

**Call for Proposals**  
**Research on Urban Alberta Neighbourhoods and Communities**  
**by, Open Data Centre for Alberta Urban Real Estate**  
hosted at the Department of Economics, *University of Alberta*  
with Grant Funding from the *Alberta Real Estate Foundation*

*Deadline for submissions of proposals: May 15, 2024*

## **Introduction**

The *Open Data Centre for Alberta Urban Real Estate*, <https://realestatedata.srv.ualberta.ca>, was established as a joint effort between the Department of Economics, University of Alberta and the Alberta Real Estate Foundation (AREF). Launched in the fall of 2023, the Centre hopes to reduce statistical barriers for researchers in all fields, policy makers and real-estate industry professionals to conduct data-driven studies on Alberta's urban communities and neighbourhoods. It does so by collecting, integrating, and disseminating visually and in bulk formats, an extensive collection of data for the cities of Calgary and Edmonton, covering properties, assessments, building activity, listings, land transfers, neighbourhood profiles, public services and amenities, local businesses and more.

Being hosted in a higher education institution, the Centre is keen on encouraging university student research on urban Alberta to help launch our next generation of community and real-estate industry leaders. In this call for proposals, the Centre outlines the first yearly student research competitions that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Successful proposals will each receive a **\$500 grant**, while final winners will each receive a **\$2,000 prize**.

## **We welcome all areas of research on urban Alberta**

We welcome research in all areas on Alberta's urban neighbourhoods and communities, whether they are related to real estate or not. Local economy, equality, urban issues, urban design, public services, quality of life, and all other subject areas are valued. The Centre may publish suggestions of research topics in some years. But applicants are welcome to go beyond those suggestions.

## **Eligibility**

Proposals: All students, graduate and undergraduate, in Alberta-based universities and colleges are eligible for submitting their research proposals. Graduate and undergraduate students are assessed separately. Students can submit their course assignment, thesis, dissertation and other work in progress as proposals as long as they have permissions from their course instructors or supervisors. We do not consider fully-completed work. Up to 8 proposals will be selected in a year; each will receive a \$500 grant. The selected proposals are then invited to submit the final research output, from which up to two winners are selected; each will receive a \$2,000 prize. If the winner agrees, their report will be forwarded to the *Economics Student Inquiry*, an open-access journal edited by the Economics Student Association at the University of Alberta, to be considered for publication.

## Timeline

Deadline for submitting proposals: May 15, 2024. Proposal winners will receive notifications before June 15. The Centre does not provide feedback for proposals that are not selected.

Deadline for submitted completed reports: August 30, 2024.

Time to announce final winners: September 30, 2024

Interested students are invited to submit their proposals to Professor Haifang Huang, [haifang.huang@ualberta.ca](mailto:haifang.huang@ualberta.ca). More information about the Data Centre and the student research competition can be found at <https://realestatedata.srv.ualberta.ca>.

## Submission and evaluation process

A submitted proposal should have the following:

- Names and contact information of student researchers, including their school affiliation.
- Declaration on whether the submitted proposal is related to a course assignment, or thesis/dissertation that is being completed for the fulfillment of the requirements for a degree. If it is, the student researcher will need to submit a declaration that the course instructor or supervisor has agreed that they can submit the work as a proposal for the competition. Please also provide the instructor/supervisor's name and contact information.
- Title of Project
- Motivation of the research including research questions and contribution to the literature or to public knowledge on urban Alberta
- Proposed methodology including detailed data requirements and how the research makes use of the data collection of the *Open Data Centre for Alberta Urban Real Estate*
- Expected outputs. Standard outputs are just essays; other forms of outputs such as maps, new datasets, and videos/animation, are also welcome.

Proposals will be assessed by two faculty members at the University of Alberta. Selection will be based on:

- Scientific merit and viability of the proposed research;
- Focus on urban Alberta
- Demonstrated need for using data provided by *Open Data Centre for Alberta Urban Real Estate*;
- Expertise and ability of the researchers to carry out the research.

<b>Proposals should be submitted to <a href="mailto:haifang.huang@ualberta.ca">haifang.huang@ualberta.ca</a> by May 15, 2024</b>
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