



Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

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Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Awards Services, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

Re: **2026 Andrew Stewart Prize Competition**

The Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce details for the 2026 Andrew Stewart Prize Competition, now available on the GPS website. The Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize is significant and unique in that it is awarded in direct recognition of excellence in research at the doctoral level; it acknowledges outstanding accomplishment and potential in pursuit of new knowledge. The prize was named for Andrew Stewart, President of the University from 1950 to 1959, under whose administration the GPS was created.

Start Dates

Recipients will be awarded the Prize in approximately May/June 2026.

Eligibility

- Must be a full-time doctoral student
- There are no restrictions on citizenship
- Students must have completed at least 24 months (2 years) in their doctoral program by April 30, 2026 and have completed no more than 6 years. For students who transferred from a master's to a doctoral program, the time spent in the master's program counts towards the time spent in the doctoral.
- All fields of study are eligible for funding
- A recipient may hold the award only once
- Student must be actively engaged in thesis research at the time of the award offering
- The major selection criterion of this award is research accomplishment while registered in a doctoral program at the University of Alberta (particularly originality of research and potential scholarly impact, and experience and contributions to research).
- There is no minimum GPA requirement however, however selection is secondarily based on academic merit
- This prize can be held concurrently with any other award, provided that the terms of that award do not disallow it

Application and Department Nomination Process

Departments are to nominate via the GSMS Award portal **by end of day Thursday, March 5, 2026**. Departments may choose to set an earlier internal deadline. A maximum of 2 nominations may be submitted.

- I. Students must submit the following documents to their Department for internal adjudication. Applications and accompanying documents sent directly to the GPS by the applicant will **not** be considered:
 - [Andrew Stewart Prize Application Form](#)
 - One Letter of Reference. The [Letter of Reference to Support Application for Graduate Awards Form](#) **must** be completed and signed by the student's supervisor. A confidential letter of reference (maximum of 2 pages) may accompany the standard letter of reference form, but **may not replace such**. Departments are asked to ensure the letter of reference is in a sealed envelope if submitted by the student, or sent directly to the Department if submitted by the supervisor. If a student has more than one supervisor (ie co-supervision), only one letter will be accepted.
 - Curriculum Vitae (maximum of 5 pages)
 - Up-to-date unofficial U of A transcript (may be printed from Bear Tracks).
2. Departments are to submit the following to GPS by end of day **Thursday, March 5, 2026**:
 - Upload the students' documents noted above to the GSMS Awards Portal. Incomplete applications submitted (including those lacking any of the required signatures or without the applicants' University of Alberta ID number) will not be considered. **GPS will not follow up regarding applications that are incomplete.**

We wish all students and departments success in the upcoming competition!

Sincerely,

Award Services