

THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND YOU

2025 ORIENTATION



Athabasca University

Faculty of Graduate Studies



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



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.

- Tribute to the legacy of all First Peoples of Canada
- Call to Action
 - Acknowledge and address historical and contemporary injustices.
 - Accept our responsibility to honour all our relations.
 - Strengthen ties with the communities we serve and build the future through learning and through our graduates.

Speakers



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

Heather Purchase: Graduate Funding and Strategy Lead, FGS



Contents

- FGS in brief
- The importance of Graduate Student Handbook
- Snapshot of Research and PD at AU
- FGS Services, Forms, and Regulations
- 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.



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.



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.



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



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.



RESEARCH AT AU



Research at AU

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

Home to:

- 5 Canada Research Chairs
- 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 PD opportunities
- Free webinars and workshops
- Non-credit courses

Graduate Professional Development



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 Methods for 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.



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](#)



News, events, & opportunities

Stay in the know with the Faculty of Graduate Studies by visiting our News and Events Page!

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



Nov. 7 – 9, 2025



**3MT[®] THREE
MINUTE
THESIS**

FOUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

THE THREE MINUTE THESIS (3MT[®]) IN CANADA



Thank you!

Find us:

FGS: fgs@athabascau.ca