



GSA Tuition Town Hall Online Feedback

To advocate for graduate students at the University of Alberta, the GSA sent an online feedback form for a plausible tuition fee hike to gather input from students. This document summarizes student responses to two key questions, covering concerns about financial strain, transparency, and suggested support measures. It highlights how rising costs are affecting students' academic and personal lives and offers actionable recommendations for university administrators and stakeholders to consider.




The university is proposing another tuition fee increase. What are your overall concerns and thoughts about this proposal?

- **Financial Strain:** Many students are already struggling with rising living costs, food prices, and accommodation, and an increase in tuition will exacerbate debt burdens, requiring students to take on additional jobs that may affect academic performance.
- **Lack of Transparency:** Students feel there is insufficient information on how tuition increases directly benefit their education or improve the university. Increased transparency on the allocation and impact of tuition funds is requested.
- **Inadequate Stipends:** Graduate student stipends, particularly for international students, are insufficient to cover basic living costs, and tuition increases would reduce net stipends even further. This could lead to a higher reliance on food banks and unsustainable living conditions.
- **University Competitiveness:** Concerns were raised that higher tuition fees, without corresponding financial support, may make UofA less attractive to prospective students, reducing its competitiveness and appeal.
- **International Student Impact:** International students particularly feel the strain as they face higher costs, with limited access to work opportunities. There is a risk of increased poverty among international students if tuition hikes continue.




If the tuition fee increase proposal is approved, what specific measures would you like to see the university implement to provide financial support for students who are already struggling?

- **Increased Financial Support:** More availability of financial aid, including need-based awards, bursaries, and scholarships, to support students struggling financially.
- **Enhanced Job Opportunities:** Assured job placements on-campus and off-campus, along with an increase in hourly pay to help offset tuition and living costs.
- **Improved Access to Services:** Expanded university-funded resources, such as premium Overleaf accounts, Google Drive storage, and other academic tools that are necessary for students' research and academic work.
- **Increased Stipends and Financial Assistance:** Higher GRAF stipends and consistent support from supervisors and departments to secure additional funding for the length of students' studies.
- **Guaranteed TA Hours:** Departments should ensure international students have access to at least 12 hours of TA positions, especially those most impacted by the tuition increases.



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We do not get paid enough and the living costs are rising rapidly. Meanwhile we get very few services. For example, **every reasonable university offers free institutional premium accounts. Not the U of A.**”



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It would be best that the University didn't approved the tuition increase in the first place. If their students and education were their main concern, that would be the correct measure to take.”

Comparison of UofA, UofC, and UBC in terms of QS Subject Rankings

Subject	University	Rank	University	Rank	University	Rank
Arts & Humanities	University of Alberta	137	University of Calgary	210	University of British Columbia	18
Archaeology	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	47
Architecture	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	43
English Language	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	17
Modern Languages	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	251-300	University of British Columbia	30
Engineering & Technology	University of Alberta	100	University of Calgary	153	University of British Columbia	25
Engineering - Chemical	University of Alberta	88	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	44
Computer Science	University of Alberta	110	University of Calgary	191	University of British Columbia	26
Engineering - Civil	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	30
Engineering - Electrical	University of Alberta	124	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	37
Engineering - Mechanical	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	65
Life Sciences & Medicine	University of Alberta	73	University of Calgary	113	University of British Columbia	24
Agriculture	University of Alberta	70	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	18
Anatomy	University of Alberta	51-100	University of Calgary	34	University of British Columbia	10
Biological Sciences	University of Alberta	122	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	35
Medicine	University of Alberta	86	University of Calgary	101	University of British Columbia	27
Nursing	University of Alberta	7	University of Calgary	51-100	University of British Columbia	13
Psychology	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	19
Natural Sciences	University of Alberta	114	University of Calgary	213	University of British Columbia	22
Chemistry	University of Alberta	120	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	38
Earth & Marine Sciences	University of Alberta	51-100	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	15
Environmental Sciences	University of Alberta	96	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	12
Geography	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	201-230	University of British Columbia	9
Geology	University of Alberta	51-100	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	15
Geophysics	University of Alberta	51-100	University of Calgary	101-150	University of British Columbia	15
Materials Science	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	251-300	University of British Columbia	59
Mathematics	University of Alberta	131	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	33
Physics	University of Alberta	201-250	University of Calgary	251-300	University of British Columbia	39
Social Sciences & Management	University of Alberta	145	University of Calgary	217	University of British Columbia	19
Accounting	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	26

Business	University of Alberta	129	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	40
Economics & Econometrics	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	201-250	University of British Columbia	21
Education	University of Alberta	80	University of Calgary	57	University of British Columbia	17
Hospitality	University of Alberta	101-150	University of Calgary	51-100	University of British Columbia	51-100
Law	University of Alberta	201-250	University of Calgary	251-300	University of British Columbia	42
Sociology	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	301-350	University of British Columbia	22
Sports-related Subjects	University of Alberta	15	University of Calgary	19	University of British Columbia	3
Statistics	University of Alberta	151-200	University of Calgary	151-200	University of British Columbia	47

Intl MA (Tuition & MNIFs)	\$11,093	\$9,157	\$9,940
Intl PhD (Tuition & MNIFs)	\$11,093	\$9,157	\$9,940

YTD CPI for Alberta is 3% with CPI for November being 1.9%
YTD CPI for British Columbia is 2.7% with CPI for November being 2%

From Canada Stats, Tuition fees, priced annually in September, rose at a slower pace in 2024 (+1.8%) compared with 2023 (+2.5%)

UofA's Extra Subject Rankings

Subject	University	Rank
History	University of Alberta	151-200
Linguistics	University of Alberta	101-150
Theology	University of Alberta	101-140
Engineering - Mineral	University of Alberta	12
Engineering - Petroleum	University of Alberta	4
Dentistry	University of Alberta	51-100
Pharmacy	University of Alberta	48
Anthropology	University of Alberta	101-150
Communication	University of Alberta	201-250
Politics	University of Alberta	151-200

UofC's Extra Subject Rankings

Subject	University	Rank
Philosophy	University of Calgary	101-150
Veterinary Science	University of Calgary	33
Engineering - Petroleum	University of Calgary	33

UBC's Extra Subject Rankings

Subject	University	Rank
Art & Design	University of British Columbia	151-200
History	University of British Columbia	28
Linguistics	University of British Columbia	11
Performing Arts	University of British Columbia	51-100
Philosophy	University of British Columbia	151-200
Theology	University of British Columbia	51-100
Data Science	University of British Columbia	42
Engineering - Mineral	University of British Columbia	11
Dentistry	University of British Columbia	51-100
Pharmacy	University of British Columbia	35
Veterinary Science	University of British Columbia	51-70

Anthropology	University of British Columbia	14
Communication	University of British Columbia	38
Development Studies	University of British Columbia	25
Library	University of British Columbia	8
Politics	University of British Columbia	42
Social Policy	University of British Columbia	29
Marketing	University of British Columbia	21-50