

# Finding Funding as a PhD Student

**Doctoral students at the Alberta School of Business receive a stipend and tuition coverage for five years. However, faculty – and students – are strongly encouraged to find supplemental funding during that time, and to plan well ahead for sixth year funding and tuition, if needed.**

Your supervisor has many options for offering you funding. A brief list of internal and external sources follows, with funding amounts and timing plus links for more information. For many of these sources (e.g., SSHRC, Killam, KIAS), you can offer to work with your supervisor to help develop and write the grant; this is also great practice for you, as a future faculty member.

There are also many opportunities for Doctoral students themselves to apply for internal or external scholarships, assistantships or awards; these are listed below.

## FACULTY FUNDING

### Internal

Your supervisor may already hold some of the internal funds below, or may receive one in the future. Either way, these funds can usually be used to pay you as a research assistant through a GRAF, or to fund your research directly (e.g., by running studies or paying for data or software).

### *Faculty Fellowships*

Each year, the School of Business awards a number of 1 year and 3 year Fellowships to eligible faculty members to support the creation and dissemination of their research.

Application Deadline: Late November

Funding Start: July 1

Funding Amount: \$10,000 - \$20,000/year

### *Chair Appointments*

From time to time, the School of Business awards eligible faculty with 5 or 7 year endowed research Chairs, in recognition of high quality and innovative research.

Application Deadline: Subject to Expiring Term Dates

Funding Start: July 1

Funding Amount: \$10,000 - \$20,000/year



Funding opportunities? Contact [Deanna Hoffman](#), Research and Survey Coordinator

Hiring a PhD Student or setting up payments? Contact [Debbie Giesbrecht](#), PhD Program Administrator (at least two months notice is required before grant expiry date)

Developing and writing grant proposals? Visit GPS [Writing Workshops](#)

### ***Endowment Fund for the Future Support for the Advancement of Scholarship (EFF-SAS)***

The EFF-SAS fund is allocated from the Vice-President of Research and Innovation to the School of Business to support research and help faculty prepare for external grants.

Application Deadline: May

Funding Start: June

Award: Up to \$6,000

### ***Faculty Research Allowances***

Faculty are allotted funds to use at their discretion to fund their research.

Application Deadline: None

Funding Start: July 1

Award: Varies

### ***Kule Institute for Advanced Study (KIAS)***

[KIAS](#) is a major endowed research institute at the University that supports interdisciplinary and collaborative research in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts, focusing on research with the potential for national or international recognition. The two KIAS grants below can include funding for PhD students, and PhD students can be listed as team members.

Research Team Grant

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Award: up to \$7,500

Research Cluster Grant

Application Deadline: [Check the website](#) (an LOI is required first)

Award: Up to \$75,000 over 3 years

### ***Killam Research Fund***

The [Killam Research Fund](#) supports research, scholarship and creative activities that advance the University of Alberta's vision and academic plan. Killam has various funding options, and some are for faculty use only (e.g., conference travel grants). However, the two listed below can include funding for PhD students.

Research Operating Grant

Application Deadline: Ongoing

Award: Up to \$7,000

Cornerstone Grant

Application Deadline: April 1, October 1

Funding Start: May, November

Award: Up to \$50,000



Funding opportunities? Contact [Deanna Hoffman](#), Research and Survey Coordinator

Hiring a PhD Student or setting up payments? Contact [Debbie Giesbrecht](#), PhD Program Administrator (at least two months notice is required before grant expiry date)

Developing and writing grant proposals? Visit GPS [Writing Workshops](#)

## External

### **Affiliated Associations**

Academic societies or associations sometimes offer small grants or funding to hire a research assistant. Check your supervisor's current CV for affiliations and then check the affiliation's website for any opportunities.

### **Mitacs**

Mitacs is a non-profit national research organization that, in partnerships with Canadian academia, private industry and government, operates research and training programs in fields related to industrial and social innovation. Most Mitacs programs require a supervisor who is eligible to hold Tri-Agency (CIHR, NSERC or SSHRC) funds and require the intern to be an active student at the University (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral).

If your supervisor has a relationship or partnership with a business, you may be able to help them apply for funding. [Link](#) to funding program descriptions, eligibility, and deadlines.

### **External Sponsors**

The University maintains a [database](#) that contains funding opportunities for researchers and trainees. Use the 'Funding Type' filter to search for sponsors funding "research support" or "trainees".

### **Grants Currently Held by Faculty**

If your supervisor currently holds Tri-Council (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR) or other external funding, they may be able to use some of these grants to fund a research assistantship for you, or to fund your research.

You can help your supervisor apply for Tri-Council funding. Tri-Council agencies emphasize student training and support, and expect this to be part of the budget. The University offers [many resources](#) to support Tri-Council applications, and a funding deadline [calendar](#).

**Tri-Council grants are a great way to get sufficient 6th year funding, but require advance planning!**

### **SSHRC and NSERC General Research Funding (GRF)**

The [GRF](#) is made up of unspent NSERC/SSHRC grants that have expired or been terminated. The University re-invests these funds to support research and student training. The GRF may be used to provide small start-up grants to new professors or professors changing research direction, bridge funding to professors between applications, or additional funds to further support existing research programs.

Application Deadline: On-going (watch for emails!)

Funding Start: N/A

Award: Varies (usually < \$10,000)



Funding opportunities? Contact [Deanna Hoffman](#), Research and Survey Coordinator

Hiring a PhD Student or setting up payments? Contact [Debbie Giesbrecht](#), PhD Program Administrator (at least two months notice is required before grant expiry date)

Developing and writing grant proposals? Visit GPS [Writing Workshops](#)

## GRADUATE AWARDS

### Internal

#### *Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) Scholarships and Awards*

The University of Alberta offers awards, scholarships and prizes to assist in funding graduate studies. GPS administers approximately \$29 million in scholarships every year. Some examples are listed below. [View each award](#) description, eligibility, nomination and application criteria. [See Award Deadlines at a Glance](#). Watch your email for the calls for applications for these awards!

- Mackenzie King Scholarships
- Izaak Walton Killam Memorial Scholarship/Postdoctoral Fellowship
- Dorothy J Killam Memorial Postdoctoral Graduate/Fellow Prize
- CAGS/ ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award
- Andrew Stewart Memorial Graduate Prize
- Killam Award for Excellence in Mentoring

### External

#### *Tri-Council Graduate Scholarships*

PhD students are encouraged to seek funding from Tri-Council agencies (SSHRC, NSERC, CIHR). Below are some featured opportunities.

- [SSHRC Impact Talent Award](#)
- [Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships](#)
- [NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral /Postgraduate Scholarship - Doctoral](#)
- [SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral /Doctoral Fellowship](#)
- [CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship - Doctoral](#)
- [Canada Graduate Scholarship - Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement](#)
- [SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships](#)

#### *Other*

A number of other organizations fund PhD students based on their area of research. Some of our students have been successful at obtaining funding from the following sources:

- Alberta Gambling Research Institute
- Canadian Foundation for Governance Research Bertram Doctoral Scholarship

#### *Sessional Teaching Assignments*

For candidate students who have exhausted their funding, additional sessional positions may provide the funds required to offset costs while working on their theses. These positions are subject to available departmental funds and cannot be guaranteed. Talk to your department chair at the end of your fourth year if you'd like to teach in your sixth year for additional funding.



Funding opportunities? Contact [Deanna Hoffman](#), Research and Survey Coordinator

Hiring a PhD Student or setting up payments? Contact [Debbie Giesbrecht](#), PhD Program Administrator (at least two months notice is required before grant expiry date)

Developing and writing grant proposals? Visit GPS [Writing Workshops](#)