



December 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello Graduate Students,

AU Graduate Students,

Given the shifting landscape within post-secondary education across Canada, I would like to give you an update on the graduate student advocacy efforts that AUGSA has been engaged in. It is important to note that in Canada, although many aspects of post-secondary education are determined and managed at the provincial level through the Minister of Advanced Education (such as tuition and Institutional funding), there are other areas in which the federal government plays a significant role (such as the Canada Student Loan Program and Tri-Council funding for graduate students).

This week, your AUGSA representatives will be at the provincial legislature in Edmonton, Alberta, as part of an advocacy week organized by our provincial lobby group, the Alberta Graduate Provincial Advocacy Council (ab-GPAC). We will be meeting with numerous government officials to address student concerns in respect to financial aid, professional development, and improving the Alberta permanent residency process for International students. Last week, AUGSA's advocacy team spent 3 days in Vancouver with our federal advocacy group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), dedicated to working on policies, national advocacy plans, and representing within the Graduate Student Advisory Committee to ensure that graduate student voices are heard through all levels of CASA. This work is in preparation for an advocacy week in February, where our team will spend time in Ottawa advocating to MPs, Ministers, and Senators. Our time in Ottawa will be centered on Truth and Reconciliation, International students, and student financial support.

We determine our advocacy priorities based on the collective student's voice. If you have any concerns or feedback on how we can work towards improving graduate studies through advocacy, please contact us. For more information on our advocacy groups and what we are working on, you can check us out here:

<https://abgpac.ca/>

<https://www.casa-acae.com/>

Happy Holidays everyone!

Meaghan Sullivan

President

AU/AUGSA Graduate Student Research Conference: Our conference was a hit! Our attendees filled in a survey and we received a 71% response rate! Here are a few of the comments from the attendees:

“I had a great experience at this year's conference. It was really well organized and a great opportunity to meet with people from my own faculty and others as well. Also it is such a supportive environment and was a pleasure to present.”

"This year's conference provided so many wonderful opportunities for connection and community building. Being able to participate in such an electric atmosphere will stay with me for years to come."

“I began the conference a stranger and left a colleague.”

“To feel the passion, and enthusiasm of fellow students through face-to-face dialogue, including meeting those I have interacted with online in person for the first time, has created a whole new dimension of learning value for me.”

And finally, 100% of those surveyed said they would attend the conference again! Please watch this newsletter in the new year for information regarding our next Graduate Student Research Conference.

Job Opportunity

Research Assistant Opportunity Casual Position Pathways into and out of Precarious Status in Canada

Start Date: January 6, 2020

Overview: This project is looking for a Research Assistant based in or around Calgary, Alberta to assist in the field work of a SSHRC-funded national research project examining migrant workers in Canada who experience precarious status, including periods as undocumented workers.

<http://research.athabascau.ca/research-assistant-opportunities/research-assistant-postings.php>

Faculty of Graduate Studies

The latest update from the Faculty of Graduate Studies is [here](#).

Funding Opportunities

Several external graduate awards are advertised on the FGS website.

More info on these opportunities can be found on the FGS Funding Opportunities Page:

<http://fgs.athabascau.ca/opportunities/index.php>