



May 2019 Newsletter

President's Message

Hello AU Graduate Students!

Athabasca University Graduate Students Association (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.

I am pleased to serve as your AUGSA President for the 2019-2020 year. As your VP Academic last year, I dedicated myself to the development of AUGSA's strategic planning efforts, enhancements of the awards policy, negotiations of the renewed Collective Agreement for graduate assistantship opportunities, as well as representing students on numerous committees and councils in collaboration with Athabasca University. I look forward to continuing our work efforts in support of graduate-level education at AU.

Our Executive Transition is scheduled for early May, and the incoming Executive team is comprised of a talented group of Student Leaders: David Thompson (VP Academic), Greg Vilk (VP External), and Heather DeBoer (VP Finance). Additionally, our Council elections have concluded for faculty reps, and I'd like to give a warm welcome to our new and returning members. Our focus this year will be continuing advocacy with the university and government relations as well as enhancing graduate student life and services.

Please mark your calendars: The 2019 Research Conference sponsored by AUGSA and AU Faculty of Graduate Studies is taking place September 13-15 in Leduc, Alberta. This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your graduate student experience and I look forward to seeing you there! Should you wish to present, the abstract deadline is June 15th, 2019 for virtual and in-person poster and paper presentations. More information can be found at: <https://augradconference.athabascau.ca/>

I look forward to connecting with you throughout my 2019-2020 term.

Thank-you kindly,

Meaghan Sullivan

President, AUGSA

New Council elected for 2019-2020:

Please find our newly elected executive committee [here](#).

Also, please find our newly elected Council [here](#).

These council members are your voice representing Graduate Students at Athabasca University. Please feel free to reach out to them with any issues you may have.

[AU/ AUGSA 2019 Research Conference:](#)

Graduate Student Research Conference 2019

The theme for the 2019 conference is “One AU”

“If you want to go far, go together.” ~African proverb.

As stated in the Athabasca University strategic plan, *Imagine*, “We are one university. We achieve more together.” We embrace collaboration and connectivity among our diverse individual community members. We are a vibrant and inclusive community that welcomes and celebrates the success of our learners. We provide accessibility to education for everyone to achieve their individual learning goals and to reach their highest potential. Our learners are part of our community, and in turn can enrich their communities.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS), the Athabasca University Graduate Students’ Association (AUGSA), and the university community have come together again to present our annual Graduate Student Research Conference (GSRC). To highlight the theme of “One AU” we will include the following topics through our keynote speakers, panel discussions, and student presentations:

1. Transdisciplinary research
2. Diversity
3. Inclusion
4. Accessibility
5. Connections and collaborations
6. Technology to support coordinated communities
7. Strengthening communities

We look forward to the participation of all graduate students, faculty, and staff.

“*One life, but we’re not the same, we get to carry each other*” ~U2

Please mark September 13,14,15 on your calendars to attend this conference in Edmonton at the [Executive Royal Hotel](#) at the Edmonton International Airport. Watch our newsletter and additional posts on our [website](#).

Once again, the link for the conference is: <https://augradconference.athabascau.ca/>

With AWS Educate the world is your oyster

We've heard the [news](#) about AU being the first Canadian post-secondary institution to officially collaborate with Amazon Web Services (AWS), and you might be wondering what it actually means for AU students.

In short, it could mean anything and everything! That is the beauty of the partnership and what students now have access to in AWS Educate. Whether you are in an information technology and/or business-related program and learning stream, or in the arts and humanities side of studies, how you – as an AU learner – decide to explore your goals, curiosities and creativity, is entirely up to you! Any entrepreneurial endeavor you may embark upon, or as your own employer goes through its digital transformation, the new models of service delivery and business design the cloud enables are a growing part of all our futures. And AU wants to bring that knowledge to you, for your own exploration!

With AWS Educate, AU learners have access to a range of tools and resources including \$75 in AWS Educate usage credits that you've been provided with to help explore the possibilities of innovation.

[insert [AWS Untold Stories YouTube video](#)]

Through AWS Educate, AU learners have access to:

- Career Pathways that develop and test your cloud knowledge with the ability to achieve badges or certifications;
- Online labs to develop hands-on skills and experience in utilizing the multitude of AWS services available;
- AWS training content;
- Job posts from top companies on the AWS Educate Job board.

As part of our partnership a special [AU AWS Educate registration page](#) has been set-up. To successfully register you will have to use your AU e-mail account as non-AU accounts will not be recognized. If you have not activated your AU e-mail account you can [follow the instructions here](#).

Your AU e-mail account is not only your key to AWS Educate, it opens the door to a broad range of [additional student benefits](#).

Please see the AWS data card: [here](#)

[Dalhousie University Job Opportunity: Member Services Coordinator:](#)

Graduate students may be interested in this opportunity:

See: <https://dalstudentunion.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=29>

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>