

Queen's University Renewable Awards Policy 2020-2021

Approved by the Senate Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid

November 24, 2020

1. Renewal Process Overview

This renewal process is designed to provide guidance while recognizing the current unprecedented challenges being faced as a result of COVID-19. As previously communicated most courses will be delivered remotely and every effort is being made to avoid negatively impacting academic requirements. This policy adjustment will supplement the existing [renewable awards policy](#) for the 2020-21 academic year only.

Late May, after Fall and Winter terms grades are available the Student Awards Office will send students an email to their Queen's email address with the status of their renewal. If the award is renewed the funds will be applied to the student's SOLUS account in two equal disbursements (in August for the Fall term; and in December for the Winter term). If the award is suspended or terminated, the student will be provided instructions on the appeal process and the date to appeal by - generally the date to appeal is approximately the middle of June. Appeal decisions are communicated back to the student by mid-July.

The following renewal criteria will be in effect as of September 2020 for students enrolled in the 2020- 2021 academic year. The policies described herein define what criteria students must meet in 2020-2021 in order to have their award(s) renewed for the 2021-2022 academic year.

2. Requirements for Renewal

2.1 Awards based on Academic Merit and/or Demonstrated Financial Need: Awards will be automatically renewed provided that students have successfully:

- Met the minimum grade point average (GPA) based on the terms of their award (For 2020-21 refer below)
- Completed a full-time course load (For 2020-21 this means a 60% course load – typically 18 units in Fall/Winter)
- Remained in good academic standing within their faculty
- If applicable, satisfied all other renewal criteria (ie. Continue to demonstrate financial need for need-based awards)

For awards that require community service as a condition of renewal, please note, community service in 2020-2021 will not be a mandatory criterion for renewal.

2.2 Award Terms and Minimum GPA: To qualify for renewal the GPA will be determined on all courses attempted even where the student is registered in a greater number of units than required for renewal consideration. Please see section 3 for details on what happens when a minimum GPA is not met.

2.2.1 – Academic Excellence: Students in receipt of scholarships/awards granted on the basis of academic excellence are usually expected to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.5. **For 2020-21 only**, that threshold has been reduced to 3.0. There are a few awards (e.g. D & R Sobey Atlantic Admission Award, Melvin R. Goodes Admission Award) where the students are expected to strive towards academic excellence and, as such, are granted a year to transition to the

expected threshold. These students are expected to achieve a minimum GPA of 3.0 in first year and 3.5 in subsequent years. **For 2020-21 only**, this has been reduced to 2.7 in first year.

2.2.2 – Academic Achievement: Students in receipt of awards granted on the basis of academic achievement are expected to achieve a minimum GPA of 2.7. **For 2020-21 only**, this has been reduced to 2.0.

2.2.3 – Need- Based Bursary: Students in receipt of need-based bursaries where the primary criterion for renewal is financial need, students are normally required to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 (e.g. Wasmund Family Awards, Robert and Eva (Bertram) Cole Bursaries). **For 2020-21 only**, this has been changed so that there is no minimum GPA, a student must remain in good academic standing within their faculty.

2.3 Athletic Financial Awards: To be eligible for renewal of an Athletic Financial Award (AFA) the student must satisfy the course load expectations of the U SPORTS and the OUA (Ontario University Athletics). This means the student must be registered full-time (60% course load – typically 9 units in the Fall and 9 units in the Winter; course load averaging is not permitted).

Athletic excellence is defined in the Athlete Student Agreement and the assessment is determined by the Head Coach. Minimum GPA 2.7 or above. Appeals regarding the failure to satisfy the athletic excellence criterion for an AFA will be reviewed by the Executive Director of Athletics and Recreation.

3. Academic Thresholds and Renewal

Based on the terms (academic excellence, academic achievement, need-based bursary) and a student’s academic performance (GPA), an award can be automatically renewed, renewed with academic warning, suspended or terminated. The charts below detail the GPA requirements for award renewal, renewal with academic warning, and suspension.

3.1 – Renew: Scholar has remained in good academic standing and, if appropriate, has satisfied all other renewal criteria.

Description	Regular Required GPA	2020-21 Required GPA
Academic Excellence	GPA > or = 3.5	GPA > or = 3.0
Transition to Academic Excellence*	GPA > or = 3.0	GPA > or = 2.7
Academic Achievement	GPA > or = 2.7	GPA > or = 2.0
Need-Based Bursary	GPA > or = 2.0	Good academic standing within faculty
Athletic Financial Award	GPA > or = 2.7	GPA > or = 2.7

3.2 – Renew with Academic Warning: Generally, student are granted one renewal with academic warning for the duration of the degree program. In subsequent years, scholars who previously received an academic warning are renewed, suspended or terminated depending on their progress.

Description	Regular Required GPA	2020-21 Required GPA
Academic Excellence	GPA 3.0 – 3.49	GPA 2.7 – 3.0
Transition to Academic Excellence*	GPA 2.7 – 3.29	GPA 2.3 – 2.7

Academic Achievement	GPA 2.3 – 2.69	GPA 1.7 – 2.0
Need-Based Bursary	GPA 1.7 – 1.99	Good academic standing within faculty
Athletic Financial Award	NA	NA

3.3 Suspend: A student’s award will be suspended if their academic performance is minimal, or if he/she did not meet the expected academic threshold after having received an academic warning. A student whose award is suspended may have the award reinstated if the academic performance in the immediately following academic year satisfies the defined criteria for renewal. Students with an AFA will be eligible to have the award reinstated at any time during the first four years of their undergraduate degree program at Queen’s University.

Description	Regular Suspension GPA	2020-21 Suspension GPA
Academic Excellence	GPA < 3.0	GPA < 2.7
Transition to Academic Excellence*	NA	GPA < 2.3
Academic Achievement	GPA < 2.3	GPA < 1.7
Need-Based Bursary	GPA < 1.7	Failed to maintain good academic standing within faculty
Athletic Financial Award	GPA < 2.7	GPA < 2.7

3.4 Terminate: A student will have their award terminated if he/she has not been successful in meeting the minimum established thresholds in the term in which the award was suspended. Once an award has been terminated the student is not eligible to regain the award. A student who was suspended in the previous year or who is entering the final year of their award and fails to meet required expectations will have his/her award terminated.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Terminate (if thresholds not met in term award suspended)</i>
Academic Excellence	GPA < 3.0
Transition to Academic Excellence*	N/A
Academic Achievement	GPA < 2.3
Need-based Bursary	GPA < 1.7
Athletic Financial Award	GPA < 2.7– Year 4 only

* Transition to Academic Excellence: refers to those awards where it is recognized a student may require an additional year to meet the academic excellence threshold (e.g. D & R Sobey Atlantic Scholarship, Melvin R. Goodes Admission Award). In subsequent years students must meet the threshold for renewal.

4. Exchange Students

Where a student completed one term at Queen’s and one term at a partner institution the renewal will be based on the term completed at Queen’s (as indicated in the Requirements for Renewal in section 2 above).

Where a student participated in a full year exchange, renewable awards will be automatically renewed.

5. Appeals

Students who do not meet the identified renewal thresholds may submit a written appeal (email from Queen's email account is acceptable) to the Senate Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid (SCSSA) after receiving their renewal decision. Information provided will not be forwarded to any other Department or Faculty at the University. All documentation submitted will be destroyed in a confidential manner at the completion of the appeal process.

Updated: November 13, 2020