

Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
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Date: Tuesday, August 25, 2026

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Re: **Governor General's Gold Medal Competition – 2026 Fall Convocation**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is pleased to announce details for the Governor General's Gold Medal Competition – 2026 Fall Convocation, is now available on the GPS website.

The [Governor General's Gold Medal](#) is awarded for academic excellence at the graduate level. At the University of Alberta, it recognizes the doctoral graduand who achieves the highest academic standing. While selection of a recipient is based primarily on academic excellence, attention to the dissertation and cumulative scholarly achievement during the doctoral program will also be considered. One medal is presented at the Spring Convocation and two medals are presented at the Fall Convocation. If you are aware of a doctoral graduate in the Fall 2026 convocation who is of truly outstanding quality, please provide a nomination to GPS. One nomination will be accepted from each department.

Application and Department Nomination Process

Nominations must be submitted via the GSMS Awards Portal by **Tuesday, September 29, 2026**. Nominations received after the deadline will not be considered. Departments are required to upload the four (4) following documents in GSMS:

1. A supporting statement from the department on letterhead (maximum two pages; PDF format) – provide details re: how this candidate is exceptional in terms of academic excellence, dissertation, & cumulative scholarly achievement in their graduate program (ie publications, awards, other notable achievements)
2. Application documents in the following order (combined as one PDF)
 - a. A copy of the doctoral thesis abstract
 - b. The table of contents
 - c. The summary/synthesis chapter (the conclusion of the dissertation)
 - d. An assessment provided by the external examiner/reader signed and dated prior to the thesis defense
3. The nominee's current CV (PDF)
4. An up to date unofficial U of A transcript of the nominee (PDF copy obtained from Campus Solutions)

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

Sincerely,

Award Services