



Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

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Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators, and Students

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Re: **2026/27 Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship (AI GSS) Competition**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce details about the 2026/27 Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships (AI GSS) competition, now available on the GPS website. For complete details such as eligibility criteria, departments and students are to read through the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships Program Guidelines and Handbook, available on [Alberta Innovates website](#), and [GPS website](#).

Award Value

Master's: \$26,000

Doctoral: \$31,000

Top-Up: \$12,000 (Major Award valued at \$21,000 or above [i.e. Tri-Council awards, China Scholarship Council (CSC), etc.])

Note: AI GSS can be held concurrently with the Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (AGES).

Start Dates

AI GSS may start either on September 1, 2026 or January 1, 2027.

Note: Students that receive another major award valued at \$21,000 or above at any time while holding the AI GSS, the AI GSS start date will align with the external scholarship start or renewal date for this competition year, as determined by the GPS.

Application Process

To assist in the promotion of this scholarship, we request departments disseminate this year's competition details to their students and potential applicants.

Students are to review the [GPS website](#) for the complete application process, information, and timelines. Should Departments want a copy of the student's application for advisement purposes, they may request this directly from the student.

Students must submit a complete application via the [GSMS Awards Portal](#) by **Thursday, July 23, 2026**.

Students must carefully read and follow the GSMS Award Resources for Students\Apply for Awards to submit an application (available in GSMS or on GPS website under [Award Resources](#)).

In the GSMS awards portal, students are to search for the award name: "**Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship**".

A complete application includes:

1. [Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship Application Form](#) - for questions related to the content of each section, students are encouraged to seek advice from their supervisor(s) or department.
2. **Up-to-date transcripts:** of all undergraduate and graduate studies must be included with the application (includes all transfer credit, even if transferred to the U of A, and incomplete work/non-degree study/qualifying years, etc). With the exception of the U of A, all other institutions must be copies of the official transcripts. Missing or illegible transcripts may deem students' applications as incomplete and will not be reviewed. Applicants are encouraged to order required transcripts as soon as possible, where required. Up-to-date transcripts include (but is not limited to):
 - a. **U of A Transcripts:** U of A unofficial transcripts (printed from BearTracks) will be accepted:
 - Unofficial U of A transcripts must be up-to-date and show current full-time registration (courses/thesis in progress) if the applicant is currently registered.
 - For newly admissible students (i.e., recommended for admission to a graduate degree program starting September 1, 2026 or January 1, 2027) and who have no prior U of A record, refer to step b).
 - Newly admissible students with a prior U of A record may also provide an unofficial transcript. Students who no longer have access to BearTracks are to contact their admitting department.
 - GPS will not generate an updated U of A transcript for applicants.
 - b. **Other Institution Transcripts:** copies of official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate studies from other institutions attended are required (must show all completed coursework and grades, and conferral of any degrees). Opening and scanning a paper transcript, or providing a copy of an official e-transcript will not render the transcript unofficial:
 - Transcripts must be up-to-date; students are responsible for obtaining official transcripts and appending a copy to their application



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- GPS does not provide copies of transcripts from student records held at the U of A (includes transcripts from other Canadian/international post-secondary institutions, and transcripts included in former, recent, or in progress admission/award applications).
- One copy of the legend (reverse of each transcript) must be included.
- Self-produced transcripts or mark sheets from institutions' self-served student systems are considered unofficial and will not be considered.

Students are to double check everything to ensure the application package is complete in every respect before submitting in GSMS. GPS will not follow up with students who submitted incomplete applications, including those submitted with missing transcripts and missing signatures. Incomplete applications maybe disadvantaged. **Revisions will NOT be permitted after the application deadline.**

3. **Two Letters of Reference** are required. Referees are to complete their assessments via the Google Form (<https://forms.gle/dCmvtinxuomKugfm8>). Students are responsible for providing this link to their referees, as well as any documents necessary for them to write their respective letters.

Referees must submit their letters via the Google Form by Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 11:59 pm MST/Edmonton Time. Students should contact their referees well in advance and follow up with their referees to ensure the form is submitted by the deadline (the Google Form will automatically close after this deadline). GPS will not follow up with students or their referees regarding missing or incomplete reference submissions.

We wish all students success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

GPS Award Services