

REES Department Funding

The Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology makes every effort to secure funding support of up to \$24,000 per year for our graduate students. This funding is expected to cover the costs of tuition and living expenses. Additional funds to support the costs of conducting research, and participation in conferences, are provided when possible. Sources of funding for each student generally involve one of a combination of the following: [External Scholarships and Awards](#), [Department-administered Scholarships and Awards](#), [Graduate Research Assistantships](#), and [Teaching Assistantships](#). Each of these is described below:

External Scholarships and Awards:

Numerous organizations offer scholarships and awards for graduate studies, at both the Master's and the Ph.D. level, including for example, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Candidates develop proposals with the assistance of Department Faculty, and awards are adjudicated on a competitive basis by the sponsoring organizations. Many of these awards are very prestigious, and usually support a student for the duration of their studies. Deadlines vary by organization.

Department-administered Awards and Scholarships:

The Department administers a number of graduate student support awards internally. These awards are usually adjudicated by a Departmental Committee on a competitive basis and are not project specific.

Numerous other graduate awards are administered by the Faculty of ALES and Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research (FGSR) and can be found [here](#).

Graduate Research Assistantships:

Most of our graduate students are supported by a Graduate Student Assistantship, involving participation on a team research project led by one of our Faculty members, and can range in duration from one to four years.

Teaching Assistantships:

Teaching Assistantships are short-term source of funding, usually one term in length, involving assignment to a course taught by a department faculty member.

Department-administered Awards and Scholarships:

All awards below are administered by the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. All incoming and continuing full-time registered students enrolled in graduate programs of the department will be automatically considered for these awards unless otherwise stated. The amount of the awards ranges from \$200 to over \$2000.

[Brett Cortus Memorial Graduate Scholarship](#)

Brett Cortus successfully defended his M.Sc. thesis in Agricultural and Resource Economics in July 2005. His thesis was posthumously awarded honourable mention in the American Agricultural Economics Association annual Master's thesis competition in 2006. Brett was instrumental in organizing the first Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology Students' Association (REESSA), invited visiting speakers to the Department and coordinated the first REESSA entry in the Edmonton Dragon Boat competition. Brett was an athlete, often bicycling between Banff and Jasper

on his summer holidays. Recognizing his passion for environmental stewardship in agriculture, this scholarship was created by his family, friends and colleagues.

Copeland Graduate Scholarship

Jim Copeland, who retired as a Faculty Services Officer in 2005, was an institution within the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology. He completed an M.Sc. in the Department in 1974 under the supervision of Dr. Murray Hawkins. He was one of the main drivers behind the creation of the Department's first computer network, coming in to string wires throughout the floor on weekends. He kept the computers and software in the Department up to scratch, providing support to research and teaching.

Jim was extremely helpful to numerous generations of graduate students and to our faculty over his career. At the time of his retirement, friends and colleagues made donations to a graduate student scholarship fund in the Department.

(B.J.) McBain Graduate Scholarship

Endowed by Mr. B.J. McBain, a graduate from the Department of Rural Economy (now the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology), to his alma mater to support graduate students in 'the economics of food and agriculture' in the Department.

Eligibility Criteria

One scholarship awarded annually to a graduate student of outstanding academic merit interested in pursuing research in the economics of food and agriculture, for the purpose of encouraging and supporting applied research and development that will be of direct benefit to primary producers of basic food products in Western Canada. Applicants must be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

Application Process

The scholarship is available to incoming or continuing full-time graduate students in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology (REES). All eligible students entering the graduate program in REES will be considered for the award. The scholarship may be offered to the same student for a second year. Awards offered for a second year at the Master's level may be offered for a maximum of 8 months.

Hawkins Graduate Research Award

Endowed by agri-business, colleagues and friends in honour of Dr. Murray Hawkins who retired from the Department of Rural Economy in December of 1990 after twenty-three years of service. Professor Murray Hawkins was the first person to earn a graduate degree from what was then called the Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management in 1964, a time when there were only two other graduate students and three professors in the Department. He went to Ohio State University for his PhD and returned to a faculty position in the Department in 1967. Murray stayed with the Department until 1989 when he went to Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, to be Director of the Muresk Institute. The Murray and Pauline Hawkins Research Scholarship was originally established in the early 1990s to provide assistance for a graduate student to extend and present their work at a professional conference, but more recently is awarded to winners of the Department's 3 Minute Thesis Proposal Competition held in September each year.

Unterschultz Memorial Graduate Scholarship

In the year of 2015, our dear friend, teacher, mentor and peer, Dr. Jim Unterschultz, passed away. Jim loved what he did. He loved the science, the exploration and the thrill of applying his knowledge of agriculture and economics to questions posed by students, business managers, extension and research peers and industry. In the memory of Dr. Jim Unterschultz, his colleagues, friends and alumni started the Unterschultz Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Ag Business Management.