

Transcript: FGSR Fall 2021 Orientation Video

Slide #1

- NARRATOR: “Welcome! As you embark on your program at the University of Alberta, you’re joining some 8,000 graduate students -- talented and dedicated scholars who are learning, teaching and pursuing research in a wide range of fields.”

Slide #2

- NARRATOR: “It’s a remarkable community. Graduate students make up 20 percent of the total campus student population. Nearly 37 percent are international students. More than 20 percent are parents.
- “In short, you’re part of one of the most diverse groups on campus. And at FGSR, we understand that you are more than just a student ID number.
- “You are an adult learner...with a life and responsibilities *outside* of your graduate school work.
- “We appreciate that...and we’re here to support you. So who are we?”

Slide #3

- NARRATOR: “Well, FGSR plays two key roles. First, we offer support to your department or faculty graduate administrators, giving guidance on policy and governance related to your program...and helping to resolve any larger issues that cannot be resolved at the departmental level.
- “Second, we lead initiatives that support the mental health of graduate students, enhance the quality of graduate student supervision, and provide professional development opportunities.
- “Our goal is to collaborate with your departments to ensure you have a quality graduate school experience.”

Slide #4

- NARRATOR: “We’re often quiet, working behind the scenes. But we’re always here, supporting grad students through every step of their journey.
- “We’re involved when you receive your official admission letter. When you clear your admission conditions. When you apply for awards and scholarships. When your student loan is confirmed, or your enrollment is verified for your study permit, or you complete your PD and ethics training, or you need to make changes to your program.
- “In fact, we’re supporting you right up to convocation day, when you’ll receive your parchment from the Vice-Provost and Dean of FGSR.”

Slide #5

- NARRATOR: “So that’s what we do. But you’re probably wondering...when you need information, where do you *go*?”
- “Well, if you’d like help in developing your academic skills, supporting your mental health, developing your career, or accessing student loans and bursaries, you can check out the new Student Service Centre at uab.ca/ask.
- “But for most academic and program-related questions, it’s best to start by speaking to the graduate administrator who works with you in your department or faculty.
- “They can help with academic guidance, information on awards and scholarships, and a wide range of other things.
- “And if you need more information, you’re always welcome to reach out to FGSR directly.”

Slide #6

- NARRATOR: “How do you do that? Well, you can always send us an e-mail at grad.mail@ualberta.ca.
- “We’ll also have in-person office hours in our beautiful home, the historic Triffo Hall, in the Fall 2021 term. For information about current office hours, check out our website.

- “But here’s a helpful new option that was so successful during COVID that we’re keeping it open: FGSR’s virtual counter.
- “From 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mountain time every Monday to Friday (except statutory holidays), students can also arrange to speak to an FGSR graduate student advisor via Zoom.
- “It’s private, it’s direct, and it’s *convenient*. To get to the virtual counter, go to ualberta.ca/gradstudies and follow the prompts.”

Slide #7

- “And before we go, we need to mention three things you should do right away.
- “First, make sure you’ve met your admission conditions. Your official admissions letter will include a list of documents that you must submit to FGSR. The deadline is indicated on this slide. If you have concerns about providing these documents, please email grad.admissions@ualberta.ca.
- “Second, make sure you’re registered in courses. You may already be registered, but please check your Beartracks or talk with your department or faculty to make sure that this is done. The deadline for the coming term is listed on this slide. If you have problems registering, please contact the Program Administrator in your department or faculty.
- “Third, the U of A is the first Canadian university to implement the Professional Development (PD) Requirement. It’s an initiative to help graduate students recognize their talents, pursue their interests, and acquire the professional skills they need to be successful in different career paths after graduation.
- “You may not be thinking about life after graduation yet, but please do keep an eye out for ways to participate in the various offerings within your department and through FGSR.
- “Check out this slide for details. And again, don’t hesitate to contact us at grad.mail@ualberta.ca. Have a great year...and welcome to the FGSR community!”