

# Alberta Innovates

**Guidance for Graduate Student Scholarship Applicants**  
**Sarah Lee & Shabbir Mustafiz**  
**2025/26**



## AGENDA

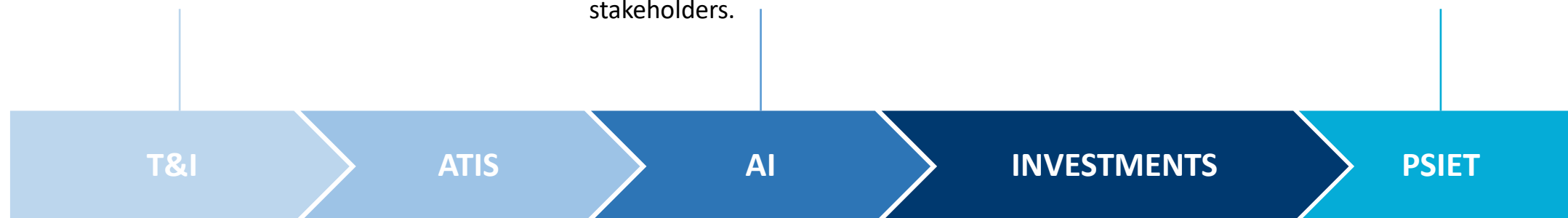
1. Alberta Innovates
2. Post Secondary Investments & Emerging Technologies (PSIET) & Talent
3. The University and Alberta Innovates
4. Guidance for Graduate Student Scholarship (GSS) Applicants
5. Q&A

# Alignment – Technology & Innovation (T&I) , Alberta Innovates (AI) , Investments, PSIET

Funder to AI, overall direction and ensuring programs are achieving outcomes.

Arms length crown corp. Funder of projects and programs. Connector of stakeholders.

Post-secondary Investments and Emerging Technology, approx. TRL 1-8.



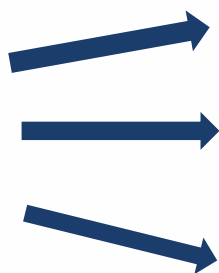
\* Advanced Education is also a key strategic partner/funder

Path forward document from JEI detailing overall strategy and key goals to achieve.

Group consisting of PSIET, Entrepreneurial Investments, Scale-up & GAP, and Investment Analysts.

# Alberta Innovates Business Lines

Investments



Post-Secondary Investments  
and Emerging Technologies  
Entrepreneurial Investments  
Accelerators

- Advanced Hydrocarbons
- Agri-Food Innovation
- Bioindustrial Innovation
- Clean Technology
- Environmental Innovation
- Health Innovation

## SUBSIDIARIES

CFER    InnoTech Alberta

- + Investment Services
- + Organizational teams  
(grants administration,  
finance, legal, IT, etc.)
- + Representation across  
Alberta (RINs, TDAs)

Funding, enabling and matchmaking  
emerging technology inventors  
to increase the volume of commercial outcomes  
for Alberta's future prosperity

### Emerging Technology

- Nascent technologies and related talent

### Inventors

- Multiple persona types
- Solve, build, research, create, iterate, tinker, do

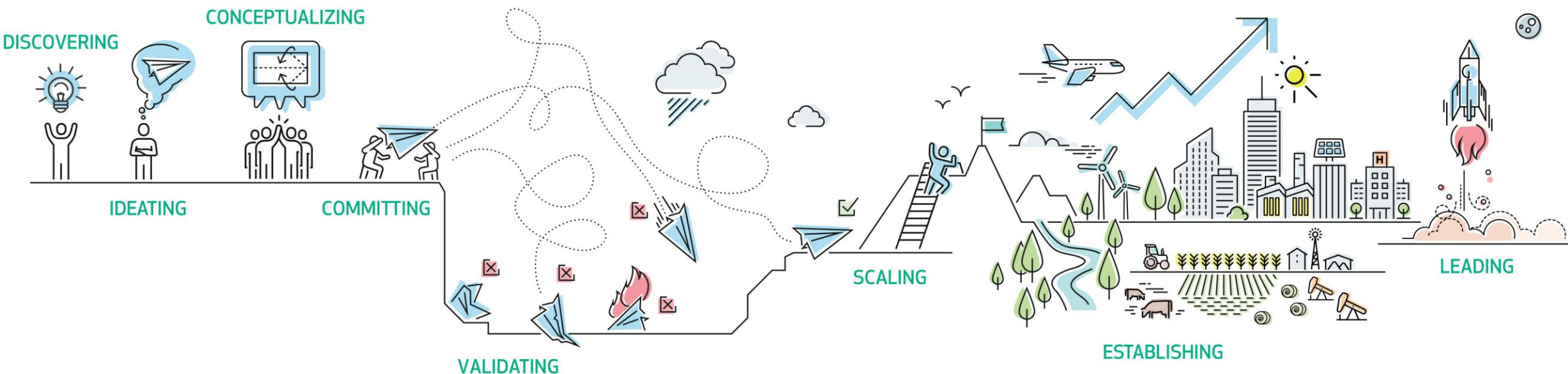
### Volume

- Quality
- Breadth
- Diversity

## Post Secondary Investments & Emerging Technology (PSIET)



# PSIET along the Alberta Innovates Client Journey



TRL:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
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Graduate Student  
Scholarships (GSS)

NSERC Alliance AI  
(Advance)

Ecosystem Development Program (EDP) –  
Technology Hubs (pilot)

Strategic Networking & Development (SND)

Campus Alberta Small Business Engagement (CASBE)

# PSIET

## Talent

- Graduate Student Scholarships (\$12k-\$31k/year)

## Research

- Campus AB Small Business Engagement (NSERC:AI – 1:1 up to \$150k/year, 2-yr max)
- NSERC Alliance Advance
  - Stream I: 2/3rd of NSERC's annual Discovery Grants (Individual), to a max. of \$20k/yr, 2 yr max.
  - Stream II: \$150k/yr, 2 yr max, AI: \$100k/yr, NSERC: \$50k/yr

## Ecosystem Development

- Technology Hubs (not specified)
- Strategic Networking and Development (up to \$25k)

# Investments

# PSIET Emerging Technologies (ET) Priority Target Areas\*

## Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

- Communication Networks and Services
- IoT/Machine-to-Machine systems
- Advanced Data Management and Analytics, AI/ML
- Cybersecurity
- Human Interaction with Digital Media
- Quantum Computing

## Advanced Materials and Manufacturing Technologies (AMM)

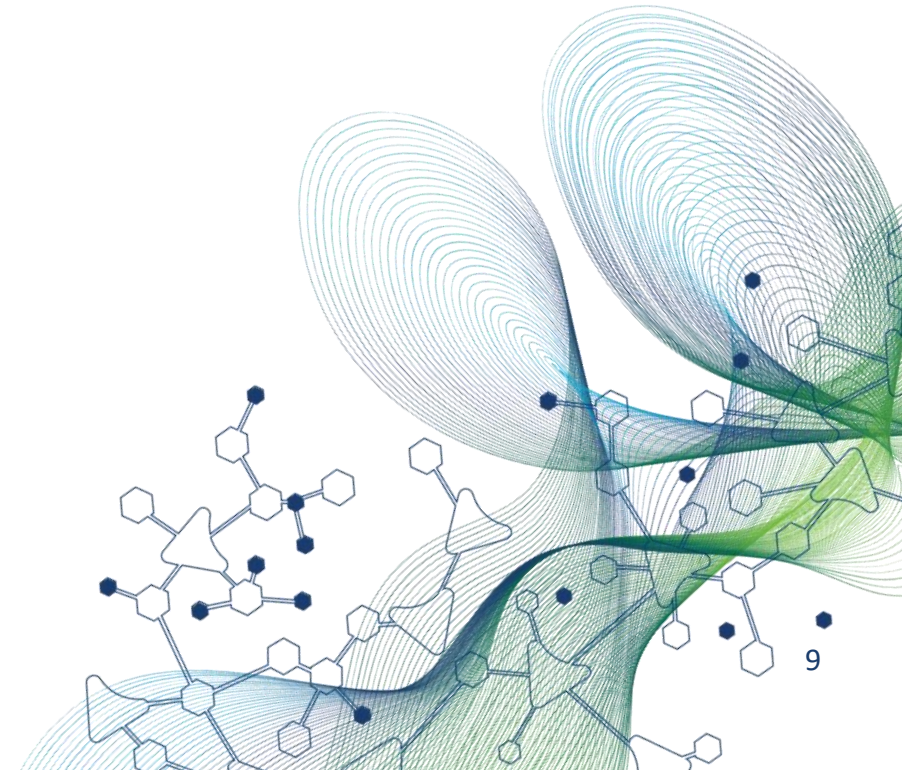
- Automation (including robotics)
- Lightweight materials and technologies
- Additive Manufacturing
- Nanotechnology
- Quantum Materials


\*<https://albertainnovates.ca/app/uploads/2020/10/GSS-Emerging-Technology-Areas-October-28-2020.pdf>



# Role of the University and Alberta Innovates

- Graduate Student Scholarships (GSS):
  - administered by the University
  - oversight and guidance from Alberta Innovates' PSIET group
- Adjudication Process
  - University adjudication committee
    - Emerging Technology Scientific and Technical Expertise
    - Ranked list
  - Alberta Innovates
    - Emerging Technology Alignment & Business Expertise



A blue pen is shown writing a checkmark on a checklist. The checklist consists of three square boxes, each containing a blue checkmark. The pen is positioned over the third box, and a blue line extends from the pen's tip across the page. Dashed lines are visible on the page, suggesting a form or template.

# Tips for Scholarship Applicants

- What **Alberta Innovates** is looking for:
- Alignment to the Emerging Technology Areas
- Benefit to Alberta
- Engagement with Industry

# Alignment to AB Innovates' Emerging Technologies

- Does your project align with the emerging technology area described in the Graduate Student Scholarships (GSS) Emerging Technology Areas document?
- <https://albertainnovates.ca/app/uploads/2020/10/GSS-Emerging-Technology-Areas-October-28-2020.pdf>

Alberta university in one of the research areas outlined below and meet eligibility requirements:

- Canadian candidates, whether or not they hold a major (i.e., NSERC) award;
- International candidates

All applications should be made to the appropriate university.

## Program Overview

Each year, Alberta Advanced Education, in partnership with Alberta Innovates invests in the support of academically superior graduate students undertaking full-time research education at an Alberta university, leading to a research-based master's or doctoral degree.

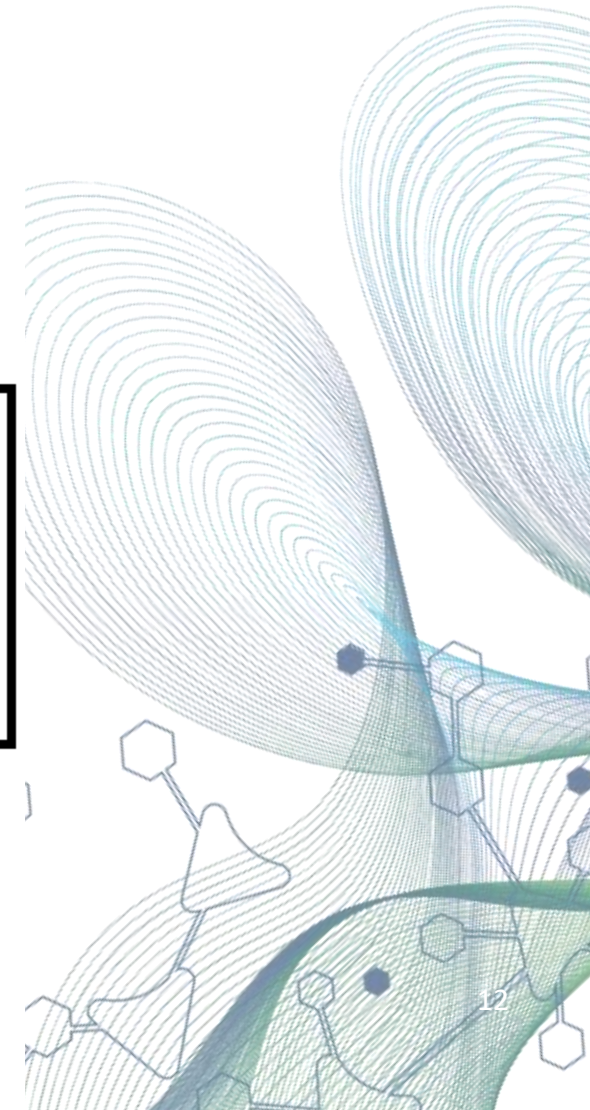
The Alberta Innovates Graduate Student Scholarships program (GSS) is designed to enable these promising students to succeed in emerging technology areas of scientific research which are strategically important to Alberta. These areas are Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Advanced Materials and Manufacturing (AMM) technologies in and of themselves or which additionally support the innovation priority areas of Environment, Energy, Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Health.

Further explanation of the eligible Emerging Technology Areas of Research can be found [here](#).

Please note: If the student's project involves developing or advancing an emerging technology (ET) listed [here](#), it is considered development (eligible). The primary objective must be the advancement of the ET itself, rather than improvements in other products. Conversely, if the project involves developing a technology that is not an ET but utilizes ET as a tool, it would be categorized as the use of ET (ineligible), rather than ET development.



The scholarship is intended to support the recipient in concentrating his/her full-time attention to the proposed research. In addition to living expenses, tuition, etc., recipients are encouraged to use a portion of the scholarship for the following:





# Benefit to Alberta

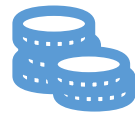
What do you hope to achieve from your research and how does that benefit Alberta?



Environmental



Health



Economic



Social



Other Impacts

What is the potential for your technology/proposed solution to be adopted in Alberta and beyond?



# Engagement with Industry

- Relevant Industry experiences
  - Involvement of industry
  - Industry partnerships
  - Likelihood of work being published, IP produced, commercialization?
  - Applicant working on a project that is directly for an industry client?



Government of Alberta, Alberta Innovates, and Post-Secondary Investments and Emerging Technologies (PSIET) priorities. **The applicant must clearly articulate in the application how the results of the research can produce potential environmental, health, economic, social and other impacts for Alberta.** For example, the applicant can demonstrate knowledge generated from this research could be applied specifically to Alberta's current or emerging industries, current environmental or health challenges facing Alberta, etc.

**Additionally, applicants must articulate in the application regarding how they will engage with industry in their graduate studies, and how they will develop their professional skills during the project.**

For example, students may engage with industry member(s) through informal or formal consultation, feedback gathering, informal and formal mentorships with industry professionals/ entrepreneurs, discussing pain points with industry, testing, proof of concept demonstration, industry-academic workshops, research partnerships, career fairs, conferences, etc.

Professional skills developed can include leadership, communication, collaboration and entrepreneurship.

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine fit with the Graduate Student Scholarship program objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

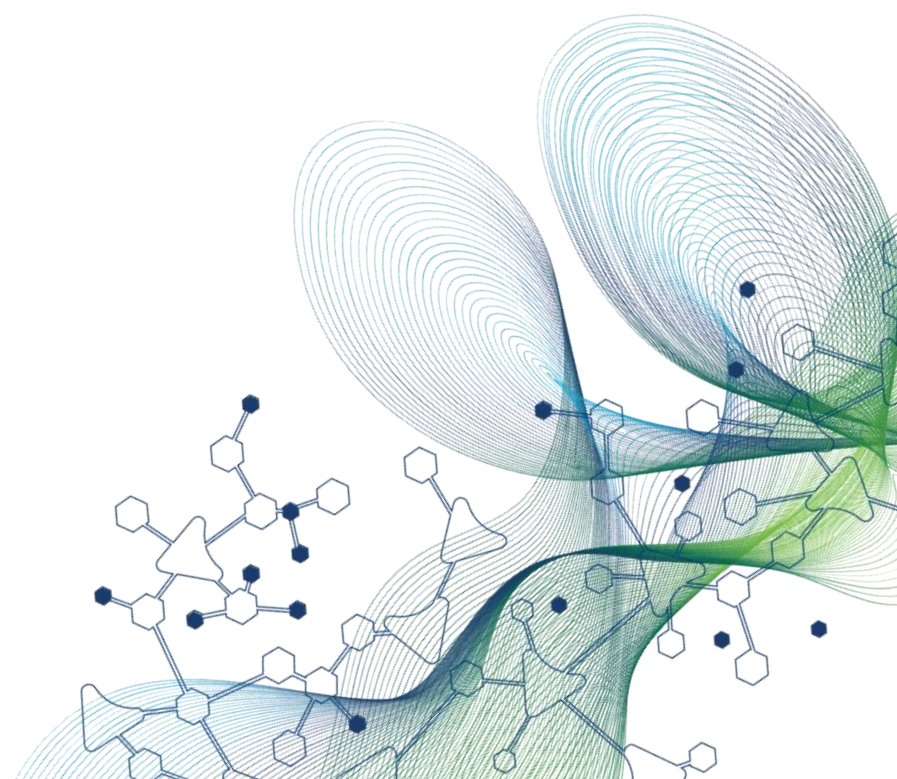
## Start Date:

Recipients may choose to commence the GSS on September 1, 2025, or January 1, 2026, subject to the rules and regulations governing graduate awards at the chosen university.

## Location of Award



# THANK YOU





# Questions

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