, or the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES) — at the same time as a GSS.

A student cannot receive more than a total of four years of combined master's/doctoral scholarship support from Alberta Innovates (across all programs).

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.

HOW TO APPLY

PHASE 1

Check with your institution's faculty of graduate studies for more information and full application details.

- Engage with your university to explore whether this scholarship is right for you.

PHASE 2

Submit your application to your institution

- The timeline and application process are specific to each individual university; please contact your university of choice for deadline information (see Contact Information section).

PHASE 3

Review and Award

- Each Alberta University will review all applications and evaluate them based on eligibility criteria, academic excellence and strategic alignment with Alberta Innovates focus areas.
- Alberta Innovates will then review short listed applications for focus area alignment forwarded to them by the University.
- Successful applicants will be notified by their University and provided with the award details and process.

ALBERTA INNOVATES EVALUATION PROCESS

Alberta Innovates reviews all applications forwarded to them by the universities for alignment with Government of Alberta and Alberta Innovates priorities.

The applicant should 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.

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.

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

CONDITIONS OF AWARD

The scholarship is subject to the terms and conditions described in the most current version of the Graduate Student Scholarship Program Guide, including any amendments to these documents.

All scholarships are subject to the availability of funds.

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.

START DATE

Recipients may commence the GSS scholarship in September or January of each associated year of the institutions grant agreement with Alberta Innovates, 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

COMMERCIALIZATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Scholarship recipients will be provided with the opportunity to participate in commercialization capacity building activations such as commercialization workshops and events provided by their University and Alberta Innovates during the term of the award. This will include a GSS orientation at the start of the scholarship tenure. The purpose of these activations is to:

- Build entrepreneurial thinking and commercialization awareness, so recipients can recognize when their research has value beyond publication — and know what to do next.

- Strengthen recipients' understanding of intellectual property, market opportunity, and industry needs, giving them the literacy to protect and position a discovery before someone else does.
- Connect recipients directly with entrepreneurs, investors, mentors, and industry leaders — relationships most researchers don't build until well into their career, if ever.
- Build a portfolio of practical commercialization skills — pitching, market validation, IP strategy — that stand out on a resume or a grant application, whatever path a recipient chooses next: academia, industry, or founding their own company.
- Position recipients as candidates who can speak the language of both research and business — a combination Alberta employers, investors, and granting agencies are actively looking for.

WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING - INTERNSHIPS & CO-OPS

Scholarship recipients will be provided with the opportunity to participate in work integrated learning activations such as internships with Alberta tech SMEs during the term of the award. The purpose of these activations is to:

- Give recipients hands-on, real-world experience inside an Alberta technology company or startup — the kind of experience most graduate students don't get until after they've finished their degree.
- Build recipients' professional network across Alberta's innovation ecosystem while they're still a student, opening doors to future employment, collaboration, or investment.
- Sharpen recipients' ability to translate research into market-ready solutions, by exposing them directly to the commercial and operational challenges companies actually face.
- Strengthen recipients' resumes with applied industry experience that complements their academic record — a genuine competitive advantage in a job market that increasingly values both.
- Create a direct pathway to technology adoption, licensing, employment, or even founding a venture, where a recipient's placement and research align.

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.

REPORTING

Students who have been awarded an Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship must complete annual and final reports through the term of their award and participate in post-award surveys after the end of the award.

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, 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. This report will describe the progress of the funded research to date and any commercialization plans/interests. The University/Alberta Innovates will utilize this report to make commercialization connections for the recipient. Report forms and further information on the requirements of this report will be provided by Alberta Innovates.

An **annual scholarship progress report** will be requested of and must be completed by each scholarship recipient describing their research progress and areas of commercialization interest. This information will be used to connect recipients with available resources.

A **scholarship final report** will be requested of, and must be completed by, each scholarship recipient at the end of their scholarship tenure. 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. Report forms and further information on the requirements of this report will be provided by Alberta Innovates.

Alberta Innovates scholarship recipients will also receive **follow-on surveys** for three years post award 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.

Failure to submit progress reports may result in withholding remaining scholarship payments until the report is received or in the case of final or follow-on surveys may result in the recipient being excluded from receiving future Alberta Innovates awards/grants.

Please note, the report information will be shared with the Government of Alberta's Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology and Innovation in aggregate form.

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.

LEAVE OF ABSENCES

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.

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, researchers' 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 relates directly to the Graduate Student Scholarships program. Should you have any questions about the collection of this information, you may contact the Business Partner, Talent, at Kartavi.Shah@albertainnovates.ca

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 name Alberta Innovates, rather than any acronym. Please contact the Business Partner, Talent, at Kartavi.Shah@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 Alberta Innovates 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 the Business Partner, Talent, at Kartavi.Shah@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.

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).

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

Kartavi Shah

Business Partner, Emerging Technology & Talent

Kartavi.shah@albertainnovates.ca

APPENDIX A: ALBERTA INNOVATES PRIORITY FOCUS AREAS

GSS applicant areas of study must align with at least one of the four Alberta Innovates priority focus areas described below.

APPLIED DIGITAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Harnessing data, artificial intelligence (AI), and cybersecurity to enable smarter industries and a stronger economy.

Alberta's digital future depends on strategic investments in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and secure data infrastructure. These technologies will power next-generation industries, enable precision medicine and digital health breakthroughs, and transform how businesses and governments make data-driven decisions.

- AI, Quantum Technologies & Cybersecurity: Building Alberta's leadership in advanced computing and secure digital infrastructure.
- Digital Health: Using AI and real-time data analytics to improve health outcomes and healthcare innovation while promoting responsible AI development/adoption.
- Data-Driven Decision Making and Smart Infrastructure: Strengthening Alberta's digital backbone, from smart cities to industrial automation.
- Data Centres: Expanding Alberta's capacity to process and store high-value data for industry applications.

HEALTH, AGRICULTURAL, AND LIFE SCIENCE INNOVATION

Unlocking Alberta's potential in health, biotechnology, life sciences, sustainable agriculture, and bio-industrial solutions.

Innovation in health, agriculture, and environmental science will ensure Alberta's long-term economic diversification and global leadership in biomanufacturing, regenerative medicine, and environmental sustainability.

- Next-Generation Therapeutics: Driving innovation in drug discovery, precision health, medical devices, diagnostics, natural health products, and clinical trials that reach all Albertans.
- Sustainable Agriculture and One Health Approaches: Developing advanced agricultural technologies and integrating human, animal, and environmental health research to tackle emerging diseases and ecosystem challenges.

- Bio-Industrial Technologies for Agriculture and Environment: Developing bioplastics, biofuels, and sustainable biomaterials to reduce environmental impact and support a greener economy.

ADVANCED MATERIALS, DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE

Transforming Alberta's natural resources into high-value materials and cutting-edge aerospace innovations.

By investing in novel materials and aerospace technologies, Alberta can move beyond raw resource extraction and position itself as a leader in advanced manufacturing, automation, and high-technology aviation.

- Novel Materials Development: Advancing carbon fibre, critical minerals, and bioplastics to create high-value industrial applications.
- Aerospace and Aviation Innovation: Supporting next-generation aviation initiatives, drone technology, and space-related research and development (R&D).
- Advanced Manufacturing and Automation: Investing in robotics, additive manufacturing, and AI-driven industrial processes to modernize production.

NATURAL RESOURCE RECOVERY

Maximizing Alberta's resource potential through innovation in extraction, processing, and value-added energy applications.

Alberta's resource economy is a pillar of its prosperity. By investing in advanced recovery methods, critical mineral processing, and next-generation energy solutions, we are ensuring that the province remains a leader in responsible resource development, enhanced efficiency, and new value-added industries. These investments will strengthen Alberta's energy sector while unlocking new opportunities in industrial transformation and global supply chains.

- Advanced Resource Recovery and Processing: Developing cleaner, more efficient methods for extracting and processing Alberta's energy resources, including enhanced bitumen recovery and low-impact extraction techniques.
- Critical Minerals and Alternative Resource Utilization: Expanding Alberta's role in supplying critical minerals for global markets and repurposing natural resources for high-value applications, such as advanced materials and energy storage technologies.
- Next-Generation Energy Solutions: Investing in hydrogen, waste-to-energy, CCUS, and new energy technologies to ensure Alberta's long-term leadership in industrial innovation and global energy markets.

APPENDIX B: ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY PILOT PROGRAM

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.