Date: July 27, 2021

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research - Award Services

Re: 2021 Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship Competition

The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) is pleased to announce details about the 2021 Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships (AI GSS) competition, now available on FGSR's website. For complete details, Departments and students are to read through the Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships Program Guidelines and Handbook, available on Alberta Innovates website, and FGSR's website.

2021 Notification of changes to the Graduate Student Scholarships program

Alberta Innovates is enhancing the Graduate Student Scholarships program with the goal to improve provincial outcomes in the areas of emerging technologies.

Alberta Innovates want to continue to support the development of talent amongst Alberta’s graduate student population as they transition to the workforce in areas aligned with emerging technologies identified as being strategically important for the province.

The change in focus areas will only apply to future competitions. As such, any students currently holding a graduate student scholarship up to and including the 20/21 awardees, will not be impacted by these changes. The guidelines in place for the year a student was awarded the GSS continue to apply. Learn more about the emerging technology areas.

Award Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’ s</td>
<td>$26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>$31,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top-Up</td>
<td>$12,000 (Major Award Top-Up [i.e. Tri-Council awards, China Scholarship Council (CSC), etc.])</td>
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Start Dates

AI GSS may start either on September 1, 2021, or January 1, 2022.

Eligibility & GPA Calculations

Information regarding eligibility criteria can be found on FGSR’s website. A minimum of 3.5 GPA is an eligibility requirement for all applicants. The GPA will be calculated based on the current graduate program graded course work at the University of Alberta, or, if a student is newly admitted, the AGPA will be used to determine eligibility.
Graduate Program Administrators may access GPA Guidelines – Awards.pdf in eClass for GPA calculation methods.

**Application and Department Nomination Process**

Departments are to nominate via the GSMS Award portal by **Tuesday, September 28, 2021 before 4:00 PM** therefore departments may choose to set an earlier internal deadline. Departments are requested to submit up to 20 applications only (combined Masters/Doctoral). If a department receives five or fewer applications in a given category, they may forward all applications.

1) Students must submit the following documents to their Department for internal adjudication. Applications and accompanying documents sent directly to the FGSR by the applicant will **not** be considered:

1. Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarship Application form

2. **Two Letters of Reference.** The Letter of Reference to Support Application for Graduate Awards Form **must** be completed and signed (electronic image signature or handwritten signature) by each applicant’s referee. A maximum of an additional 2 pages confidential letter of reference may accompany the standard letter of reference form, but may not replace such. Departments are asked to ensure the letters of reference are in sealed envelopes if submitted by the applicant, or sent directly to the department if submitted by the referee.

3. **Up-to-date unofficial U of A transcript** (may be printed from BearTracks). Up-to-date transcripts are defined as transcripts dated or issued in the fall session of the year of application (if currently registered) or after the last term completed (if not currently registered).

4. Copies of up-to-date transcripts from all other post-secondary institutions attended. This includes (but is not limited to):
   - All other Canadian and foreign transcripts (i.e. show all coursework and grades, and conferral of any degrees)
   - All transfer credit transcripts (even if they were transferred to this university)
   - All transcripts of incomplete work/non-degree study/qualifying years, etc

**IMPORTANT:** FGSR will **NOT** provide copies of transcripts to either Departments or Students.

2) Departments are to submit the following to FGSR by **Tuesday, September 28, 2021 before 4:00 PM:**

- Upload the students’ documents **separately** as noted above to the GSMS Awards Portal.

- Once nominations have been submitted to FGSR, no revisions will be permitted. Incomplete nominations, including those submitted with missing transcripts and missing signatures, will not be considered. It is the student’s/department’s responsibility to ensure that nomination package is complete in every respect before such is submitted to FGSR via GSMS. **FGSR will not follow up regarding applications that are incomplete and the application will automatically be deemed ineligible.**

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

Sincerely,

FGSR Award Services