



UNIVERSITY  
of Prince Edward  
ISLAND

# **Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards**

## **Annual Report for Senate**

**2022 - 2023 Academic Year**

**Presented to**

**University of Prince Edward Island Senate**

**October 25, 2023**

### **Executive Summary**

The UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards (SCSA) - Annual Report for Senate provides a yearly snapshot of the scholarships, awards, and other forms of financial aid disbursed and a brief analysis of the figures reported. As outlined in the Terms of Reference for the UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards (SCSA), the Committee submits an annual report to Senate detailing relevant activities and initiatives between the SCSA and the Scholarships, Awards and Financial Aid office. In a return to past submissions, the 2022-2023 report information breaks down the number of recipients, number of awards granted, overall disbursement values, and year over year changes across various types and high-level categories of available award opportunities for UPEI students. Overall, figures have maintained a steady upward trend year over year, particularly in criteria-based awards and provincial bursaries; however, the 2022-2023 year saw a dip in automatic merit-based award disbursements. The small (5%) drop appears to be the result of a culmination of factors ranging from COVID-19 and labour disruption implications to eligibility reporting process enhancements. Highlights of the report also include new award developments, notably a number in support of Indigenous students, and a brief accounting of projects and initiatives prioritized over the last few years within the Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office, which resulted in limited reporting beyond numeric publications.

### **UPEI by the Numbers: Scholarships, Awards, & Financial Aid**

Over the 2022-2023 academic year, the Scholarships, Awards and Financial Aid office disbursed over \$14 million dollars in funding across UPEI, donor, provincial, and other governmental or project sources of financial award assistance through a combination of annual, endowed, special purpose, and project-level accounts. The figures exclude student loans and funding that students may receive through external awards or sponsorship programs. A one-time Student Impact Payment was disbursed due to the labour disruption, totalling \$2,874,025, which is included in the overall annual tally tables below as a supplemental total. Although important to factor into the annual figures, the Student Impact Payment has been excluded from the deeper award type review and analysis in order to compare and contrast with the last academic year for consistency. In so doing, the 2022-2023 academic year can be described as generally on par with the last four years, while still seeing growth in the number of awards and overall value being granted to UPEI students.

## UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards: 2022-2023 Annual Report

Academic Year	Number of Unique Recipients	Number of Awards Granted	Total Value	% Change in Unique Recipients (2021-2022)	% Change in Awards Granted (2021-2022)
2019-2020	2,915	5,512	\$9.0M		
2020-2021	3,096	5,856	\$10.0M	6%	6%
2021-2022	3,260	6,697	\$11.3M	5%	14%
2022-2023	3,175	6,715	\$12.0M	-3%	0%
2022-2023 (Student Impact Payment <i>included</i> )	12,039	5,555	\$14.9M	70%	80%

### A. 2022-2023 Award Types & Figures

Each award type listed is further described and reviewed in subsequent sections. The following roll-up table illustrates a breakdown of the number and value of awards granted, as well as the number of unique recipients and the year over year percentage change. As students are only eligible for one automatic merit-based award each year, the number of awards and recipients will be the same. This differs from the criteria-based awards and provincial bursaries, as students may be eligible for multiple awards within each of those high-level types (e.g., one recipient may be granted multiple criteria-based awards).

Award Type	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2021-2022)
Automatic Merit-Based Awards	1,568	1,568	\$1,884,000.00	-5%
Criteria-Based Awards	1,758	1,174	\$3,696,559.75	4%
Provincial Bursaries	3,389	2,008	\$6,231,551.00	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,715</b>	<b>3,175</b>	<b>\$11,812,110.75</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<i>Total (Student Impact Payment included)</i>	<i>12,039</i>	<i>5,555</i>	<i>\$14,910,574.00</i>	<i>70%</i>

### B. Automatic Merit-Based Awards

Automatic Merit-Based Awards encompass the UPEI Celebrating Student Achievement Awards program, which represents academic-based awards that students are automatically considered for based on their first-year admission (i.e., Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships & International Entrance Awards), or earned based on their academic performance in the preceding year of undergraduate studies (i.e., Academic Excellence Awards). Entrance awards are supported by the domestic and international admission areas of the Registrar's Office, and all automatic merit-based awards are managed by the Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office.

## UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards: 2022-2023 Annual Report

Award Type	Number of Unique Recipients/Awards Granted	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2021-2022)
Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship	465	\$725,500.00	0%
International Entrance Award	21	\$35,000.00	-42%
Academic Excellence Award	1,082	\$1,123,500.00	-6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>\$1,884,000.00</b>	<b>-5%</b>

Although the percent change for the International Entrance and Academic Excellence Awards appears significant, the actual difference from last year is fewer than 90 recipients in total. The overall 5% decline may be explained by a variety of factors, including potential academic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on entering and early year students, who have gone through the majority of secondary and post-secondary learning under restrictions and various models of learning. There may also be implications to factor into the slight decline such as registration changes that impact student eligibility, which were noticeably high in the last two years though dropped from nearly 90 to under 50 for 2022-2023, and as an outcome of pass/fail options chosen by students as a result of the labour disruption. The Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office reporting processes for Academic Excellence Awards have continued to enhance year over year, which has resulted in improvements to accuracy around eligibility, though this too may contribute to a balancing effect in the figures. Although anecdotal in nature, these factors are included to help contextualize the data.

### C. Criteria-Based Awards

Criteria-based awards include UPEI, AVC, and donor-funded awards that have set, specific criteria which recipients must meet, ranging from academic requirements, athletic team participation, program or Faculty enrollment, student types, demonstrated areas of interest or engagement, to a combination of all the above. These awards may require an application, a nomination or recommendation, a combination of both, or may be solely based on achievement. The array of criteria can range from very specific to broad and diverse, which make them competitive by nature, requiring adjudication through Faculty or departmental committees as well as review, adjudication, and/or final approval processes as overseen by SCSA.

Award Type	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2021-2022)
Athletic Financial Aid	107	107	\$377,547.00	-4%
AVC Awards	170	122	\$386,798.00	3%
UPEI Awards	1,481	988	\$2,932,214.75	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,758</b>	<b>1,174</b>	<b>\$3,696,559.75</b>	<b>4%</b>

**UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards: 2022-2023 Annual Report**

The criteria-based awards continue to increase in the number granted and in the array of recipients due to overall increases in the number of available awards and administrative process enhancements. Growth in the criteria-based awards category has historically been exponential and has continued during the 2022-2023 year as shown in the New Awards and Initiatives section below. Specific to the small decrease in athletic awards, the figure breaks down to a decrease of five recipients, which can be attributable to factors like award discontinuations and athletes who may need to improve their academic standing for a given year before funding is applicable.

**D. Provincial Bursaries**

The Government of Prince Edward Island offers PEI residents several grants, bursaries, and awards in support of students’ post-secondary education. The Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office partners with the province to oversee the non-repayable George Coles Bursary (GCB) and the non-repayable, need-based Island Advantage Bursary (IAB) programs for residents completing their first undergraduate degree. Effective this year, the IAB was disentangled from the GCB assessments by including it with student loan assessments where need-based software is better employed and where students can apply for the bursary with their loan, effectively helping to reduce student debt. Additionally, the value of the GCB moved from \$2,200 to \$2,600 effective for 2022-2023 in recognition of the bursary program’s success. The changes implemented better support eligible students and have resulted in a 13% increase in disbursed funds from the previous year.

Award Type	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2021-2022)	% Change in Award Value (2021-2022)
<b>George Coles Bursary</b>	1,716	1,667	\$4,009,700.00	4%	20%
<b>Island Advantage Bursary</b>	1,673	906	\$2,221,851.00	-3%	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,389</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>\$6,231,551.00</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>13%</b>

**E. New Awards and Initiatives**

The following table provides a listing of new award records that were established for 2022-2023 implementation, including donor- and university-funded awards through annual donations, endowed or special purpose funds, or specific project or research funds. Emerging themes from new award developments include a focus on supporting Indigenous students and underrepresented groups and areas of campus.

## UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards: 2022-2023 Annual Report

Award Title	Award Category	Account Type	Award Value
Adam and Sonya Balderston Awards	Donor	Annual	\$1,000
Ann Muriel Andrews Memorial Scholarships	Donor	Annual	\$1,000
AURA (Arts University Research Award Full-Time)	Donor	Special Purpose	\$6,000
AURA (Arts University Research Award Part-Time)	Donor	Special Purpose	\$3,000
AVC Class of '23 Award for Mental Health Stewardship	Donor	Annual	\$500
Diaspora Award	Donor	Annual	\$1,000
Long & McQuade Award of Excellence	Donor	Annual	\$500
TD Insurance Engineers PEI Indigenous Student Award	Donor	Endowed	\$1,000 (minimum)
Tronosjet Manufacturing and ACADA Award	Donor	Annual	\$2,000 (minimum)
SJDAWC Animal Welfare Student Travel Awards	AVC	Project	Varies
Bachelor of Education (français langue seconde) Practicum Travel Bursary	UPEI	Annual	\$2,000
IKERAS PhD Student Bursary	UPEI	Annual	\$4,000 (maximum)
L'nui'suti Bursary	UPEI	Annual	Annual course tuition & fees (IKE-2010)
Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplement	UPEI	Project	\$6,000
Reconnecting with Culture and Ceremony	UPEI	Project	Varies
Student Impact Payment (AVC)	UPEI	Annual	Varies
Student Impact Payment (MC)	UPEI	Annual	Varies
UPEI Student Adversity Entrance Scholarship	UPEI	Annual	Annual full-time international fee

New initiatives to report are inherently tied to a significant number of changes in the Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office over the past few years. Changes have included operational reporting structure modifications and an office staff compliment increase, both of which have enabled the office to analyze, assess, and prioritize a variety of initiatives to enhance student support services. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Developed a housing mechanism for all award data in Colleague (UPEI's student information system) to track, report, and centralize information, and maximized system features for improved student communication;
- Developed and launched the online scholarship and award application portal;
- Established and formalized a variety of procedures and guidelines in support of efficiency, transparency, fairness & equity;
- Standardized annual award reporting methodologies.

## **UPEI Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards: 2022-2023 Annual Report**

During this same period, the University's provincial partners in PEI Student Financial Services also experienced changes that led to a new group reviewing the provincial bursary program processes and practices. Collaboration between our offices, including UPEI's Student Financial Services, has strengthened and the partnership continues having a positive impact on students from increasing recipient numbers to enhancing communication and procedure. The foundational initiatives that have been completed or have begun over the last couple of years have engaged various areas across campus, and any progress or achievements are, therefore, shared with the greater UPEI team. In collaboration with SCSA members and a new Associate Vice-President, Students and Registrar, who will chair the committee in the near future, our expectation is that we continue on a progressive trajectory in how we provide student support through funding and recognition opportunities to further their academic objectives.