

Funding Opportunities

The Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology makes every effort to secure funding support of \$24,000 per year for our graduate students. This funding is expected to go towards the [costs of tuition and living expenses](#). Additional funds to support the costs of conducting research, and participation in conferences, are provided when possible. Minimum guaranteed funding for PhD students at the University of Alberta provides financial support for doctoral students through years one to four of their program with minimum guaranteed funding of \$100K CAD over four years and not less than \$25K CAD in their first year. Sources of funding generally involve one of or a combination of the following: External Scholarships and Awards, Department-administered Scholarships and Awards, Graduate Research Assistantship Fellowship, Graduate Research Assistantship or Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Course-based Masters students are self-funded.

Graduate Research Assistantship Fellowships (GRAF)

Graduate Research Assistantship Fellowships (GRAF) may be available to assist thesis-based MSc and PhD students in completion of their graduate program. The GRAF may not cover the full cost of living and tuition fees. The GRAF may be a combination of funding from the department, a research grant held by the supervisor and/or scholarships. GRAFs may be advertised by supervisors on the Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences' [graduate student positions database](#).

Graduate Teaching or Research Assistantships (GTA or GRA)

The Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology has a number of Teaching Assistant and TA Marker opportunities available for our graduate students. Faculty members may also hire graduate students for non-thesis related research work. Minimum hourly pay rates for GRA and GTA assignments are governed by the [Graduate Student Association's Collective Agreement](#) (see GSA). Supervisors and instructors may advertise GTA and GRA positions on their websites, through email lists, or by approaching students directly. Candidates are selected based on their academic qualifications and relevant training and experience for the teaching or research assignments. Please send your CV and details of your qualifications for the specific position to course instructors or supervisors.

GPS Scholarships & Awards

The Faculty of Graduate Studies of the University of Alberta offers a variety of awards on a competitive basis. Some important scholarship opportunities are:

- Killam and Andrew Stewart Awards (\$5,000 to \$45,000)
- Graduate Travel Award to support conference presentations (up to \$2,000)
- Recruitment awards and top-up awards for major scholarship winners
- GPS also administers Tri-Council Canada Graduate Research Scholarships (up to \$40,000/yr)

For more information, application forms, and application deadlines, see the Awards & Scholarships page of the [Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies](#).

How to apply: Calls for on-line applications are announced through the departmental mailing list throughout the year. If you are a new or prospective student, and not yet on the departmental mailing list, please contact grad.ales@ualberta.ca.

Department-administered Awards and Scholarships

All awards below are administered by the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. All incoming and continuing full-time registered students enrolled in graduate programs of the department will be automatically considered for these awards unless otherwise stated. The amount of the awards ranges from \$200 to over \$2000.

- **Brett Cortus Memorial Graduate Scholarship.** Brett Cortus successfully defended his M.Sc. thesis in Agricultural and Resource Economics in July 2005. His thesis was posthumously awarded honourable mention in the American Agricultural Economics Association annual Master's thesis competition in 2006. Brett was instrumental in organizing the first Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology Students' Association (REESSA), invited visiting speakers to the Department and coordinated the first REESSA entry in the Edmonton Dragon Boat competition. Brett was an athlete, often bicycling between Banff and Jasper on his summer holidays. Recognizing his passion for environmental stewardship in agriculture, this scholarship was created by his family, friends and colleagues.
- **Copeland Graduate Scholarship.** Jim Copeland, who retired as a Faculty Services Officer in 2005, was an institution within the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. He completed an M.Sc. in the Department in 1974 under the supervision of Dr. Murray Hawkins. He was one of the main drivers behind the creation of the Department's first computer network, coming in to string wires throughout the floor on weekends. He kept the computers and software in the Department up to scratch, providing support to research and teaching. Jim was extremely helpful to numerous generations of graduate students and to our faculty over his career. At the time of his retirement, friends and colleagues made donations to a graduate student scholarship fund in the Department.
- **(B.J.) McBain Graduate Scholarship.** Endowed by Mr. B.J. McBain, a graduate from the Department of Rural Economy (now the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology), to his alma mater to support graduate students in 'the economics of food and agriculture' in the Department.
Eligibility Criteria : One scholarship awarded annually to a graduate student of outstanding academic merit interested in pursuing research in the economics of food and agriculture, for the purpose of encouraging and supporting applied research and development that will be of direct benefit to primary producers of basic food products in Western Canada. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. The scholarship may be offered to the same student for a second year. Awards offered for a second year at the Master's level may be offered for a maximum of 8 months.
- **Hawkins Graduate Research Award.** Endowed by agri-business, colleagues and friends in honour of Dr. Murray Hawkins who retired from the Department of Rural Economy in December of 1990 after twenty-three years of service. Professor Murray Hawkins was the first person to earn a graduate degree from what was then called the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management

in 1964, a time when there were only two other graduate students and three professors in the Department. He went to Ohio State University for his PhD and returned to a faculty position in the Department in 1967. Murray stayed with the Department until 1989 when he went to Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, to be Director of the Muresk Institute. The Murray and Pauline Hawkins Research Scholarship was originally established in the early 1990s to provide assistance for a graduate student to extend and present their work at a professional conference, but more recently is awarded to winners of the Department's Three-Minute Thesis Proposal Competition held in September each year.

- **Unterschultz Memorial Graduate Scholarship.** In the year of 2015, our dear friend, teacher, mentor and peer, Dr. Jim Unterschultz, passed away. Jim loved what he did. He loved the science, the exploration and the thrill of applying his knowledge of agriculture and economics to questions posed by students, business managers, extension and research peers and industry. In the memory of Dr. Jim Unterschultz, his colleagues, friends and alumni started the Unterschultz Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Ag Business Management.