

AGRI GRADUATE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM 2026-2027

GUIDELINES FOR CURRENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Alberta Gambling Research Institute welcomes applications from all qualified individuals, including those from within employment equity categories of women, persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities/racialized peoples, Indigenous peoples, and people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientation as well as all groups protected by the Human Rights Act.

A. About the Program

The multidisciplinary field of gambling research is growing in importance and demand. The Alberta Gambling Research Institute's Partner Universities – University of Alberta, University of Calgary, and University of Lethbridge – have achieved international recognition for their research expertise in gambling. In order to support and enhance the research base in Alberta and to recruit outstanding research students, a three-component graduate research scholarship program is available, tenable at any of the Institute Partner Universities and in any discipline for research directly related to AGRI's mandate.

B. Eligibility of applicants

Candidates must have been accepted into, or be currently enrolled in, a full-time, thesis-based, master's or doctoral program at one of the Partner Universities. These awards are not available to students registered in course-based programs. Candidates may be from any related discipline. Candidates may concurrently hold other major external awards (\$20,000 or over for master's level and \$30,000 or over for doctoral level; note that these amount may increase as award amounts are under review for an increase, see Section C, below). However, the scholarship award amounts will be reduced to the 'top-up' amounts indicated below. Current scholarship holders may reapply provided an additional scholarship would not extend support received from AGRI beyond a maximum of two years for a master's candidate or four years for a doctoral candidate.

C. Scholarship Levels and Amounts

1. Graduate (MA/MSc) – maximum \$20,000 for one year (note award amount is under review for an increase), renewable for an additional year, plus a one-time \$3,000 research allowance
2. Doctoral (PhD) – maximum of \$30,000 per year for up to four years (note award amount is under review for an increase), renewable annually (dependent on research accomplishment), plus a one-time \$5,000 research allowance; assistance will be made available by senior Institute researchers to develop grant proposals for both Institute funding as well as other agency funding
3. "Top-up" – Both master's and doctoral students are eligible to receive 'top-up' amounts of \$10,000 or \$15,000 (note that these amount may increase as award amounts are under review for an increase), respectively, if they have been granted another major award, same amount or greater (e.g. SSHRC, CIHR, AIHS, etc.), for the same academic terms

All scholarship awardees receive the additional expense costs related to attendance and participation (either conference presentation or poster presentation) in the Institute's annual conference held in March or April.

D. Application Submission Requirements

1. Completed Institute Scholarship Application Form for Current Scholarship Recipients
2. CV
3. University application status with available supporting documentation
4. Current official transcript (issued after Jan 1, 2026; appended to application form)
5. Identification of academic supervisor(s) (permanent or interim)
6. Two confidential letters of academic reference with one from current research supervisor (sent directly by the referees to gfwong@ucalgary.ca)
7. Information on other scholarships in process or to be awarded for the same academic terms

NOTE: All scholarships are awarded on an annual basis for the upcoming Fall 2026/Winter 2027 terms. New applicants as well as awardees who wish to reapply must ensure that the most up-to-date information is provided by the deadline, July 20, 2026. Under no circumstances are multi-year scholarships granted; scholarships must be renewed by reapplication.

E. Application Submission Schedule

For September 2026 admission, complete application packages must be received **by 4:00 pm (MDT) on Monday, July 20, 2026** via email to:

gfwong@ucalgary.ca

Scholarship applicants will be advised by a letter of decisions made in **mid-late August, 2026**.

F. Research Allowances

All awardees are eligible to receive the one-time research allowance as applicable – master’s level \$3,000 or doctoral level \$5,000.

Awarded funds may be used for any of the following purposes (receipts required):

- Books
- Software license fees required for research
- Conference presentation travel and related expenses
- Computer hardware (based on research requirements) and software
- Other costs directly relating to their research program

Ineligible expenses include:

- Non-research related educational expenses

Research Allowances are awarded during the scholarship period, normally, September 1 to August 31. For scholarship recipients who are awarded research allowances, renewal of a scholarship also provides an automatic one year no-cost extension that coincides with the term of the renewed scholarship. Further extensions must be approved by the Executive Director, AGRI.

G. Adjudication of Applications

Submissions will undergo the following review process:

1. The Proposal Adjudication Committee (PAC), a subcommittee of the Institute Board, will make a separate recommendation to the Institute Board on each submission
2. All awards are merit-based and determined annually on a competitive basis. Prior AGRI scholarship funding does not affect subsequent award decisions.
3. Scholarship research projects must have a direct gambling focus and fall under one or more of the Institute's stakeholder priorities as per the AGRI Stakeholder Priority Action Plan 2027 – 2029:
https://research.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/18/Stakeholder_Priority_Action_Plan_2027-2029-Board_Approved_27Jan26.pdf
4. Final scholarship decisions will be made by the Institute Board

Recommended applicants may be requested to participate in a face-to-face interview with a senior researcher from the applicable University. Funding limitations may preclude all recommended applicants from receiving funding for a specific academic term. Decisions cannot be appealed. However, the rationale for the decision (both approved and not approved) is provided, as advice, to applicants.

H. Award Disbursement

Upon confirmation of a scholarship recipient's enrollment for Fall 2026 and Winter 2027 terms, AGRI will transfer scholarship funds to be disbursed by the recipient's university according to its policy and procedures.

I. Monitoring

Annual research progress reports (guidelines will be provided) must be submitted to the Institute which have been prepared by the awardee and signed by the research supervisor.

For Further Information:

If, after familiarizing yourself with the information on the Institute website (<https://research.ucalgary.ca/alberta-gambling-research-institute>), you require additional clarification of the scholarship guidelines, please contact:

Glenda Wong, Executive Director
Alberta Gambling Research Institute
Phone: 403-220-3062
E-mail: gfwong@ucalgary.ca