

Graduate Student Spirit Awards

The purpose of this award is to recognize graduate students who go above and beyond to create a positive graduate experience for their peers. Two awards valued at \$750 may be conferred annually.

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 at the University of Alberta are eligible to be nominated.

Adjudication Criteria

The GSA Graduate Student Spirit Award will be adjudicated on the basis of three (3) criteria:

- a. commitment to a collegial atmosphere through peer connection;
- b. leadership in creating a positive experience or environment for others; and
- c. evidence of meaningful support for their peers.

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

Nominees must be nominated by a fellow graduate student. Self-nominations are not accepted; group nominations are not accepted.

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

- a. Three (3) signed letters of support that address how the nominee meets the criteria
 - o Two (2) letters must be written by fellow graduate students
 - o One (1) letter written by any individual affiliated with the University of Alberta
- b. A condensed CV that includes activities undertaken during the nominee's current degree program. Maximum four (4) pages
- c. Enrollment Verification Document. This can be obtained from Bear Tracks.
- d. 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 Spirit Award

Background

The purpose of this award is to recognize graduate students who go above and beyond to create a positive graduate experience for their peers.

Please explain how the nominee demonstrates:

a. commitment to a collegial atmosphere through peer connection

b. leadership in creating a positive experience or environment for others

c. meaningful support for their peers

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

Name

Position

UofA Department or Name of Organization

Date

Signature