Call for Proposals
Research on Urban Alberta Neighbouroods 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 19, 2025

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, 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 a yearly student research competition that is open to both undergraduate and graduate students. Successful proposals will each receive a **$500 grant**, while two final winners will each receive up to **$3,000**.

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. First prize receives $3,000. Second prize receives $2,000.

Timeline

Deadline for submitting proposals: May 19, 2025. Proposal winners will receive notifications before June 20. The Centre does not provide feedback for proposals that are not selected.

Deadline for submitted completed reports: August 30, 2025.

Time to announce final winners: September 30, 2025

Interested students are invited to submit their proposals to Professor Haifang Huang, 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.

Proposals should be submitted to haifang.huang@ualberta.ca by May 19, 2025