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AUGSA response to Athabasca University tuition increase

Athabasca University Graduate Students face an average of 5% increase in tuition.

In a recent announcement to all students, Athabasca University announced an average 5% increase in tuition for graduate programmes, with some graduate students facing an increase of up to 10%. This is in addition to the 7% increase experienced by Athabasca University graduate students in 2020. As student leaders, we are concerned that the rising cost of tuition contributes to a crisis where graduate education becomes less accessible for students in Alberta, Canada, and internationally.

We are keenly aware of the particularly challenging environment we face, not only as students, but as parents and caregivers, employees, community members, and global villagers. We have been impacted by a devastating economic climate and a deadly pandemic.

“We are aware of the greater context here in Alberta,” says Crys Vincent, Vice President External, AUGSA, “and aware of the fact that deep budget cuts to post-secondary institutions by the provincial government and the uncertainty we all face while we await conclusions and results from the AB2030 plan from the UCP government. This does not negate the fact that students will be impacted by the tuition increases.”

Mary-Anne Parker, AUGSA president, admits she is relieved that the full 7% increase permitted by the Alberta Government was not adopted by AU leadership and acknowledges the consultative process by which AUGSA executive members were able to put forth various concerns that have arisen during this pandemic year.

“It’s important to focus on the present as well as the future,” says Parker, “and this informs our advocacy efforts to both provincial and federal governments, as well as those focused inward, with our institution.”

AUGSA will work to hold governments and post-secondary leaders to account as we develop much needed resources and support for the students who are most vulnerable to the impacts of the rising cost of graduate education.



Athabasca University Graduate Students' Association (AUGSA) is a student-run, diverse, and multifaceted organization that aims to meet your needs as a graduate student at Athabasca University. AUGSA provides student services and representation for AU graduate students through university and government relations with the mission that graduate-level education at AU is accessible, affordable, and of outstanding quality.

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