

President’s Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) Procedure			
Parent Policy	Academic Excellence Awards Policy		
Policy Sponsor	Provost and Vice President, Academic	Category	Academic
Policy Contact	Provost and Vice President, Academic	Effective Date	November 23, 2021
Procedure Contact	Provost and Vice President, Academic	Review Date	January 14, 2026

1. Purpose

The President’s Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) recognizes excellence in research and scholarship by AU Academics.

2. Scope

The award is given in recognition of exemplary performance by an AU Academic in the arena of Research and Scholarship and is intended to further the University’s goals related to open scholarship. For the purpose of this award, research and scholarship is defined as:

- Independently conducting or directing original research and scholarship that advances the knowledge in their specific and relevant discipline and that leads to forms of dissemination that are appropriate to the discipline; and/or
- Conducting or directing research in collaboration with external stakeholders (e.g., business, industry, and organizations) that leads to innovations that will have an environmental, social, cultural, or economic impact on the community they serve.

Further to the purpose of this award, open research is defined as the processes of systematic investigation, disciplined inquiry, or ways of knowing that result in the development and dissemination of knowledge, innovations, and creative works in formats and venues that are open-access or appropriately licensed to minimize barriers for broad uptake.

3. Definitions

Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC)	Athabasca University General Faculties Council Academic Excellence Awards Committee.
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AU Academic	An employee designated as such by the Board.
University	Athabasca University

4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1.** A PARSE is intended to serve as a seed or support grant for the successful AU Academic to initiate or further a research or scholarship initiative that is intended to be disseminated in an open research forum.
- 4.2.** One competition will be held each academic year (July 1 to June 30). Up to two grants may be awarded in each academic year.

4.3. Eligibility

- a) AU Academics who have a full-time or part-time continuing appointment are eligible for PARSE.
- b) Applications may be from eligible individuals or from two or more eligible individuals working jointly on a project. Joint projects are normally eligible for one award.

4.4. Application Process

- a) The call for applications will be issued annually through the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic . The call will include information regarding timelines, application forms and any other information relevant to the award.
- b) Applications are to be submitted to the Dean using the President’s Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) Application Form. The Dean will review the application to ensure it meets the eligibility of the award before submitting the application to the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic for adjudication by AEAC.
- c) Applications must be received by the deadline date. Late applications will not be considered. All applications must be completed in full using the PARSE Application Form.

4.5. Criteria

- a) Applications will be adjudicated by the Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC).
- b) A number of factors will be used to determine the award winner including, but not limited to:
 - The scholarly record of the applicant(s);

- The scholarly merit of the open research/scholarship project(s) to be completed while on leave;
- Demonstrated dissemination of research/scholarship in open formats and forums.

4.6. The Award

- a) AEAC adjudications will be conducted each January.
- b) The successful recipient(s) will be informed in writing by the Chair of the AEAC, and a communique will be sent to the AU Community.
- c) Successful applicants will receive:
 - A certificate of recognition.
 - Four (4) months paid leave in consultation with the applicant(s) and the applicant's Dean or supervisor, to further the open research/scholarship work described in the application.
- d) The leave will be given during the next academic year (July 1 to June 30). This will allow recipients time to arrange their leave.
- e) The successful applicant(s) will use the Award within the academic year in which the leave was given.

4.7. Reporting

- a) The Award recipient(s) must submit a report to their Dean or supervisor within one (1) month of the completion date of the leave and, subsequently, upon dissemination of the open research/scholarship work.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Canada Income Tax Act

6. Related Procedures/Documents

[Academic Excellence Awards Policy](#)
[AU Designation as Academic Policy](#)

NOTE: The subject matter and scope of this procedure are also supported by internal use only Standard Operating Procedures.

History

<i>Date</i>	<i>Action</i>
November 23, 2021	Procedure Revised (Policy Sponsor)
March 22, 2017	GFC Motion 37-05 (associated revised policy approved)
September 26, 2016	Procedure Revised
June 15, 2016	General Faculties Motion 32-04 (associated policy approved)