

Killam Centre for Advanced Studies, 2-29 Triffo Hall
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E1
Tel: 780.492.3499 & 1.800.758.7136
Fax: 780.492.0692
grad.awards@ualberta.ca
www.gradstudies.ualberta.ca

Date: July 14, 2021

To: Department Chairs, Graduate Coordinators, Graduate Program Administrators

From: Award Services, Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR)

Re: **2021-2022 Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) & ProQuest Awards: Distinguished Master's Thesis Award and/or Final Master's Capstone Project Award in the Creative, Visual and Performing Arts**

FGSR is pleased to announce this year's WAGS-ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards and/or Final Master's Capstone Project Award in the creative, visual and performing arts. This award recognizes distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's level in any of the disciplines noted above. The 2021-2022 recipient will receive \$1,000, a Certificate of Award, and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the WAGS Annual Conference and Awards luncheon to be held in Denver, Colorado March 2022.

Eligibility

The scholarly or creative work eligible for this competition is one of the following:

- A traditional, formal written thesis;
- A major capstone paper or creative product (e.g. collection of poetry);
- An audio, video, or digital file of a performance, portfolio, or exhibition.

Since many fine and performing arts Master's projects involve a combination of written and artistic products, both may be submitted for review (if applicable) and considered in the decision for the award. The nominee must have successfully completed all requirements for their scholarly or creative work in the context of degree progression and/or completion.

Typically, this means that a written thesis will have been successfully defended and final copy submitted; their major capstone paper or creative product will have been submitted and evaluated for degree completion; or their performance, portfolio, or exhibition will have been publicly presented and/or evaluated for degree completion, as appropriate within the period of **July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021**.

Nomination Process

Each eligible department may submit **one** nomination for this award to FGSR via the GSMS Awards Portal by **Thursday, September 9, 2021**. Departments with no nominees are not required to notify FGSR; if nothing is submitted by the deadline we consider them as no nominee.

The following documents are required; nominations with materials exceeding the page limits as indicated will not be adjudicated by the FGSR Graduate Scholarship Committee (GSC) and will be removed from the competition:

1. A non-technical summary prepared by the nominee (1000-1500 words) describing the research, artistic approach, inspiration and/or major influences, and its significance. This summary is intended for a general academic audience of non-specialists. For those submitting projects that involve a public performance or exhibition, we encourage a video recording of the event as well, so that the scope and impact of the event can be considered.

2. An abstract or example of the nominee's research or project (not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages). Appendices containing nontextual material, such as charts or tables, may be included as additional pages. All pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee.
3. Two nomination letters (not to exceed 1 page per letter). One letter from the department head or major professor and one letter from an additional faculty member. The letters should include information regarding the significance of the thesis and/or project, the contribution of the thesis and/or project to the program of the degree granting unit, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
4. The nominee's CV or resume (not to exceed 5 pages).

Selection will be based on four criteria:

1. Originality; 2. Aesthetic merit; 3 Technical execution, and 4. Potential to reach beyond the original academic audience through future performance, exhibition, or publication. Finalists will be asked to provide an electronic copy of the complete thesis and/or project.

The FGSR GSC will adjudicate all nominations received. FGSR is eligible to submit one nomination for the Distinguished Master's Thesis and/or Final Master's Capstone Project Award to the WAGS National Office by their deadline of October 11, 2021. Successful nominees will be notified directly by WAGS.