



UNIVERSITY
of Prince Edward
ISLAND

Senate Committee on Scholarships and Awards

Annual Report for Senate

2023 - 2024 Academic Year

Presented to

University of Prince Edward Island Senate

November 22, 2024

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. The 2023-2024 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 continued on a steady upward trend year over year, particularly in criteria-based awards and provincial bursary disbursements. Similar to last year's report, 2023-2024 shows a drop in automatic merit-based award disbursements for students entering post-secondary, which may reflect academic outcomes of the COVID-19 pandemic on secondary learning. Highlights of the report include an inaugural look at awards granted by Faculty, in response to Senate feedback from the previous year, as well as new award developments and an account of initiatives and outcomes between SCSA and the Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office.

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

Over the 2024 fiscal year, the University disbursed \$14.4 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, excluding student loans. All other report figures are based on the 2023-2024 academic year and reflect disbursements through the Scholarships, Awards and Financial Aid office. The number of recipients and awards granted figures, therefore, exclude external awards or sponsorship program funds processed as student receivables and as included in the total annual value sourced from the UPEI Financial Statements. This methodology combined with the data collection timeframe difference (i.e., fiscal vs. academic year) accounts for any total value discrepancies. Total value expectations for the year were to see a return to figures below \$14M after the 2022-2023 student impact payments were exhausted; however, substantial value increases to provincial bursary programs combined with increases in external scholarships and research award funds maintained the high total value of UPEI's scholarship expenditure. As a result, the 2023-2024 academic year can be described as returning to the steady growth trend across the number of unique recipients, while the number of awards and overall value being granted to UPEI students continues increasing.

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Academic Year	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Total Value	% Change in Unique Recipients	% Change in Awards Granted
2019-2020	5,512	2,915	\$9.0M		
2020-2021	5,856	3,096	\$10.0M	6%	6%
2021-2022	6,697	3,260	\$11.3M	5%	14%
2022-2023	6,715	3,175	\$12.0M	-3%	0%
2022-2023 (Student Impact Payment included)	12,039	5,555	\$14.9M	70%	80%
2023-2024	6,955	3,275	\$14.4M	3%	4%

A. 2023-2024 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 (2022-2023)
Automatic Merit-Based Awards	1,588	1,588	\$1,841,000.00	1%
Criteria-Based Awards	1,944	1,270	\$4,125,471.73	8%
Provincial Bursaries	3,423	2,030	\$7,470,058.00	1%
Total	6,955	3,275	\$13,436,529.73	3%

B. Automatic Merit-Based Awards

Automatic Merit-Based Awards encompass the UPEI Celebrating Student Achievement Awards program, which represents academic 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.

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Award Title	Number of Unique Recipients/Awards Granted	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients/Awards Granted (2022-2023)
Guaranteed Entrance Scholarship	365	\$536,000.00	-22%
International Entrance Award	26	\$34,500.00	24%
Academic Excellence Award	1,197	\$1,270,500.00	11%
Total	1,588	\$1,841,000.00	1%

The significant percent decrease in Guaranteed Entrance Scholarships granted equates to approximately 100 recipients. Analysis of the award value distribution shows that fewer entering students received higher value scholarships than the previous year with a 28% decline in students being granted \$2,000 and \$3,000 scholarships. As the scholarship values correspond directly to admissions average and the entering class of 2023 experienced the impact of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and various learning models throughout their secondary education, the decrease in higher value scholarships may be an indicator of the experience. A review of domestic enrolment figures as of October 2023 does not indicate a decline that would further contextualize this change. Correspondingly, International Entrance Award recipients increased by 5, though the value of awards granted is \$500 less than the previous year. By comparison, Academic Excellence Awards experienced an increase in both the number of recipients and value of awards granted. The Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office reporting processes for Academic Excellence Awards have continued to enhance year over year, resulting in improvements to accuracy around eligibility. These processes may have a net positive effect in addition to factors such as pass/fail options chosen by students as a result of the labour disruption. This may have had an inflationary effect on some weighted overall averages for 2022-2023, contributing to a general increase in Academic Excellence Awards granted the subsequent year. Although anecdotal in nature, these factors are included to support contextualizing the data and flat total figures.

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 academic achievement. The array of criteria can range from very specific to broad and diverse, which make them largely competitive by nature, requiring adjudication through Faculty or departmental committees as well as review, adjudication, and/or final approval processes as overseen by SCSA.

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Award Type	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2022-2023)
Athletic Financial Aid	117	117	\$403,789.80	9%
AVC Awards	180	121	\$575,011.00	-1%
UPEI Awards	1,647	1,075	\$3,146,670.93	9%
Total	1,944	1,270	\$4,125,471.73	8%

The criteria-based awards continue to increase year over year 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 2023-2024 year as shown in the New Awards and Initiatives section below. Specific to the small decrease in unique AVC award recipients, the figure represents a decline of only one recipient; however, the number and value of awards granted have increased by 10 and over \$100,000 respectively. The small increase in Athletic financial aid may be attributable to factors such as athletes earning their Athletic Financial Aid funds by improving their academic standing and fully funded athletes maximizing their allowable course loads across the academic year.

D. Faculty-Based Awards

In response to Senate feedback on the 2022-2023 Annual Report, a faculty-based awards section had been introduced to begin reviewing data at the Faculty level. Information outlined in the table below illustrates awards that have criteria specific to a Faculty or programs within a Faculty. The “Multiple Faculty” category represents award criteria that spans across two or more Faculties. Funding sources are either UPEI or University donors.

Faculty	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted
Arts	163	127	\$482,970.00
Education	74	66	\$110,449.00
Graduate Studies	104	91	\$238,498.36
Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research and Applied Studies (IKERAS)	32	32	\$25,941.80
Nursing	233	141	\$288,344.96
Science	145	108	\$320,015.00
Sustainable Design Engineering	66	52	\$73,930.00
Business	72	55	\$122,015.00
Veterinary Medicine	180	121	\$575,011.00
Multiple Faculties	26	25	\$77,420.01

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By incorporating an initial snapshot of granted awards per Faculty, the report can expand year-over-year to demonstrate changes in award makeup over time. Of note is the fact that although faculty-based awards comprise a large portion of the criteria-based awards category, there are a significant number of scholarships, awards, and particularly bursaries that do not specify Faculty or program area, corresponding more to student type, leadership and/or involvement, and financial need.

E. 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. In recognition of the George Coles Bursary program’s success, the value of the bursary moved from \$2,600 to \$3,000 effective for 2023-2024. The successful process changes implemented over the past few years better support eligible students reducing their debt load and have resulted in a 20% increase in disbursed funds from the previous year.

Bursary Title	Number of Awards Granted	Number of Unique Recipients	Value of Awards Granted	% Change in Unique Recipients (2022-2023)	% Change in Award Value (2022-2023)
George Coles Bursary	1,779	1,697	\$4,669,300.00	2%	16%
Island Advantage Bursary	1,644	884	\$2,800,758.00	-2%	26%
Total	3,423	2,030	\$7,470,058.00	1%	20%

F. New Awards and Initiatives

The following table provides a listing of new award records that were established for 2023-2024 implementation, including donor- and University-funded awards through annual donations, endowed or special purpose funds, or specific project or research funds. Continuing themes from new award developments include a focus on supporting specific program areas, Indigenous students, students demonstrating various leadership capabilities, and financial need.

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Award Title	Award Category	Faculty	Account Type	Award Value
Applied Human Sciences Equitable & Inclusive Access Award	Donor	Science	Annual	\$1,000
Cecil and Mark Ladner Memorial Awards	Donor	Business	Endowed	Minimum of \$1,000
Dr. Norma Jean Murphy Master of Nursing Award	Donor	Nursing	Endowed	Varies
Edwin Darby and Margaret Bishop-Darby Scholarship	Donor	Science	Endowed	Minimum of \$1,000
G. Louise Hessian B.Ed. Entrance Scholarships	Donor	Education	Endowed	Minimum of \$5,000
Graduate Research Awards	UPEI	Graduate Studies	Project	Varies
International Student Dietetic Internship Fellowship	UPEI	Science	Annual	Half of annual international course tuition & fees
Mary "Eleanor" Darrach Awards	Donor	N/A	Special Purpose	\$1,000
Mary Edna (Sinnott) Murphy Memorial Scholarship	Donor	Nursing	Endowed	Varies
NCPEI Scholarship for Indigenous Knowledge, Education, Research and Applied Studies	Donor	N/A	Annual	\$1,000
Netuklimuk (Way of Life) Indigenous Student Awards	Donor	N/A	Annual	\$1,000
Patrick Joseph McDonald Memorial Award	Donor	Multiple	Annual	Minimum of \$500
Prince Edward Island Law Society/Law Foundation Epekwitnewa'j Mi'kmaw (a Mi'kmaq Prince Edward Islander) Student Award	Donor	N/A	Annual	\$1,000
Walker Wood Foundation Renewable AVC Scholarship	Donor	Veterinary Medicine	Annual	\$15,000
Westland Insurance Business Student Award	Donor	Business	Annual	\$1,000

In advance of the 2023-2024 academic year, the SCSA terms of reference were refreshed and membership was renewed, including the development of two new positions for one Faculty dean and one graduate student. The terms of reference modification enabled a number of committee enhancements, such as annual meeting and adjudication schedule standardization & alignment with Senate; membership onboarding and training initiatives; award review and applicant adjudication process enhancements, and guideline development for improved applicant equity and fairness measures. Committee membership and engagement has also resulted in capacity enhancements to manage the increasing application load generated from the

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online scholarship and award application portal and enhanced advertising initiatives. Outcomes from these synchronous measures include an over 30% increase in fall and winter award cycle application submissions. The ability of SCSA members and support staff in the Scholarships, Awards, and Financial Aid office to oversee this increase while continuing to develop and enhance processes is a testament to the commitment all have in supporting funding and recognition opportunities that further student's academic objectives.