Graduate Representative Council Initiative Award
Terms of Reference
2022 - 2023 Academic Year

Intake Period: January 16 – January 27th, 2023
Intake Deadline: Friday, January 27th, 2023 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.

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 or Vice Chair at awards.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 maybe 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 at awards.gsa@ucalgary.ca.

Purpose
This award was established by the Graduate Representative Council (GRC) and funded by the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA) of the University of Calgary (UCalgary) in recognition of graduate students who have demonstrated initiative in improving the UCalgary graduate student experience. This award is not meant to fund an initiative, but rather to recognize individuals who have created an initiative which benefits the UCalgary graduate community.

Value
$500 CDN award for individual applicants.
$1,000 CDN award for group applicants (to be divided evenly/equally among the group members).

Eligibility
To be eligible for this award:
  ● Applicant(s) must be an Active Member of the GSA as defined by Section 4, subsection 4.2 of the GSA Bylaws during the 2022/2023 academic year; and
    ○ GSA Committee Chairs who completed an initiative under the purview of their role as a committee chair are not eligible.
The initiative may be complete or ongoing but must have been undertaken during the 2022/2023 academic year. Applicants may only receive this award once for the same initiative. However, for initiatives that repeat (e.g., yearly conferences), each year is considered as a different event.

- Examples of initiatives include (but are not limited to) conferences, symposia, workshops (both academic and non-academic), student journals, wellness seminars, social activities, and community building.

- Group members can only apply once, and we will only consider the first application.
- Group applications should list each member, provide program + proof of enrollment, etc.

Dispersal of Award
This award is available to individual graduate students or groups of graduate students. Individual graduate students will be awarded $500 CDN. For group applications, the award will total $1,000 CDN, and is intended to be divided according to each group member’s level of contribution. Undergraduate students may be a part of the group, but are not eligible to receive the monetary award.

Documents Required
Individual and group applicants MUST submit the following documents:
1. Completed application submitted using the online awards portal, and;
2. A reference letter (maximum of one page) from someone who is in a position to evaluate the impact of the initiative.

Submission Requirements
1. Completed applications MUST be submitted online during the Intake Period;
2. Applications MUST be written and signed in English;
3. Applications MUST be submitted with a UCalgary email address;
4. References MUST be submitted by the application deadline; and
5. Incomplete applications (missing information, extra information/documents and incorrectly filled out) or applications received after the intake deadline will NOT be considered.

Selection Criteria
This award will be adjudicated on the following criteria:
- Positive and broad impact on the graduate experience at the UCalgary;
- Multidisciplinary nature of the initiative; and
- Originality of initiative.

Additional Regulations
1. All applications are anonymized;
2. The Graduate Representative Council Initiative Awards are evaluated by the Awards Committee under the supervision of the GSA VP Academic;
3. Decisions will be made 10 – 12 weeks from the intake deadline and application feedback will not be provided;
4. The GSA will not be responsible for any tax liability incurred from awarding funds;
5. Questions about the application process must be directed to the Chair and
Vice Chair of the GSA Awards Committee at awards.gsa@ucalgary.ca

a. The Chair and Vice Chair are committed to answering questions regarding this award when possible. **Questions that arrive less than 72 hours before the Intake Deadline may not be answered.**