

Graduate Science Education

Scholarships

Rebekah DeVinney



GSE Scholarship Team

- Tara Beattie: Associate Dean, GSE
- Rebekah DeVinney: Assistant Dean, GSE
- Barsha Rimal: Scholarship and Stipend Officer
- Elise Granton: Graduate student scholarship lead





Fall Semester

- Cumming School of Medicine Entrance Award (PhD, MSc)
- Tri-council (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) doctoral
- Canada Graduate Scholarship-Masters
- Indigenous Awards
- Alberta Innovates-Heath Solutions (PhD, MSc)

Winter Semester

- Graduate Awards Competition (multiple awards)
- Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships
- Vanier



Tri-Council Awards

- Tri-Council Doctoral
 - Oct 1 Deadline
- Canadian Graduate Scholarship-Masters
 - Dec 1 Deadline
- Three granting agencies
 - CIHR: Health-related research
 - NSERC: Basic sciences that are NOT health related
 - SSHRC: Social sciences
- Open to Canadian Citizens/permanent residents
- Top tier awards-very competitive but worth applying for if criteria are met
 - Time in program
 - First class marks (>3.5) in last two years
- CIHR also offers travel awards for presentations at conferences



- Supports world-class doctoral students. Top tier award
 - Academic excellence
 - Research potential
 - Leadership
- Students submit a Preliminary Assessment Form to FGS
 - Selected students receive application support through FGS





- Indigenous Graduate Award (IGA)
 - Open to Alberta residents who are Status or Non-status Indian/First Nations, Metis or Inuit
 - Doctoral and masters awards
 - Oct 16 deadline for 2018 competition
 - Workshop for these awards on Sept 19, 9:30-10:30
 - Earth Sciences 1010C (FGS office)



Graduate Awards Competition (GAC)

- Doctoral awards
 - Izaak Walton Killam
 - Open Doctoral
 - First class average (3.5 GPA in last 2 years)
 - Citizenship unrestricted
- Special awards and bursaries
 - Donor funded to support a particular area of interest
 - Students must demonstrate financial need for bursaries
- Deadlines in early winter
 - Program-specific internal deadlines





Graduate Student Scholarships

- Thesis based research related to Information and Communication Technologies, nanotechnology, or Omics
- Doesn't support medical or health related research
- Doctoral and Masters awards
- Early Feb deadlines (application same as GAC awards)

Health

- Doctoral and Masters awards
- Supports health-related research
- Deadlines in early Fall





- Provincial award. Restricted to Canadian citizens/permanent residents
- Doctoral and Masters awards
- Award values vary
 - Up to \$10,800 for MSc
 - Up to \$15,000 for PhD
- Program nominated awards (GAC awards application)
- Applicants to Tri-council competitions automatically considered
 - Top applicants not funded



International Students

- Eligible for GAC and Alberta Innovates, Vanier awards
- Many program and special awards unrestricted
- Country-specific awards
 - Science without Borders (Brazil, entrance award)
 - China Scholarship Council
- International student travel awards
 - Presentations at international and national competitions
- More information here: https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards/international_students



Program Specific and Other Awards

- Program Specific Awards
 - Vary by program
 - Travel, thesis, publication and entrance awards
 - Talk to your Graduate Program Administrator or Program Director for more information
- MITACS Accelerate
 - Industry partnership funding for students
 - U of C site information:
 https://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/apply-grants/grants-external/mitacs
 - MITACS Accelerate site: https://www.mitacs.ca/en/programs/accelerate



Scholarship and Stipend Officer

Barsha Rimal

- Office: HSC G327A (8:30am-4:30pm M-F)
- Email(s): barsha.rimal@ucalgary.ca; awardsgse@ucalgary.ca; gseproj@ucalgary.ca
- Phone: 403-210-6687

Scholarship Support

- Advertise major scholarship and award programs to CSM graduate students and supervisors
- Administer a subset of GSE scholarship programs
- Assist CSM graduate students locate and apply for international, national, provincial, regional, and institutional scholarships and awards (e.g., interpret and navigate application guidelines and processes; collect Associate Dean, GSE signature)
- Develop and coordinate the GSE Scholarship Internal Peer Review (IPR) service
- Develop and maintain the GSE Scholarships and Awards IPR and Support Hub

Stipend Support

Set up, revise, terminate all CSM graduate student stipend payments



GSE-Administered Scholarships and Awards

Cumming School of Medicine Graduate Scholarship

- Deadline: October 1
- Value: \$30,000/annum for two (MSc) or four (PhD) years
 - \$20K (CSM) and \$10K (supervisor match)
- Eligibility: 1st year or 1st semester 2nd year only, used as top-up if hold other external funding, international students eligible

Achievers in Medical Science Awards

- AIMS Doctoral: Concurrent and commensurate with CSM Graduate Scholarship
- AIMS Leaders in Medicine: TBD

Eleanor Mackie Doctoral Scholarship in Women's Health

- Deadline: November 15
- Value: \$28,000 for one year
- Eligibility: F/T doctoral student, research in immunology/microbiology which pertains to women's health, may not hold with other external funding, international students eligible

William H. Davies Medical Research Scholarship

- Deadline: November 15
- Value: \$3,000-\$11,000 for one year depending on qualifications/experience/program
- Eligibility: F/T MSc or PhD student; international students eligible



Locating Scholarships and Awards

FGS Graduate Awards Database



 Searchable (e.g., award name, category, keyword, degree type, citizenship, registration status) repository for major funding programs to which University of Calgary graduate students may apply



How to Apply

- General
 - If award is listed in Graduate Awards Database, follow indicated application guidelines
- External Awards
 - If unlisted in Graduate Awards Database, follow sponsor application guidelines
- Awards requiring Associate Dean, GSE signature
 - Email application package to <u>awardsgse@ucalgary.ca</u> or drop-off hardcopy at HSC G327A drop box (n.b., specify sponsor deadline/time, instructions for return of fully-executed forms)
 - ***GSE maintains a 4 business day internal deadline in advance of the sponsor submission deadline***
- GSE-administered Scholarships and Awards
 - Complete application form including all requested attachments (e.g., CV)
 - Email application as single PDF to <u>awardsgse@ucalgary.ca</u> by indicated deadline
 - Confidential reference letters may be emailed to <u>awardsgse@ucalgary.ca</u> by the indicated deadline
 - Program terms of reference, FAQs, application forms, and application checklists will be posted to the GSE Scholarship and Financial Support webpage



How to create a strong application

- Decide what you are applying for
 - Read the terms of reference to confirm eligibility
 - Deadlines: are there internal deadlines along with the agency deadline
- Start early
 - Find out what you need to complete your application
 - Research proposal, CV, personal statement
- Transcripts
 - Include transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended, even if no marks assigned
 - Make sure to request them early enough



The Application: Writing your proposal

- You need to capture a reviewer's attention and leave them with an understanding of your work
 - What is new and important about your research?
 - What is the key question your work addresses and how will you answer it?
 - How does your work fit with institutional/agency funding priorities
 - What does success look like for your proposed work
- Write clearly, your application will likely be reviewed by individuals outside of your discipline



The application: Publications and research contributions

- Papers, published abstracts, presentations, reports ...
- Provide as much background material as possible
 - Your contribution to the work
 - Significance of work
 - Prominence of journal or conference
 - Prestige of awards



Letters of reference

- Choose your referees wisely. They should know you well enough to write a positive, detailed letter
- Ask early, give your referees time to write the letter
- Give them details
 - About the award: scoring criteria, terms of reference, deadlines
 - Your research proposal and goals
 - Presentations and publications
 - Academic and other accomplishments
- Your referees can strengthen your application by providing corroborating support for your accomplishments and helping mitigate weaknesses
- Remember to thank your referees!





- Follow the instructions to the letter!
 - Page limits
 - Margins, fonts, spacing
- Triple check your application
 - Spelling, grammar, formatting
 - Factual Errors
- Have it reviewed internally
 - Supervisor or someone close to your project
 - "Arms-length", non-expert in your field



- Take advantage of resources available to help you write the best application
- FGS
 - Workshops:https://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/workshops
 - Scholarship café
 - https://grad.ucalgary.ca/awards



Student Perspective

- Apply for everything!
 - GPA, publications is not the only aspect of the application
 - Applies pressure to formulate your research proposal in concise terms
 - Don't wait until you think you are the most competitive to submit your first application
- Use all available resources
 - Supervisor, postdoc, peers
 - Workshops, seminar
 - GSE Support at Doctoral Level Peer mentoring, internal peer review
- GSE Scholarship Survey





- Scholarship and Stipend Officer (awardsgse@ucalgary.ca)
 - Interpretation of eligibility criteria and application components
 - Assistance and trouble-shooting with application forms and documents as well as Canadian Common CV

- Student Support Lead Elise Granton
 - elise.granton@ucalgary.ca



Tri-council Doctoral Application Support

- Workshop on Sept 6, 2-4 pm, Theatre 3
- Internal peer review by postdocs
- Peer Mentoring Small Groups
- Sample applications on Desire 2 Learn (D2L) site

 If you are direct entry to PhD and did not receive an email about this, contact me at rdevinne@ucalgary.ca