



Athabasca University  
Students' Union

## POLICY 7.02

### MEMBER SERVICES

#### *Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program*

#### POLICY INTENT

Athabasca University Students' Union (AUSU) Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries Program's intent is to promote and acknowledge academic achievement and community spirit in the membership population, as well as to provide aid to members who encounter financial hardships.

#### POLICY RESPONSIBILITY

Council

#### POLICY

##### Administration of Awards

- 7.02.01 Applications and nominations must be made by the deadline stipulated in each award. Incomplete applications will be rejected unless all supporting documents are received by the deadline. It is the member's responsibility to contact the office to ensure their application has been received and is complete.
- 7.02.02 The AUSU awards committee (AC) shall be the selection committee for all AUSU awards, with the exception of the Emergency Bursary.
- 7.02.03 Emergency Bursaries shall be disbursed to qualifying applicants by the executive director (ED) with confirmation from the AC chair.
- 7.02.04 AUSU staff must forward all completed applications to the AC within 2 weeks of the application deadline. Award recipients will be notified within six weeks of the application deadline.
- 7.02.05 For each fiscal year, any awards that are not given out subsequent to a regularly scheduled awards deadline will be available for the following awards deadline within the same fiscal year. No award will be carried over into the following fiscal year.
- 7.02.06 There shall be two application deadlines per fiscal year for AUSU awards. These deadlines shall be November 1 and May 1, and shall apply to all AUSU scholarships, awards, and bursaries with the exception of the Computer, Travel, and Emergency bursaries.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Awards Descriptions* 3, 4, and 5 below.

- 7.02.06.01 Applications for bursaries at the November 1 and May 1 deadlines will be accepted no more than 6 weeks before the deadline to ensure that applicant information is accurate.
- 7.02.06.02 Applications for Computer and Travel Bursaries shall be accepted year-round and decisions shall be made on the applications within two weeks of the committee receiving all necessary information.<sup>2</sup>
- 7.02.06.03 Applications for Emergency Bursaries shall be accepted year-round and decisions shall be made on the applications within two weeks of the ED and the AC chair receiving all necessary information.<sup>3</sup>

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- 7.02.07 AUSU councillors, staff, and committee members are ineligible for AUSU scholarships, awards, and bursaries.
- 7.02.08 Eligibility criteria will vary by award and will be outlined in detail in each award description.
- 7.02.09 Applicants must be AUSU members on the date of application for year-round awards, and on the date of the application deadline for the bi-annual awards, unless otherwise specified in the award descriptions.
- 7.02.10 Where award descriptions refer to a GPA calculation based on the most recent courses completed. The courses used for this calculation shall be completed courses with the most recent term start dates. When a choice must be made between two or more courses with the same term start date, the course(s) with the highest marks shall be used.
- 7.02.11 Any applicant that is denied a Travel Bursary, Computer Bursary, or Emergency Bursary is required to wait 12 months before reapplying for that same award.
- 7.02.12 An AUSU member may receive a maximum of one bi-annual scholarship, award, or bursary per fiscal year.
- 7.02.13 An AUSU member may receive a maximum of one year-round scholarship, award, or bursary per fiscal year.
- 7.02.14 For the purposes of this policy, “credits completed” refers only to credits earned for the successful completion of Athabasca University (AU) undergraduate courses and challenge for credit courses. Credits earned for graduate courses or courses transferred to AU, or assessed under Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) will not be considered.
- 7.02.15 Unless otherwise specified in the council-approved individual award criteria, students must have completed at least twelve credits and have maintained a GPA of 2.00 (C grade) over the most recent 12 credits to be eligible for any AUSU award.
- 7.02.16 If the AC has reason to believe the applicant has presented false information on the application for the purposes of obtaining award or other pecuniary benefit:
  - a) the AC may find the applicant ineligible for a scholarship, award, or bursary; and

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<sup>2</sup> See *Awards Descriptions* 3 and 4 below.

<sup>3</sup> See *Awards Descriptions* 5 below.

b) the AC may put forward a motion at council to place the member not in good standing.

7.02.17 Applicants must submit all requested documents as outlined on the applications to be eligible for the scholarships, awards, and bursaries.

### **Application Privacy**

7.02.18 Information and applications submitted for consideration for AUSU scholarships, awards, and bursaries will be used only for the purposes for which it was collected, including review of that information in conjunction with subsequent applications.

7.02.19 Applications will be viewed only by AUSU staff, AC, and executive members, as necessary.

7.02.20 Applications for all AUSU scholarships, awards, and bursaries will be retained by AUSU as necessary for legal and business purposes as outlined in AUSU's records management policy.

7.02.21 AUSU may, at its discretion, publish the names of students who are recipients of merit-based scholarships and awards, and may contact some recipients to seek permission to release further information.

7.02.22 AUSU will never publish the names of recipients of bursaries, or those who have been declined for AUSU scholarships, awards, or bursaries.

7.02.23 AUSU provides the following awards:

1. Academic Achievement Awards – 5 awards (minimum 2 per deadline) of \$1,000 each totaling \$5,000);
2. AUSU Bursaries – 10 awards of \$1,000 each. (5 per deadline);
3. Computer Bursaries – approximately 14 awards of one computer each valued up to \$800;
4. Travel Bursaries – \$1,000 maximum each; \$4,000 annually budgeted;
5. Emergency Bursaries – up to \$700 maximum per student annually, for a total of \$4000;
6. Student Service Awards – 5 awards of \$1000 each (minimum 2 per deadline);
7. Returning Student Awards – 8 awards of \$1000 each. (4 per deadline); and
8. Balanced Student Awards – 8 awards of \$1000 each. (4 per deadline).
9. #Igo2AU Awards – 4 awards of \$1000 each. (2 per deadline)

### **Award Descriptions**

#### **1. Academic Achievement Scholarships:**

Academic Achievement Scholarships are intended to reward excellence in scholarship to Athabasca University students. The minimum GPA required for this award is 3.7. The applicants with the highest GPA over the last thirty credits will be selected as the recipients of this award. The number of A+ grades (tallying A+ grades in 6 credit courses as two) will be used to break ties, followed by the number of AU credits completed, followed by the number of A grades (also tallying A grades in 6 credit courses as two). The scholarships are payable to the recipient by electronic funds transfer. Members may only receive this award once. Students must have completed at least thirty credits by the applicable deadline to be considered for this scholarship.

#### **2. AUSU Bursaries:**

AUSU Bursaries are intended to aid members in financial need. Additional circumstances such as disabilities, single parent/caregiver status, etc., may be taken into consideration. Awards are payable to the recipient by electronic funds transfer. No member may receive the AUSU Bursary more than once per 12-month period. The award deadline will be used for making this determination.

### 3. Computer Bursaries:

Computer Bursaries are available to members who demonstrate financial need, to provide them with a laptop computer for their course work. Computers will be purchased by the ED and shipped directly to the recipient. AUSU assumes no liability for usage of the computer or computer maintenance once the equipment is received by the member. Members may only receive this award once. Applications are accepted at any time of year.

### 5. Emergency Bursaries:

Emergency Bursaries are provided to help members pay for AU fees such as course extensions, exam fees, and late exam request fees during times of urgent financial need and unforeseen circumstances. A member may apply for this bursary more than once per fiscal year but may not be awarded assistance greater than the maximum award amount in a fiscal year. Fees will be paid directly to AU on behalf of the member. Applicants requesting help with supplemental exams fees are not required to be a member at the time of request. Applications are accepted at any time of year.

### 6. Student Service Awards:

Student Service Awards are intended to recognize members who have made outstanding contributions to their community. This includes members who volunteer their time to AUSU, AU or to any other community or organization. Members may be nominated by a volunteer supervisor, or may self-nominate as long as an appropriate volunteer reference is provided. In order to distinguish between similarly highly qualified applicants, preference may be given to students with contributions to the AU community and AU students. The awards are made payable to the recipient by electronic funds transfer. Members may only receive this award once.

### 7. Returning Student Awards:

Returning Student Awards are intended to recognize the challenges faced by students who return to university after two or more years away from any type of formal education. Preference may be given to students who have been away for longer periods of time, are AU program students, and those who have overcome or are in the process of overcoming significant hardship in the pursuit of their education. These hardships should preferably be other than financial as AUSU bursaries are devoted to addressing those needs. The awards are made payable to the recipient by electronic funds transfer. Members may only receive this award once.

### 8. Balanced Student Awards:

Balanced Student Awards are intended to recognize and reward the scholastic effort of students who balance multiple commitments, including but not limited to, school, work, volunteerism, and family. Preference may be given to those applicants with a higher GPA

over the last 30 credits. The awards are made payable to the recipient by electronic funds transfer. Members may only receive this award once.

#### 9. #Igo2AU Awards:

AU is as diverse as its student membership. This award is designed to embrace diversity and allow students to express their passion for their pursuit of knowledge in the form of an open award. The #Igo2AU Award is intended to celebrate the concept of open enrolment and the flexibility of learning at AU. It is also intended to reflect the entire student population and collectively offer an award that encompasses the openness of AU's mission. Applicants must be members of AUSU and are required to submit a video of up to 2 minutes long articulating a personal experience related to their education at AU.

7.02.24 AUSU may, at the discretion of council, create and distribute one-time awards other than, and in addition to, those discussed in this policy.

7.02.25 The AC may recommend additional awards for council approval in order to utilize the maximum funds in the awards budget.

#### Policy Review

7.02.23 This policy shall be reviewed annually to ensure fair criteria and maximum availability to all AUSU members.

### RELATED REFERENCES, POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND FORMS

#### This Policy References:

None

#### This Policy is Referenced by:

None

#### Forms:

None

### POLICY HISTORY

Original Approval Date: August 15, 2004

Last Review Date: February 19th, 2019

Review by Date: September 2020