



# GSA

ORIENTATION



A photograph of a university campus featuring large green trees in the foreground and a brick building in the background. The image is partially obscured by a white curved shape on the right side of the slide.

# WHAT IS THE **GSA**?

- Established by the **Post-Secondary Learning Act** as a **separate corporate entity** from the **University**.
- **Represents graduate students** to the University and government.
- Governed by a **Council**.
- **Student-led** and **professionally managed**.

# 2024-2025 ELECTED OFFICERS

Associate VP Labour  
Muneeb Masood Raja

VP Student Life  
Benjamin Kucher

VP Academic  
Rija Kamran

VP Student Services  
Saad Arslan Iqbal

GSA President  
Muhammad Haseeb Arshad



# COUNCIL-ELECTED OFFICERS

**Speaker** Farhan Khalid

**Deputy Speaker** Sumaira Niazi

**Chief Returning Officer** Sophie Shi

**Deputy Returning Officer** Zain Patel

**Senator** Ola Mabrouk

## GSA MANAGEMENT

**Lewie Moodley, BSc, MBA** **Executive Director**

**Cindy Roose, BA, MA Leadership** **Associate Director**

*The GSA also has a Financial Manager and a Chartered Accountant who work part-time.*



*Collective Agreement and Advice*



*GSA Health and Dental Plan*



*U-Pass*



*Graduate Student Assistance Program (GSAP)*



# SERVICES



*Graduate Student Ombudsperson*



*Grants, Bursaries, and Awards*



*Subsidies to the Academic Success Centre, the Career Centre, and the Campus Food Bank (founded by the GSA)*

# GSA HEALTH AND DENTAL PLAN

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Including health, dental, and vision, travel insurance, diagnostic services, ambulance services, registered dietician services, and more

All full-time registered graduate students are automatically enrolled and part-time students can choose to opt-in only during a specific change-of-coverage period (partners and dependents can also enroll)

Visit [www.studentcare.ca](http://www.studentcare.ca) for a complete list of benefits and details  
SUB 6-14 (6th floor) or call (toll-free) 1-866-795-443

# GRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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GSAP provides confidential counselling services on a broad range of issues including, but not limited to: anxiety, stress, depression, conflict, managing multiple life roles, etc.

The GSAP also offers a wealth of health promotion programs and services including nutritional and fitness consultations, legal and financial consultations, and a health and wellness library of articles and e-courses.

Homewood Health's services are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Visit [www.homewoodhealth.com](http://www.homewoodhealth.com) for more information



Scan to know more about:

- Health and Dental coverage
- Claims
- Network Providers
- Others



Scan to know more about:

- Online consultations
- Mental health supports



## ARC CARD

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Arc is the Edmonton region's electronic fare payment system. It includes an Arc card or a single-use Arc ticket to be tapped when entering and exiting buses and the LRT on seven neighbouring transit systems in Beaumont, Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan, Leduc, Spruce Grove, St. Albert, and Strathcona County.

New students for the Fall 2024 and Winter 2025 terms can purchase their Arc Card at participating retailers. You can also purchase an Arc card online. New students must register their card on the U-Pass App and have it shipped to your home.



## GRADUATE STUDENT OMBUDSPERSON

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Negotiated by the GSA in 2010 from  
part-time to full-time

For academic, discipline, supervisor  
concerns, or other University issues



# GSA GRANTS, BURSARIES, AND AWARDS

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## **GSA Academic Travel Grants Summary**

- Up to \$500 for Masters students during the degree program
- Up to \$1000 for Doctoral students during the degree program (max. \$500 per fiscal year (1 April to 31 March))

## **GSA Child Care Grants Summary**

- For children under 18 years of age
- Max. \$1000 per child per fiscal year (1 April to 31 March)

## **GSA Emergency Bursaries Summary**

- A non-repayable bursary of up to \$4000
- Complete the online application and then make an appointment with the Student Financial Services Office

## **GSA Graduate Student Group Grants Summary**

Funding for seminars, guest lectures, colloquia, start-up funds, and more

## **GSA Awards**

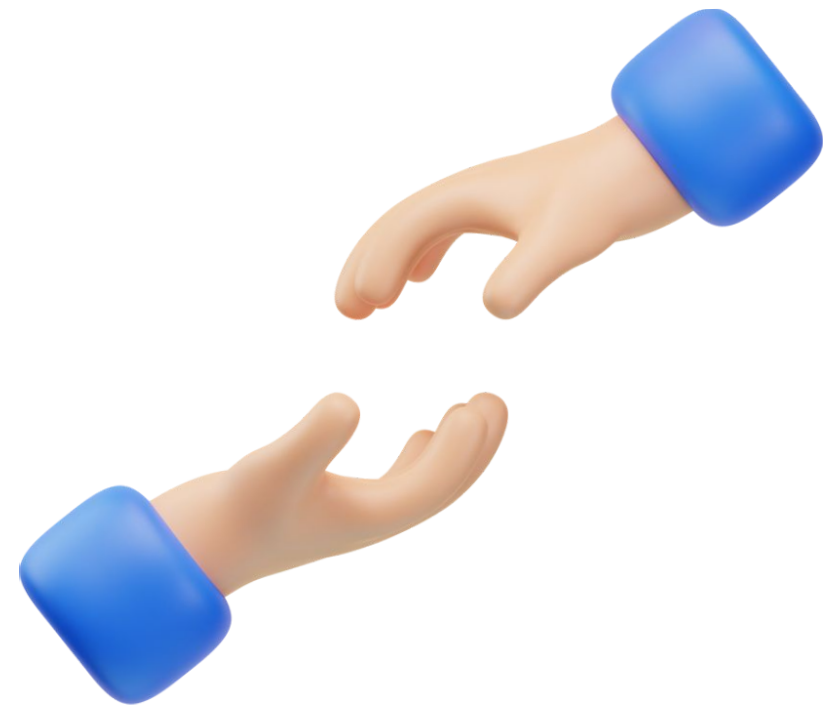
GSA Recognition Awards distributed at the annual GSA Awards Nights (recognize excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement; most have a financial award component)



# SUBSIDIES TO THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTRE, THE CAREER CENTRE, AND THE CAMPUS FOOD BANK

Determined annually in the GSA's operating budget

Support services used by graduate students (the Campus Food Bank was founded by the GSA) with regular reviews by the GSA Board



## COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT GOVERNING GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIPS

**Graduate Assistants are:** Teaching Assistants, Principal Instructors, Research Assistants, and Research Assistantship Fellowships

- Minimum stipend rates
- Letters of Appointment
- Graduate student leave (eg parental leave)
- Assistantship Time Use Guideline template
- Health and safety
- Dispute resolution

GSA AVP Labour, Muneeb Masood Raja | [gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.vplabour@ualberta.ca)

GSA Associate Director, Cindy Roose | [gsaad@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsaad@ualberta.ca)



# JOIN US FOR AN EVENT

## STRATEGIC WORK PLAN TOWN HALL 2024

Learn about the GSA's goals and initiatives for the upcoming year and provide your insights on how we can best serve the membership

- September 19, 2024, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- GPS Boardroom, Triffo Hall, University of Alberta

## GSA SOCIAL HOURS

Unwind, socialize, and connect with fellow graduate students. Enjoy refreshments and engage in casual conversations in a relaxed atmosphere

- Last Tuesday of every month, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
- Ongoing throughout the year in different locations



Graduate  
Students'  
Association  
University of Alberta




# GET INVOLVED!

Vote in our General Election, run for office, get involved with your departmental graduate students' association, or serve on one of 150+ GSA or University committees.

- Contact [gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) for information on committee vacancies.

## Stay in touch and follow us for updates!

 [gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca](mailto:gsa.frontdesk@ualberta.ca)

 780-492-2175

 [gsa-ualberta.ca](http://gsa-ualberta.ca)

 [facebook.com/ualbertaGSA](https://facebook.com/ualbertaGSA)

 [@ualbertaGSA](https://www.instagram.com/ualbertaGSA)

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