2020 Provincial Budget Recommendations

Introduction
The University of Calgary Graduate Student’s Association (GSA) is a not-for-profit organization representing approximately 6,973 members, including full and part-time Master’s and PhD students. The GSA serves all University of Calgary graduate students through responsive programs and initiatives, as well as advocacy on student issues to support their success during and after their academic endeavors.

We support the Government of Alberta’s commitment to Advanced Education as it is a critical contributor to building a prosperous Alberta. Graduate students are the innovators of today and the leaders of tomorrow and are vital to Alberta’s success. Their ideas, creativity and research contribute to a competitive Alberta economy in the short to long term.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 - That the Government of Alberta would continue to provide stable and sustainable funding by:

- Maintaining current levels of funding for non-repayable aid such as the AGES scholarship, bursaries and grants, especially considering the tuition increases over the next 3 years.
- Providing diversified funding streams targeting both BHASE and STEM disciplines to support the University of Calgary’s broad educational mandate.

Recommendation 2 - That the Government of Alberta continues to support graduate students’ work integrated learning and innovation by:

- Renewing funding through an initiative like the Alberta Vision project to equip graduates with the skills for the current and future labour market demands.
- Allocating resources for graduate students engaged in the entrepreneurial ecosystem through scientific, social innovation.

Recommendation 3 - That the Government of Alberta continues to support campus mental health by:

- Providing the continuation of mental health funding to ensure Alberta post-secondary institutions can maintain accessible, and comprehensive campus mental health services.
- Simplifying the mental health funding application process for post-secondary institutions.

Recommendation 4 - That the Government of Alberta improves its support of international graduate students to strengthen Alberta’s talent pipeline by:

- Streamlining the provincial nomination program for a faster transition from International Graduate Student to Permanent Resident status.