FALL 2020

iSMSS Scholarships and Awards Competition Information
Please read the list of available scholarships and awards carefully. Eligibility criteria varies for each scholarship or award. You must be a current student at the University of Alberta to apply for all scholarships.

Undergraduate Awards

Information about undergraduate student entrance awards can be found at the Registrar’s Office.

Michael Phair Leadership Award

The Michael Phair Leadership Award is the first lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, or queer (2SLGBTQ+) specific award in the history of the University of Alberta. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership qualities and involvement in extracurricular and community activities. Preference is given to students who have demonstrated commitment to the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, two-spirited, or queer communities. Any student continuing in an undergraduate degree program in their second, third, or fourth year of studies with satisfactory academic standing (2.0 or higher GPA) is eligible to apply for this award. Students from outside the University of Alberta are not eligible for this award.

Two leadership awards are offered in the amount of $1500.00 each. This award is tenable only once in an undergraduate student’s career.
The Orlando Books Collective Entrance Award is awarded to a student entering their first year at the University of Alberta in any undergraduate degree program. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership qualities and involvement in school and community activities. Preference is given to students who have demonstrated commitment to the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified or queer (2SLGBTQ+) communities.

One entrance award will be offered in the amount of $2000.00.

The Edmonton Pride Run Endowment is a bursary given to part-time or full time students in an undergraduate program who Identify as 2SLGBTQ+ and who demonstrate financial need. Founded by Josh Bergman and Kent Akgungor, University Alumni and Founders of the Edmonton Pride Run, this endowment is funded by proceeds from the Edmonton Pride Run. This is the first bursary in U of A history that is specifically for students who identify as 2SLGBTQ+.

To apply for the Edmonton Pride Run Bursary you must apply through the Office of the Registrar.

Bursary amount: $1500.00

The Stephen and Lynn Mandel Graduate Scholarship in Sexual and Gender Minority Studies is the first lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, or queer (2SLGBTQ+) specific graduate scholarship to be offered in the history of the University of Alberta. This scholarship will be awarded to a graduate student at the University of Alberta with superior academic achievement (3.5 or higher GPA) and quality research focused on sexual and gender minority studies and their application in advocating for sexual and gender minorities in educational and community contexts. Recipients will be selected on the basis of academic standing and their research and advocacy/outreach profile. Preference will be given to graduate students in the Faculty of Education. Students from outside the University of Alberta are not eligible for this award.

One scholarship will be offered in the amount of $1000.00.
The Ronald Gordon Rowswell Graduate Award is awarded to a full-time or part-time student with satisfactory academic standing registered in a graduate degree program at the University of Alberta. Selection is based on the significance of their program of studies and/or research to the advancement of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-identified, or queer (2SLGBTQ+) communities. This award is tenable only once in a graduate student’s career.

Two awards will be offered in the amount of $4000.00.

How do I apply for these iSMSS scholarships or awards?

Due to current circumstances concerning COVID-19, this year all applications except for the Edmonton Pride Run Bursary will be submitted via a Google Forms Submission application. You can find the form here. You can also find the google form on our website at ismss.ualberta.ca. Applications are due no later than October 30, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

To apply for the Edmonton Pride Run Bursary you must apply through the Office of the Registrar through their bursaries portal.

Applicants will need a Google account or Gmail account to upload files via the submission form. If you have any issues or concerns submitting your files, please contact us at ismss@ualberta.ca with the heading "iSMSS Scholarships & Awards Application."

What do I need to apply?

After reviewing eligibility requirements, please submit your application package to the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, University of Alberta. A complete application package must consist of the following application form, résumé/CV, academic transcripts, two letters of reference, and a maximum 500-word essay outlining your relevant scholarly and/or leadership contributions to the field of sexual and gender minority studies.

Reference letters must be written on official letterhead from a university, organization, or company. References can be from professors, teachers, or members of community organizations that you have worked with. Contact information for referees must be provided and iSMSS staff may contact referees for validation.

Applicants applying for the graduate awards, Ronald Gordon Rowswell Award and/or Stephen and Lynn Mandel Scholarship, must have at least one academic reference as a referee who can speak to their research and academic achievements.
Applicants applying for the Orlando Books Collective Entrance Award do not need to provide an official transcript. As a first year student, you must only provide proof that you are currently a registered student at the University of Alberta.

Who do I contact if I have any questions?

You can email us at ismss@ualberta.ca.

What will make my application stand out?

All applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. Some of the criteria used to evaluate applications include:

- Significance of research and/or leadership activities
- Application of research into advocacy
- The applicant’s GPA
- Quality of application essay
- Strength of letters of reference

Incomplete application packages will not be accepted. Be sure to approach your references well in advance of the application deadline.

Your complete application must be submitted before the October 30, 2020 deadline.