Member Fees:

The GSA membership fee is currently $156.02 annually for full-time graduate students and $117.01 annually for part-time graduate students. The GSA is a fee-driven organization and the collection of the GSA membership fee supports every aspect of the organization’s infrastructure (including staff and office administration costs). GSA members also pay the following fees associated with selected GSA services:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Year Implemented</th>
<th>Fall Term Fee</th>
<th>Winter Term Fee</th>
<th>Spring/Summer Term Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GSA Dental Plan</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$214.75</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA Health Plan</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>$285.61</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Student Assistance Program</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>$4.00</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U-Pass</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>$153.00*</td>
<td>$153.00*</td>
<td>$153.00*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CJSR (campus radio station)</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* suspended for the fall 2020, winter 2021, and spring/summer 2021 terms

Member Benefits:

The GSA, pursuant to its mandate under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, provides a wealth of services to its members that enrich the graduate student experience at the University of Alberta. As a member of the GSA, you have access to the following benefits:

- Access to over $950,000 annually in funding in the form of:
  - GSA Academic Travel Grants of $1,000 for doctoral students and $500 for masters students to help offset the cost of participation in academic activities such as conferences (regardless of whether presenting or not) and research trips that are directly related to a GSA member’s current academic programs
  - GSA Child Care Grants of $1,000 per member per child under the age of 18 per year to help offset the cost of child care for GSA members at the University of Alberta
  - GSA Emergency Bursaries of up to $4,000; a non-repayable bursary for GSA members who need assistance due to an unanticipated emergency
  - GSA Recognition Awards totalling over $18,500 distributed to GSA members who have distinguished themselves in research, teaching, academic achievement, leadership, and service to the University and to the wider community
• $36,000 provided to graduate student groups to support their activities (such as hosting seminars, colloquia, and other events) through the GSA Graduate Student Group Grant, as well as over $16,250 provided to graduate student groups (for the benefit of their members) in association with their participation in the governance of the GSA at the level of GSA Council

• The Graduate Student Assistance Program (established by a referendum vote), which provides confidential counselling services on a broad range of issues including, but not limited to: anxiety, stress, depression, conflict, managing multiple life roles, etc; also offers a wealth of health promotion programs and services including nutritional and fitness consultations, legal and financial consultations, and a health and wellness library of articles and e-courses

• The U-Pass (established by a referendum vote), which provides unlimited access to public transit using the Edmonton Transit System, Fort Saskatchewan Transit, Leduc Transit, Spruce Grove Transit, City of St. Albert Transit, and Strathcona County Transit

• The GSA Health and Dental Plan (established by a referendum vote), which provides prescription drug, dental, and vision coverage for GSA members and their spouses/partners and dependents (if GSA members choose to enrol them)

• Preferred home and auto insurance rates through TD Insurance Meloche Monnex

• $12,000 provided to the Academic Success Centre and the Career Centre to provide direct programming that benefits the academic and professional development of GSA members

• $20,000 provided to the Campus Food Bank in support of their operations, which serve a population of users of whom over 60% are graduate students

• Numerous GSA outreach and recognition events (fall orientation, winter orientation, departmental orientations, two annual social events, GSA Awards Night, and monthly GSA coffee social events) to connect graduate students, onboard them to the University of Alberta, and celebrate their achievements (social events are still being offered in an online format to adhere to COVID-19 prevention methods)

• A Discover Program to facilitate involvement with the GSA and student governance more broadly

• Advocacy on behalf of graduate students (the GSA has seats on all the major governing bodies of the University and brings graduate student issues to the table and GSA Officers also meet regularly with senior University Administrators and members of the provincial government about matters affecting graduate students)

• The GSA also offers advising services to its members on a range of issues and serves as a point of assistance
• Pursuant to the *Post-Secondary Learning Act*, the GSA negotiates a collective agreement for graduate students appointed as Teaching Assistants, Research Assistants, and Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship holders and the GSA meets regularly with academically-employed graduate students to advise them on the provisions of the collective agreement and help them resolve issues.

More information about GSA services can be found here: [https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/services](https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/services)

More information about the Graduate Student Assistantship Collective Agreement can be found here: [https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/collective-agreement](https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/collective-agreement)

*University Advocacy:*

The vision and mission of the GSA are to advocate for all graduate students to the University of Alberta and the Alberta Government for a safe, supportive, respectful, accessible, and inclusive community that fosters the multi-faceted roles played by graduate students. To this end, the GSA is the representative organization of the over 8,000 graduate students at the University of Alberta and the GSA student leaders regularly solicit feedback from GSA members through GSA Council and other mechanisms, and bring that feedback forward to the University.

The GSA has seats on all the major governing bodies of the University, from Faculty Councils to General Faculties Council, and brings graduate student issues to the table at all levels of University governance (including the University Board of Governors, where decisions about tuition and fees are debated and voted on). Likewise, the GSA student leaders meet regularly with senior University Administrators about matters affecting graduate students, such as the need for quality supervision to be an institutional priority and the necessity of having predictability, transparency, and affordability with respect to tuition and fees.

Additionally, the GSA offers advising services to its members on a range of issues, and serves as a point of assistance. We are here to help, to advocate for our members, and to improve the graduate student experience.

More information on the GSA’s advocacy priorities on behalf of its members can be found here: [https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/about/board-strategic-work-plan](https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/about/board-strategic-work-plan)

More information on the GSA’s past advocacy work on behalf of its members can be found here: [https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/media-library/aboutthesga/annual-reports/ar-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-students-association/media-library/aboutthesga/annual-reports/ar-2019-2020.pdf)