



The intent of AUSU Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program is to promote academic achievement and community spirit in the student population, as well as to supply aid to students with financial hardships. Overcoming Adversity Bursaries (formerly the AUSU Bursary) are intended to aid members in financial need and/or with exceptional life circumstances.

If you also require funding for tuition and personal needs while in school, please review our other bursaries at [www.ausu.org/services/scholarships.php](http://www.ausu.org/services/scholarships.php). If you are a graduate student, please contact the AU Graduate Students' Association by visiting <http://gsa.athabascau.ca/>.

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

Members must demonstrate financial need, have completed a minimum of 12 AU credits and have maintained a GPA of 2.00 (C grade) over the most recent 12 AU Credits. Additional circumstances such as disabilities, single parent/caregiver status, etc., will be taken into consideration. Three awards of \$1,000 each are awarded at each quarterly awards application deadline (November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1). No member may receive the Overcoming Adversity Bursary more than once per 12 month period. The award deadline will be used for making this determination. Students need not be full-time or admitted to a program, but must be AUSU members at the time of application. If you are currently enrolled in an AU undergraduate course, you are an AUSU member. Membership begins on the start date of your course.

#### **Award Distribution:**

The award will be distributed in the form of a cheque in Canadian funds.

#### **Application Procedures:**

Only completed applications received by the AUSU office will be considered. NOTE: AUSU and Athabasca University are separate and our applications cannot be processed by AU departments. If an application is forwarded by the university, our receipt date will be the date when the application arrived in our office. **If any sections are blank, your application will be discarded and you will be asked to resubmit.**

If you require assistance filling out your application, please call our office at 1-800-788-9041, extension 3413. All applications and accompanying documentation will be kept strictly confidential.

Completed application forms must be mailed, faxed or scanned and e-mailed to:

AU Students' Union  
1213, 10011 109th Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8  
Tel: (800) 788-9041 ext 3413 Fax: (780) 497-7003  
E-Mail: [ausu@ausu.org](mailto:ausu@ausu.org) (scans only)

E-mailed forms must be signed. Text documents and word processor files cannot be considered.



## ALL APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING OR THEY WILL BE DISCARDED

All of the following proofs of income:

- A federal or provincial student finance Notice of Assessment for the current term (if you receive government student loans)
- Canada Revenue Agency's Option "C" printout for the year prior to application (not a Notice of Assessment. See below for more information).
- An EI or Social Assistance Statement for the month of or prior to application (required if applicable)

And:

- A completed original Overcoming Adversity Bursary application ( pages 3 and 4 below)
- A completed AUSU Declaration of Applicant form (page 5 below)
- A copy of your AU transcript preview (instructions below)

### Disabled Students or Cases of Dire Need:

Athabasca University has a department called "Access to Students with Disabilities" to facilitate the needs of students with challenges arising from permanent or temporary disabilities. If your situation can be attributed, in whole or in part, to a disability or a medical condition (including a learning disability or psychological disorder), you may also wish to check out the following link: <http://www.athabascau.ca/asd>. If you require emergency funds for food or shelter, you may wish to contact your local social services agency or a food bank. Many cities have a crisis center than can provide emergency funding for food, shelter and important bills. You may also be able to negotiate with your student loans program for an early disbursement. Consults your yellow pages or contact AUSU for more information.

#### PRIVACY AND DATA COLLECTION

All information requested on this form is collected to aid in processing your application for an AUSU bursary. All information is collected within the guidelines of the Alberta *Personal Information and Protection Act*. If you have any questions about the AUSU privacy policy or the data requested in these forms, please contact our privacy officer at AU Students' Union, 1213 10011 109 ST NW, Edmonton AB, T5J 3S8 or phone 1-800-788-9041 extension 3413.

#### CONTACTS

AUSU Main Office  
ausu@ausu.org  
Tel. 1-800-788-9041 ext. 3413  
Fax. 1-780-497-7003

Tamra Ross  
Executive Director and Privacy Officer  
executivedirector@ausu.org  
Tel. 1-800-788-9041 ext. 2905  
Fax. 1-780-497-7003

# AUSU OVERCOMING ADVERSITY BURSARY APPLICATION FORM

## PERSONAL INFORMATION:

\* Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

\* AU Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\* e-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\* Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Is your employer paying any part of your tuition (yes/no)  
(If yes, explain further below)

Have you completed at least 12 AU credits? (yes/no)

## MONTHLY EXPENSES - all fields required, use totals for household:

Rent or mortgage \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities (water, heat, cable, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Food/personal care \_\_\_\_\_

Clothing \_\_\_\_\_

Transportation \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare/babysitting \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Expenses \_\_\_\_\_ Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Total monthly expenses** \_\_\_\_\_



DECLARATION OF APPLICANT

I have read the instructions, and hereby make application for the AUSU OVERCOMING ADVERSITY BURSARY, and I declare that:

1. I have answered all questions applicable to me and that all information is true and complete;
2. I authorize Athabasca University Students' Union to request and receive information pertaining to my enrolment status at Athabasca University;
4. I authorize Athabasca University Students' Union to request and receive information pertaining to my grades in relevant courses;
5. I agree to release the above personal information to Athabasca University Students' Union for the sole purpose of determining eligibility in the AUSU Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards Program;
6. I understand that all application forms and personal information will be destroyed upon completion of the selection process.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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# Required Forms

## Make sure your application is processed


### About the "Option C" Printout

Why do we ask for this?

We request tax information to determine your income for the year previous to your request for funding and we use standardized documents to ensure all members are assessed equally. The Option C printout from the Canada Revenue Agency includes a brief summary of your income information, and some extra information such as your marital status, whether you have claimed any spousal deductions and whether you filed education benefits. We will not process your application without this form and do not accept a Revenue Canada Notice of Assessment.

What does an Option C look like?

The Option C does not say "option C" anywhere on it, but the document is called an Option C by the CRA (don't ask us why this is!). It should not be confused with the Notice of Assessment or Reassessment that you are sent automatically. To ensure you have the correct form, make sure the top of it looks like this:

 Canada Revenue Agency	Agence du revenu du Canada		
			R0143 E (04) Page 1 of 3
<b>Income Tax Return Information-Regular</b>			
<b>JOHN Q STUDENT</b> 1234 ELM AVE NE SASKATOON S1B 2C3		<b>SK</b>	<b>Social Insurance Number</b> 123 456 789
		<b>Date of birth</b> 12DEC 1971	<b>Tax year</b> 2005
		<b>Province of Residence</b> SASK	<b>Marital status</b> SEPARATED
			<b>Date of assessment</b> 09AUG 2006

Is an Option C the same as a Notice of Assessment?

No. A Notice of Assessment is the document that you receive after you file your taxes. It is meant for you to keep as a personal record of your tax assessment. The Option C is intended as a proof of income to be provided to requesting agencies (lenders, etc.) and includes some additional information.

What if I did not file taxes last year?

In Canada, everyone with a Social Insurance Number can file taxes. Failure to file can mean you are not eligible for certain funding opportunities as the tax assessment is the only official proof of income accepted by many organizations. Persons with no income can file, as can persons who are dependant on spousal income or those in Federal penitentiaries. If you did not file taxes for the year in question, you can file a late return. Contact the CRA for details. A return for a person without income only takes minutes to fill out, and it can be filed online or over the phone for free. During the off season, these can be processed very quickly.

Can I just send in my pay stubs or my T4 instead, or, can I send in the notice of assessment for both myself and my spouse?

No. Your earnings statements from work are not sufficient because we cannot determine if you have more than one job or spousal income. Also, for privacy reasons, we cannot request financial documents of persons other than the applicant.

How do I obtain an Option C?

Obtaining an Option C is easy, but you do have to request one and it can take a few days. You can then make a copy and use it for any AUSU bursary application. You have two options:

1. Phone the CRA and ask to have one mailed to you. It will arrive in a week or so. Clarify in your request that you do not want a Notice of Assessment, as these are official replacement documents printed on blue paper and can take a few weeks to be processed and mailed, and they are not what we need.

2. An easier option for many people is to go to the CRA *My Account for Individuals* web page at: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/eservices/tax/individuals/myaccount/menu-e.html>. (Or go to the CRA home page at [www.cra-arc.gc.ca](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca) and select the *My Account* link from the top central section). This page will walk you through the steps of obtaining an EPass. It can take a few days to get your EPass password in the mail. Once you have it, you can log in and get your tax info in a printable format immediately. To do so, select "View Returns" and then select the link for the year prior to the current year. Select the "Printer friendly version" link up top before printing. Include a copy of this printout with your application. Do not copy and paste the information into a text file.

What if I'm not Canadian, or living outside of Canada?

Canadians living outside Canada can file Canadian tax returns even if they are not earning an income. If you are a resident of another country, we can accept a return from your home country. Please contact our office for more information so we can do a little research and determine what document will be best. It must be an official document produced by the taxation department of your home country. We cannot accept any forms you have filled out yourself, nor can we accept printouts from tax software or the online tax submission site as this information has not yet been verified or adjusted by the government. If you are not sure you have all of the required documents, please phone our office and ask. We cannot be responsible for misinformation supplied by third parties, and the staff of Athabasca University cannot assist you with this.

## Obtaining a Transcript Preview

### Why do we ask for this?

To determine if you have completed the required number of credits and maintained a 2.0 GPA over the last 12 credits. Don't worry, this document is kept private and once your eligibility has been verified it is not used in deliberations: AUSU bursaries are based on need, not academic performance. Previously we sent a request to AU for this information, but the transcript preview option allows us to complete your application more quickly and without involving AU.

### Where do I get one?

Obtaining this document is quick and easy. Just follow these steps:

1. Go to the AU home page at [www.athabascau.ca](http://www.athabascau.ca) and log in to MyAU using the button on the upper left of the home page.
2. Scroll down to **Student Record** (on the left), and select **Request Transcripts** under **Manage Your Student Record**.
3. Click **add to list** to add a transcript to your order (you do not have to complete the order).
4. Just above the "proceed to payment" button there is a link to **preview the transcript** (shown below).
5. The transcript preview should pop open after a moment in Acrobat reader (follow the on screen instructions if you do not have Acrobat.) Simply save this file to your computer in a location where you can find it, and email it to our office with your forms. We must have the original PDF file for it to be valid.

Login to My AU | Library | Ask AU Questions? Call toll free - 1 800 788 9041 | Enter search term(s)

Home > Transcript Request

Welcome, 8 Jan

### Transcript Request

Please verify that your personal information is correct. If it is not, correct it before continuing by using the 'Modify Personal Info' button on the left. Even if you do not send a transcript to yourself, you will receive transcript confirmation letters to the address indicated in your personal information.

**Please note** effective September 1, 2007, a fee of \$10.00 per transcript is charged for each transcript requested. However, if you request the courier option, a fee of \$25.00 will be charged. Otherwise the transcripts will be sent by regular mail at no additional charge.

Before proceeding, you are **REQUIRED** to view a **PREVIEW** of your transcript. **Please note** that you should not proceed with requesting a transcript online if you are waiting for a grade to be finalized. See the [FAQ](#) for more information. **Any alteration of any transcripts will result in academic misconduct.**

To preview your transcript, you must have **Acrobat Reader**. You can [download](#) the **FREE** Acrobat Reader from [Adobe's Website](#).

There are two options. If you are sending a transcript to yourself, use **option #1**. If you are send a transcript to a 3rd party, use **option #2**.

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**OPTION #1 - Use this option to send a transcript to yourself**

Send the following copies of my transcript to me.

**Number of Copies:**

Name:  
E-mail:  
Address 1:                      Address 2:  
Address 3:                      City/Town:

### What if I do not have access to a computer or the internet?

A paper transcript request form is included in this application package. Simply fill this out and include it with your application and we will submit it to AU to have a hard copy of your transcript released to us. Please only use this if needed as it can slow down processing.

Office of the Registrar, Athabasca University  
 1 University Drive, Athabasca, AB T9S 3A3  
 Toll Free in Canada / US: 1.800.788.9041  
 Other: 780.675.6111, Fax: 780.675.6174  
 www.athabascau.ca

The personal information collected on this form will be used to process your request for a transcript. This information is being collected under the authority of Section 33(c) of Alberta's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, contact the Coordinator, Academic Records and Examination Services, Office of the Registrar, Athabasca University, 1 University Drive, Athabasca, AB, Canada, T9S 3A3, Phone: 1.800.788.9041.



Complete this form only if you are unable to access the internet to retrieve a PDF transcript preview (instructions are provided in the AUSU Bursary Application Form). To order an official transcript for any other purpose than this application, visit MyAU through the AU home page, or use the form in the Forms Package that comes with your course materials.

Student ID Number:

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Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Former Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE


Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/TOWN PROVINCE/STATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
COUNTRY POSTAL / ZIP CODE

Telephone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE) RESIDENCE (AREA CODE) BUSINESS

Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE) RESIDENCE

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-MAIL ADDRESS



**AU STUDENTS' UNION**  
 UNITED BY DISTANCE  
 1213 10011 109 ST NW  
 Edmonton AB T5J 3S8

Make sure your request is processed!

- Use this form only if you cannot obtain a transcript preview from MyAU.
- Submit this form to AUSU with your completed bursary application form.
- Ensure that your student ID is in the boxes provided and that you have signed and dated the form below.

By submitting this form you approve Athabasca University to send a copy of your transcript to the AU Students' Union for the purpose of determining eligibility for an AUSU bursary. AUSU collects all information in accordance with *Personal Information Protection Act of Alberta*. If you have questions about the collection of this data, please contact the AUSU privacy officer at 1200 10011 109 ST NW, Edmonton AB, T5J 3S8 or phone 1.800.788.9041 extension 3413.

**Fax** the transcript directly to:

**AU Students' Union**  
 1213 10011 109 ST NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 3S8  
 Phone: (800) 788.9041 extension 3413  
 Fax: (780) 497.7003

There is no charge for this request.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Application Checklist

CHECK LIST TO BE VERIFIED BEFORE SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION FORM		
Have you received government student loans in the last four months, or for the next semester?	Yes	No
If yes, did you include your student loan notice of assessment?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Are you on social assistance (welfare)?	Yes	No
If yes, did you include your assistance income statement for the month prior to application?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you include the Option C from Revenue Canada (not a Notice of Assessment)?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you include your transcript preview from the AU website?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Did you fill out all fields on the application form?		<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the declaration form signed and dated?		<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have everything above, you are all set. Submit your files as instructed on page two and feel free to follow up in a day or so to ensure that they were received. Applications for awards with deadlines will not be processed until the deadline is reached, while the Emergency and Computer bursaries will be processed as quickly as possible after we receive them, but please allow a few business days. Also, remember to retain a copy of your Option C as you might want to apply for another bursary this year! Also, take note of your ePass login for the CRA if you used their online system, as you can use the same password to retrieve your tax information every year.



**A U S T U D E N T S ' U N I O N**  
 UNITED BY DISTANCE

1213 10011 109 ST NW  
 Edmonton AB T5J 3S8