

## **Graduate Student Research Assistant Awards**

The purpose of these awards is to recognize graduate students who have demonstrated innovation, versatility, and value as Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) at the University of Alberta. Only GRA appointments held during a GSA member's current academic program will be considered. Seven awards valued at \$500 each may be conferred annually. These awards are funded by the Graduate Student Support Fund (GSSF).

### **GSA Policy: GSA Recognition Awards and Adjudication Criteria**

#### **O.POL.1 General**

O.POL.1.1 There is no maximum number of GSA Recognition Awards an individual can apply for each year, but they must meet the application eligibility requirements for the award, and each award applied for must have a complete application package. GSA members can receive no more than one (1) GSA Recognition Award each year.

O.POL.1.2 An individual can be nominated or self-nominated for the same GSA Recognition Award only once each year. The first nomination received will be the one adjudicated.

O.POL.1.3 Current Directly-Elected Officers and members of the GSA Awards Selection Committee are not eligible to be nominated or self-nominated for GSA Recognition Awards.

O.POL.1.4 An individual can receive no more than one (1) GSA Recognition Award each year.

O.POL.1.5 A GSA Graduate Student Group or individual can receive the same GSA Recognition Award no more than two (2) times.

O.POL.1.6 Any individual (excluding associate members) who was a GSA member at any time in which the GSA Recognition Awards nomination period was open is eligible for the self-nominated GSA Recognition Awards.

O.POL.1.7 Late and/or incomplete nominations and extraneous documents will not be accepted.

### **Eligibility**

All current graduate students, who have held a Graduate Research Assistant appointment at any point during their current degree program, are eligible (eg. a PhD student currently in their 4th year, who held a GRA appointment during their 2nd year, can apply in the current year for their previous work). Graduate Research Assistant Fellowship (GRAF) are not eligible for this award.

### **Adjudication Criteria**

The Graduate Student Research Assistant Awards are adjudicated on the basis of three (3) criteria:

- a. excellence of contribution to the conducted research;
- b. leadership in innovation and versatility within research; and
- c. overall contribution to the University research community.

Each criterion will be ranked on a scale of 1-5 (5 being high) and then added to determine the total rank for the nominee.

### **Nomination Requirements**

Self nominated.

A completed nomination package must include ONLY the following components and no others:

- a. One signed letter of support written by your research supervisor that addresses how you, the nominee, meet the adjudication criteria. A template is available to you.
- b. A copy of your Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) contract/appointment letter.
- c. A condensed CV that includes research assistant activities undertaken during your current degree program. Maximum four (4) pages.
- d. Enrollment Verification Document. This can be obtained from Bear Tracks
- e. Any additional questions posed on the online application must be fully completed

**Incomplete Nomination Packages**

Incomplete packages will not be accepted or adjudicated. Nomination packages will be considered incomplete without any of the components listed above and will not be accepted or adjudicated.

**Policy and Procedure**

- a. Nominations will be reviewed by the GSA staff for eligibility and completeness
- b. According to its mandate, the GSA Awards Selection Committee (GSA ASC) "is responsible for selecting the recipients of the Council-approved GSA Recognition Awards" and "the GSA ASC may decide not to give out an award in a particular category if a qualified candidate is not identified" (Section O: GSA Recognition Awards, GSA Policy, GSA Standing Committees, GSA Awards and Selection Committee, Sections O.POL.5.1 and O.POL.5.2).
- c. Results of the adjudication will be sent to nominees via email.

## Letter of Support Template: Graduate Student Research Assistant Award

### Background

The purpose of these awards is to recognize graduate students who have demonstrated innovation, versatility, and value as Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) at the University of Alberta. Only GRA appointments held during a GSA member's current academic program will be considered.

As the nominee's research supervisor, please explain how the nominee demonstrates:

a. excellence of contribution to the conducted research

b. leadership in innovation and versatility within research

c. an overall contribution to the University research community

I, the undersigned, confirm that the information provided in this letter of recommendation is accurate and reflects my honest assessment of the nominee.

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Name

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Position

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UofA Department or Name of Organization

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Date

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Signature