

FGA Science Excellence Award

Application Guidelines

Purpose: The FGA Science Excellence Award is presented to students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement, strong research potential, and meaningful scientific impact. This award recognizes excellence in research design, rigor, and innovation, as well as intellectual curiosity, persistence, and the ability to think critically and creatively in the pursuit of new knowledge.

The award is intended to honour students who not only excel in coursework and research productivity (e.g., publications, presentations, grants, or awards) but also show clear potential for leadership in their field. Recipients demonstrate a capacity to advance scientific understanding in a way that benefits their discipline, the research community, and society more broadly.

Value: Variable

Number of awards: Variable

Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- Open to students registered full-time in a graduate program in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
- Students must be affiliated with the Foothills campus at the University of Calgary, whose programs or departments (DGAs/RITAs) are represented in the [FGA Consortium](#). Students enrolled in the Leaders in Medicine program are eligible while in the graduate school portion of the degree.
- Have never received this award previously.
- Not be a current executive board member of the FGA (i.e., President, Vice-Presidents, and Committee Co-Chairs).

Application Process:

Applicants must:

- Complete the application form by visiting the [FGA Awards webpage](#).

- Submit two reference letters focused on academic excellence and research potential. Referees may include supervisors, course instructors, postdoctoral fellows, or program leadership (e.g., GPD/GPA). Letters must be sent by referees directly to fga@ucalgary.ca. (*Note: An applicant cannot serve as a referee for another individual applying for the same award*).
- Provide confirmation of full-time enrollment (unofficial transcript is accepted) in a graduate program.
- Submit a CV emphasizing, but not limited: to academic achievements, research contributions, scholarships and awards, relevant coursework, technical skills, and specialized training.
- Submit the following written components:
 - Up to 800 words (max): summary of the project, outlining objectives, methods, significance, and anticipated impact.
 - Up to 500 words (max): personal statement highlighting the applicant's qualifications, research experience, academic excellence, and potential for future contributions to science.
 - Up to 400 words (max): description of the supervisor and training environment

Formatting & Submission:

All documents must use 12-point font, normal margins, 1.0 line spacing, and be combined into a single PDF (enrollment confirmation, CV, and written statements). Upload the PDF document via the awards application portal with the file named: "*FGA Science Excellence Award_LastName_FirstName*".

Incomplete applications or applications received after the intake deadline will not be considered.

Selection Process:

Complete applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be reviewed by the FGA Awards Committee. The FGA President will serve as the neutral chair of the committee. Award winners will be notified within five months of the application deadline.

For inquiries, please contact fga@ucalgary.ca

Approved: FGA Board, January 2026

Revised: FGA President, April 2026