

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND YOU

2024 ORIENTATION

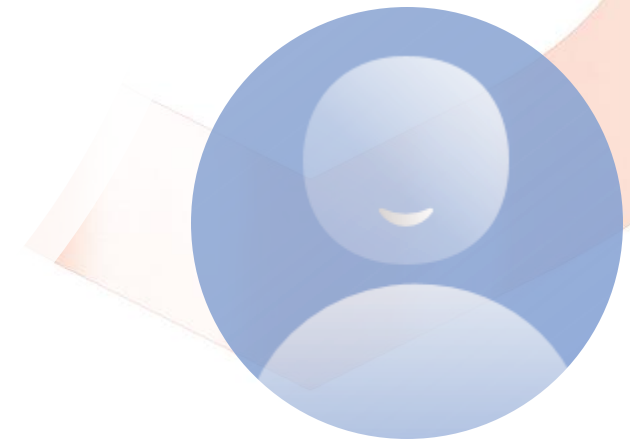


Athabasca University

Faculty of Graduate Studies



**WELCOME TO
ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY,
TO THE FACULTY OF
GRADUATE STUDIES,
AND TO MScIS**



Speakers



Meenal Shrivastava: Associate Dean (Students and Awards), FGS and
Professor, Political Economy and Global Studies

Heather Purchase: Strategic Initiatives Manager and Master Scholarship
Liaison Officer, FGS



Land acknowledgement



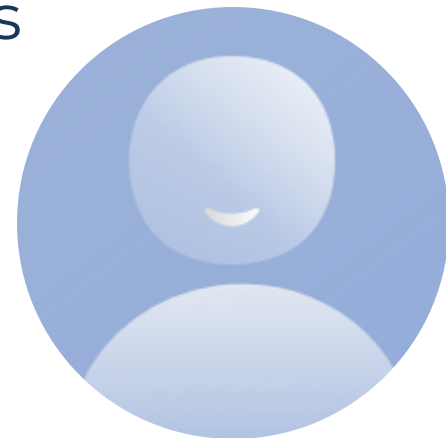
Athabasca University respectfully acknowledges that we live and work on Indigenous Lands in what is today known as the country of Canada. We honour and give thanks for the ancestries, heritage, and gifts of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples.



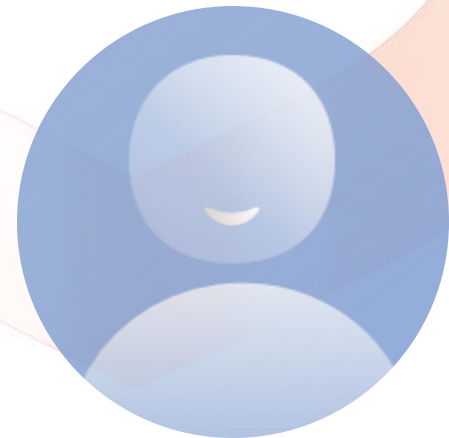


Contents

- FGS in brief
- Profile of AU Graduate students
- Graduate Student Handbook
- How and when to connect with FGS
- Research at AU
- Events and activities of interest
- Graduate funding opportunities & scholarships



WHAT IS A FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES?





Purpose

- Typically, the FGS oversees all aspects of graduate education at a university.
- Defines and supports excellence in grad education and the research and scholarly activities associated with it.

Message from the Dean



Welcome to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

As a graduate student, you are a part of our Athabasca University community, both within the faculty of your program of study and within our faculty. We are here to enable a community of successful graduate students, and we provide access to information and resources throughout the completion of your degree.

Athabasca University offers 2 doctoral programs, 7 master's degree programs, and 9 graduate diplomas and certificates. In the fall of 2008, AU initiated the first online doctoral program in education that specializes in distance education in North America. The first online doctoral program in business administration in Canada opened in 2009.

As a graduate student, you will grow in your ability to analyze information and communicate your findings effectively. You will become familiar with new technologies and current approaches to deepen your understanding. You will

develop more depth and breadth in your thinking, and you will contribute to understanding the past and finding our path forward into the future.

The Faculty of Graduate Studies is continuously working to enhance your graduate experience. We are confident in your abilities, and we look forward to helping you on your journey through your graduate program. Good luck in your studies and your new adventure!

Dr. Shawn Fraser
Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies





Goals and objectives

- Ensure consistency and quality across all graduate programs.
- Enhance the university's ability to attract and retain outstanding students, nationally and internationally.
- Improve and expand graduate programs.
- Stimulate superior learning and research experiences.
- Promote timely student success.





How is it done?

- Provide oversight for high quality and rigorous academic programs.
- Develop minimum standards across all graduate programs.
- Ensure policies are implemented fairly and consistently across all graduate programs.
- Develop resources for faculty and students.



GRADUATE STUDENTS AT AU





AU graduate studies

2 doctoral programs

7 master's programs

13 grad diplomas and certificates

You are a student of both your program's faculty and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.





AU graduate student profile

Average age of AU graduate students at admission = 33.9 years

77.8% of graduate students are women (2021-22 data)

87.4% work while studying

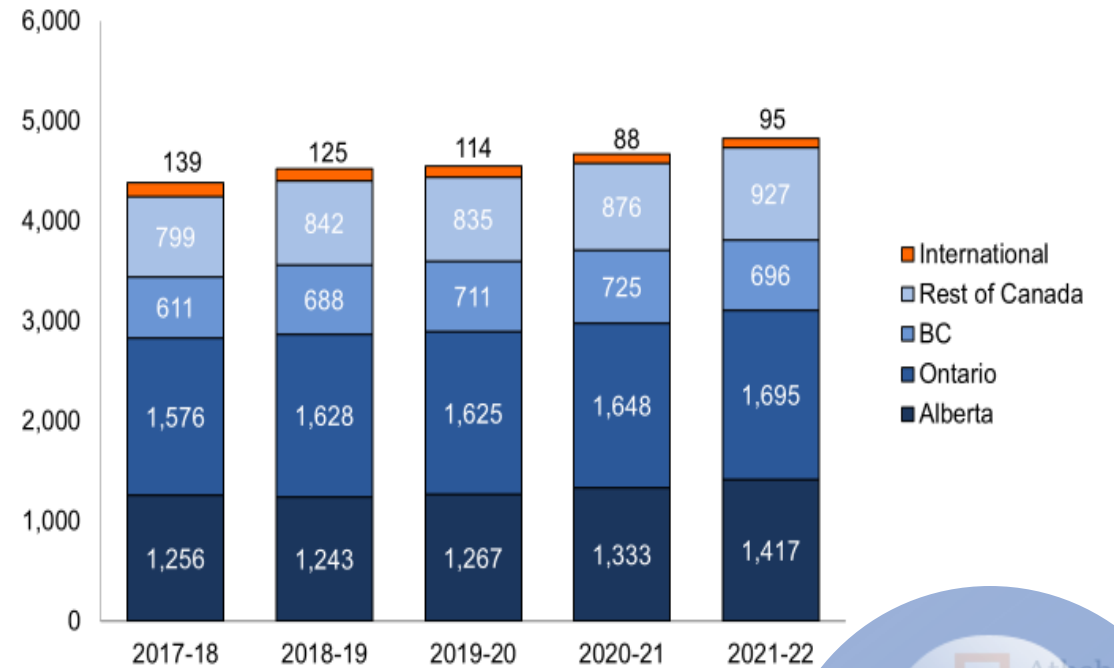
943 graduated in 2023



Where are they from?

Graduate Student Locations

Based on Unique Student Counts



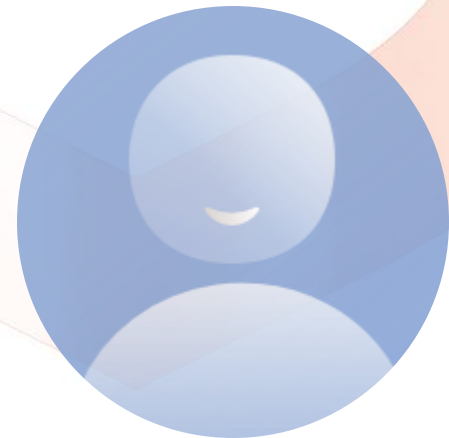
Globally



2020 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap



GRADUATE STUDENT HANDBOOK





The graduate student handbook

The Graduate Handbook covers all faculty policies, procedures, and regulations. From admissions to dissertations and more, the handbook is your guide to success in graduate studies at AU.

<https://www.athabascau.ca/graduate-studies/resources/graduate-handbook/index.html>





Your guide to:

- Admissions
- Appeals
- Program enrollments
- Dissertations and theses preparation
- English language proficiency
- Forms and requests
- Transfer credit
- Intellectual property guidelines
- Exams
- Program deferral
- Program extension requests
- Roles and responsibilities



**LET'S
TALK!**





When to contact FGS

Once you have identified a supervisor, you will become more involved with FGS.

- e.g. Annual progress report (APR) of thesis-based students.
- When you begin to work on your thesis proposal, you will need a committee to provide you with expert advice to analyze your research problems.
- Prepare for your proposal and final oral exam.





We're here to help

We understand that life happens. Our students may experience many interruptions to their studies, such as:

- Birth/adoption
- Research delays
- Illness
- Work responsibilities
- Self-doubt: “What have I gotten myself into!?”

Contact us at any time at fgs@athabascau.ca or reach out to the Support Services Team.



Faculty of Graduate Studies forms

Master's Thesis Supervisory Committee Approval

Please fill out all information that is applicable. Items with an asterisk (*) are required.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Supervisor, enter the student ID in order to autofill the remaining fields.

* Student ID:	<input type="text"/>
Student Name and Email will be auto-filled when you click below:	
*Student Name:	<input type="text"/>
*Email:	<input type="text"/>
*Academic Unit:	Select Academic Unit <input type="button" value="v"/>
*Degree Sought:	Select Degree Sought <input type="button" value="v"/>

The supervisor works with the student on selecting the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee consists of two to four people, which includes the supervisor:

- The supervisor shall be the chair of the committee and will normally be from the student's academic unit;
- At least one of the committee members shall be from the student's academic unit.

SUPERVISOR INFORMATION

*Supervisor/Co-Supervisor Name:	<input type="text"/>
*Role:	Select Role <input type="button" value="v"/>

Doctoral Study Forms

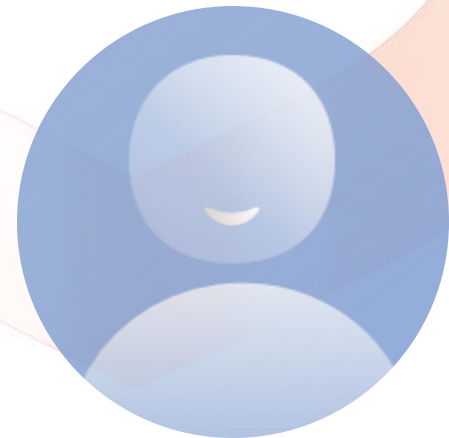
PLEASE NOTE: Mac OS users, some aspects of the PDF form functionalities are not supported in Preview. Please use **Adobe Reader** to fill out the following forms.



Form	Initiated By	Doctoral Study Form
1	Student	Annual Progress Report ↗ (online - requires student ID)
2	Student	Supervisor Approval ↗ (online - requires student ID)
3	Supervisor	Supervisory Committee Approval ↗
4	Supervisor	Preliminary Acceptance of Proposal by Supervisory Committee ↗
5 & 6	Supervisor	External Examiner and Notice for Candidacy Oral Examination ↗
7	Supervisor	Final Report of Candidacy Oral Exam and Proposal ↗
8	Neutral Chair	Report of the Neutral Chair ↗
9	Supervisor	Preliminary Acceptance of Dissertation by Supervisory Committee ↗
10 & 11	Supervisor	External Examiner and Notice for Dissertation Oral Examination ↗
12	Student	Announcement of Dissertation Final Oral Examination ↗ (online - requires student ID)



RESEARCH AT AU





Research at AU

AU is one of four comprehensive academic and research universities (CARUs) in Alberta.

Home to:

- 4 Canada Research Chairs
- 1 Campus Alberta Innovation Program Chair
- UNESCO/ICDE Chair in Open Educational Resources
- Commonwealth of Learning Chair in Emerging Technologies in Open and Distance Learning





Research and learner support

Focus on research skills, professional development, and career success of grad students across faculties. You have access to:

- Free webinars and workshops
- Non-credit courses
- Free PD opportunities



PD Courses

Free for AU grad students



Introduction to AI Literacy

Unlock the world of Artificial Intelligence with our self-paced Introduction to AI Literacy course. Gain essential skills across AI fundamentals, data fluency, ethics, and more. Demystify AI, assess its societal impact, and prepare for the future of work with practical, engaging insights.

[EXPLORE](#)



The World We Live In - Systems Change for a Finite Planet

Unlock your potential as a global citizen! Join our course to explore systemic change, understand neoliberalism's impact, and connect with transformative changemakers. Enroll today to shape a sustainable, equitable future for all!

[EXPLORE](#)



Designing Your Research for Impact: Emerging Method Mobilization

This micro-course walks emerging scholars through novel and productive ways of approaching work through multi-modal knowledge mobilization.

[EXPLORE](#)



Research Data Management

Research Data Management is a self-directed micro-course, designed to assist emerging scholars with managing research data from start to finish.

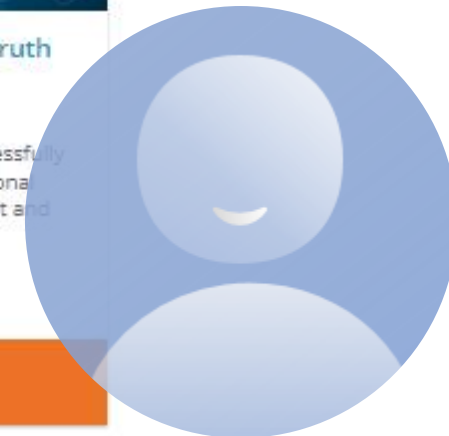
[EXPLORE](#)



Digital Literacy in the Post-Truth Era

Emerging Scholars learning to successfully navigate today's complex informational landscape through the development and maintenance of strong digital and information literacy.

[EXPLORE](#)



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST TO GRADUATE STUDENTS



News, events, & opportunities

Faculty of Graduate Studies
News and Events Page!

(<https://www.athabascau.ca/graduate-studies/news-events.html>)

- Open Forum
- 3MT
- GSRC

Stay in the know with the Faculty of Graduate Studies

We're here to enrich your graduate learning experience. Read about our alumni, our learners, and the activities that bring life to the AU experience.



A nurse and soldier's path to higher education
November 5, 2024



Graduate Student Research Conference aims to make the world a better place to live through knowledge
November 1, 2024



Meet Athabasca University's 2024 Alumni Award winners
October 21, 2024



AU employee finds shelter to support their community



Falling behind the AI curve? New pilot provides foundational skills



AU Accolades! Celebrating students and achievements of our

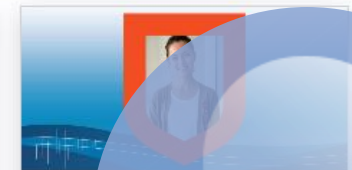
Faculty of Graduate Studies Programs and co



Quiz: 16 things you didn't know about Athabasca University
September 3, 2024



Meet the Class of 2024
June 17, 2024



Counseling grad fights against human trafficking
June 13, 2024



GRADUATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & SCHOLARSHIPS AT AU





Thank you!

Find us:

FGS: fgs@athabascau.ca

Twitter: @fgsathabascau.ca

