Emerging Leader Award Terms of Reference
2021 - 2022 Academic Year

Intake Period: January 17 – January 31, 2022
Intake Deadline: Monday, January 31, 2022 4:00 PM MT

Submit applications online.

Applications and/or letter of reference received outside of the intake period will NOT be evaluated. Late applications will NOT be evaluated. Incomplete applications (unanswered questions or additional information) will NOT be evaluated. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure completeness of the application. Failure to comply with the Terms of Reference will result in disqualification for the award.

This document and application link are available on the GSA’s website.

Questions regarding this application should be directed to the GSA Awards Committee Chair/Vice Chair and VP Academic at awards.gsa@ucalgary.ca; vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca.

This information is collected following the standards set by the Personal Information and Privacy Act (PIPA). It is required to determine your eligibility for the award and may be used for research and statistical analysis. If you have any questions about the collection or use of this information, please contact the Awards Committee Chair awards.gsa@ucalgary.ca.

Purpose
This award was established by the Graduate Students’ Association of the University of Calgary in recognition of newly-admitted graduate students who are within the first 18 months of their program and have demonstrated outstanding leadership potential benefiting the University of Calgary community and especially the graduate student community.

Value
One (1) $2,000 CDN award.

Eligibility
To be eligible for this award:

1. Applicants must be within the first 18 months of their first graduate degree at the University of Calgary. Students more than 18 months into their first graduate degree at the University of Calgary should apply for the Leadership Award.
2. Applicant must not have received this award previously during any degree at the University of Calgary;
3. Applicant must be an Active Member of the Association as defined by Section 4, sub-section 4.2 of the Association’s Bylaws during the 2021/2022 academic year; and;
4. Applicant must be in Good Standing with the GSA;
5. Applicant must be in Good Academic Standing with the University of Calgary.
These criteria take into account the four (4) possible start dates in the Graduate Calendar: September 1, January 1, May 1, and July 1.

Documents Required
The following documents are required to apply for this award:
1. Most recent University of Calgary transcript;
   - A recent unofficial transcript (less than a month old from the date of application) is acceptable. For information on how to download the most recent unofficial transcript, please see Supplemental Information at the end of this document.
2. Admission letter to the University of Calgary (access through UofC student portal - see images below) that includes the program start date;
3. A CV highlighting leadership and volunteer contributions, with emphasis on the activities since the start of program;
4. A statement outlining contributions to the University of Calgary community and especially the graduate student community for the first 18 months since the start of your graduate program. This statement must describe the impact the applicant’s leadership work has had on the University of Calgary community and specifically the graduate student body. The personal statement in the online application must not exceed 800 words.
5. Two reference letters supporting the applicant’s leadership experience and involvement in the University of Calgary community.
6. Incomplete applications (missing information, extra information/documents, and/or incorrectly filled out) or applications received after the intake deadline of 4:00 PM MT will NOT be considered.

Submission Requirements
When applying for this award, the following process must be followed:
1. Completed applications MUST be submitted using the online awards portal;
2. Applications MUST be written and signed in English;
3. Reference letters MUST:
   A. Be from Graduate Supervisor/Volunteer Supervisor/Manager/Team lead etc.
   B. Be received by the application deadline of 4:00 PM MT.
   C. Focus on your leadership and volunteer contributions over the first 18 months of your program (specifically service to the University of Calgary community and especially the graduate student community). This may need to be stressed if you are using a professor who is used to writing you academic reference letters. Ensure your reference knows that this application is a leadership award.
4. Applications MUST be submitted with a University of Calgary email address;
5. Incomplete applications (missing information, extra information/documents, and/or incorrectly filled out) or applications received after the intake deadline of 4:00 PM MT will NOT be considered.

Adjudication Criteria
Applicants must meet eligibility and submission requirements as described above. All eligible applications will be assessed using the following criteria:
- Leadership (potential and demonstrated ability) as demonstrated by the candidate’s personal statement, reference letters, and CV. Leadership may
include, but is not limited to, the following qualities:
- Personal achievements;
- Active involvement in campus groups and organizations;
- Leadership recognitions (awards, distinctions, etc.);
- Contribution to university committees and councils; and
- Off-campus community service where the activity has a direct impact on the University of Calgary graduate student community.

Please note that this list is not intended to include all possible categories and is provided for guidance only.

**Additional Regulations**

1. All applications will be prescreened for completeness before being forwarded for review. Not all applicants will move on to the reviewing process.
2. The Association’s Board of Directors evaluate all application packages based on the selection criteria stated above.
3. Only the activities during the **first 18 months of your program** are considered. If activities **outside the 18 months** are included then the application will not move on to the review process.
4. The top five (5) applicants will be shortlisted for the award. The shortlisted applicants will be invited to the Awards Gala where the winner will be announced. A notification of shortlist status will be sent to all applicants two (2) weeks prior to the Awards Gala.
5. **Students may not apply to both the GSA Emerging Leader Award and the GSA Leadership Award during the same academic year.**
6. Decisions will be made **10 – 12 weeks from the intake deadline** and individual application feedback will not be provided.
7. The GSA will not be responsible for any tax liability incurred from awarding funds.
8. Questions about the application process must be directed to the VP Academic at vpa.gsa@ucalgary.ca.
   a. The VP Academic is committed to answering questions regarding this award when possible. **Questions that arrive less than 72 hours before the Intake Deadline may not be answered.**