



Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies

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Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025

To: Faculty Deans and Associate Deans (Graduate), Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators,
Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS)

Re: 2026-27 University of Alberta Graduate Recruitment Scholarship (GRS) and Graduate Student
Award (GSA)

GPS is pleased to announce details of the 2026/27 Graduate Recruitment Scholarship (GRS) and Graduate Student Award (GSA).

Overview

1. Faculties are responsible for the effective deployment of this funding. Putting funds into faculties' hands provides maximum flexibility in terms of timing, ease and speed of the process, amounts offered, and combination with other resources to create attractive funding packages. Departments are to consult with their Faculty for their internal selection process.
2. The [GRS/GSA allocation table](#) has been made for each individual faculty based on an equal weighting of "applicants admitted and registered" and "convocation headcount." The allocation table represents the total number of units available for both recruitment scholarship and graduate student award nominations.
3. The GRS and GSA both have a minimum value of \$5,000 (one unit) increments. Faculties may choose the number of units they wish to award to eligible nominees and there is no limit on the number of units that can be allocated to one student, as long as the overall annual commitment doesn't exceed the faculty's annual allocation (i.e. one year award only). Multi-year awards for individual students are not available this year.
4. GRS and GSA can be held in conjunction with other sources of funding regardless of the amount (as per GPS's [Scholarships and Awards Manual](#) [SAM]). For example, faculties may use their allocations as top-up incentives (such as \$5K or \$10K awards), or for larger value offers (such as \$20K awards). In particular, they can be used as part of an offer to a student who has been awarded or already holds a Tri-Council scholarship. However, faculties are reminded that the holders of such

scholarships are eligible to receive a top-up award from the university in the form of the [President's Doctoral Prize of Distinction or the Walter H Johns Fellowship](#).

5. Units that have not been allocated in the current fiscal year cannot be rolled over for use in a subsequent year.

Eligibility Criteria

Each award has its own eligibility criteria. Faculties and departments should refer to the [GPS website](#) for detailed information.

Faculties may set additional requirements/eligibility criteria for their internal selection process. Information on procedures and regulations (ex. changes in a student's status affecting their award, program completion, etc.) is available in GPS's [SAM](#).

Faculties' administrator/nominators may access GPA Guidelines – Awards.pdf in [Canvas](#) for GPA calculation methods. The Dean of GPS will consider exceptions on a case-by-case basis, only in cases where a justification is provided.

Nomination Process:

With the transition of graduate student admissions to Slate, effective this 2026-27 competition year, all nominations must be uploaded and submitted in the appropriate award category in the [GSMS Awards Portal](#). Faculties (or delegate) are required to answer all mandatory questions.

GRS and GSA nominations can be submitted on an ongoing basis, but should be submitted by the applicable deadline:

Admission/Start Term	Nomination Deadlines
Spring 2026	March 26, 2026
Summer 2026	May 28, 2026
Fall 2026	July 9, 2026
Winter 2027	November 12, 2026

Graduate Recruitment Scholarship (GRS) Nominations must be added in GSMS under the Award Name of **"University of Alberta Graduate Recruitment Scholarship"**. Applications for admission are to be flagged as "Scholarship" in Slate. This will alert GPS Admission Services to process them as a priority. Students with potential Study Permit issues which may cause travel delays should contact GPS as soon as possible.

Graduate Student Award (GSA) Nominations must be added in GSMS under the Award Name of **"Graduate Student Award"**.

Additional Information:

- **For master's students transferring to a doctoral degree (GRS or GSA):** the [Recommendation for Change of Category](#) form must be sent to GPS Program Progression at the same time of nomination submission, or prior. Please flag the student as an award nominee so that Program Progression can process them as a priority. The award nomination will not be processed until final grades are posted for the term(s) preceding the nomination deadline (ex. master's transfer to doctoral effective Winter term will not be processed if there are Fall term grades outstanding).
 - Faculties may decide to nominate students in either GRS or GSA based on the student's eligibility. Please note that the GRS is added to the student's U of A transcript while the GSA is not.
- Please include any additional comments about the nominee, or any justification requiring exceptions, in the *Comments to GPS* section.
 - *If the nominee's AGPA/GPA is less than the GPA requirement, provide a brief explanation on how the student is a superior graduate student who has the potential to contribute to the University of Alberta's community and research (i.e student's excellence/academic achievement) or use space to add note for revised nomination)*
- **All students:** must have a Canadian residential/home address and Canadian bank account set up for direct deposit in order to receive payment. To avoid payroll conflicts, or repayment of the award, please do not register students in the term the award commences on their behalf, or recommend they register via BearTracks unless you know they will be actively engaged at the university (i.e. already in campus) and have a Canadian bank account.
- Students with no registration in the term the award commences will be contacted by GPS.

Nomination Revisions:

- All changes to the original nomination should be made prior to the same deadline, if possible.
- A [revised nomination form](#) must be completed and submitted via the [Student Services Portal](#); **requests by email without a revised form will not be accepted.**
- On the nomination form, indicate whether it's a revised amount, award deferral, or both
 - *Revised Amount* - select the new amount and provide a short note under the Justification section i.e. we wish to increase the # of units awarded from 1 unit (\$5,000) to two units (\$10,000).
 - *Award Deferral (GRS only)* - students who defer their admission may defer their award provided the start term is within the same fiscal year (ex. from September to January).

The new fiscal year begins April 1st; therefore, recipients who defer their admission to May term the following year must be re-nominated. Admission deferrals must first be approved by GPS Admission Services. Please provide a short note for the reason for the deferral request under the Justification section.

Scholarship Cancellation (GRS Only):

- For students that declined admission, faculties must notify GPS Award Services via the [Student Services Portal](#). When submitting an inquiry to GPS via the Portal, **provide the name and ID number of the nominee who declined admission**.
- To submit a new/replacement nominee, refer to the Nomination Process/Revisions above.

Additional information regarding these scholarships is available under the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section on our website.

Sincerely,

GPS Awards Services