

Survey Report: Tuition Increases and
Funding Cuts
March 15, 2021
Prepared for President Joel Agarwal



Overview

From March 5 to 11, the UASU ran a simple two-question consultation survey on the Perks platform. Titled 'Let's Talk Tuition,' the survey reached 1013 respondents who provided 42,000 words of text responses. This report selects a few dozen representative or noteworthy quotes. We note three overwhelming trends:

- Concern about personal and family finances in the short and long term, tied to educational futures, food insecurity, job availability, and supporting children and other dependents.
- Special discontent among STEM students across all years of study.
- Many unprompted references to leaving UAlberta or the province.

"This month, the Board of Governors approved another 7% tuition increase. That means domestic tuition will go up at least \$400 next year. Will this affect you? If so, can you tell us about that?"



"Yes this will affect me. As a newly married couple my husband and I are both full time students with part time jobs, myself with two part time jobs to try and make rent. This is more than we spend on groceries and gas in a month. With such a tight budget we will have to cut out nutritious food, supplemental vitamins, pet care, try to decrease our utilities and pick up more shifts during school. Our mental health during this pandemic has already deteriorated as I am also a frontline worker. School is becoming more and more stressful." - 2nd year Nursing student

"Yes, I am a single mother of 3. The government has already cut 6000 of grants for low income learners. Every dollar matters." - 4th year Arts student

"For my course load, I'll experience a \$700 increase which is a huge financial toll." - 2nd year Engineering student

"Yes. I'm already broke, can't find a job, food prices are on the rise, rent is going up. It's cold and heating is expensive." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I'm part of the large subset of students that rely heavily on loans and scholarships to pay for my education, and every increase makes budgeting tighter. To put it into perspective, \$400 is more than half of my monthly living cost. \$400 is roughly what I spend on groceries over 4 months. If I'm lucky and able to purchase secondhand, it would likely cover my textbooks for a semester. The increase alone is almost as much as what tuition for one of my courses costs, meaning I'll be paying roughly the equivalent cost of 11 courses next year but only taking 10. I've been saving up for a while now to finally invest in a high quality winter coat, but I will likely be putting that money towards tuition instead now. I know 400\$ seems like a drop in the bucket for much of the BOG, who are working well-paying full-time jobs, but to the rest of us that could be a major wrench in the plan." - 4th year Science student

"It just makes it more stressful to think about attending university." - 3rd year Science student

"Yes. I would have to take out more student loans as me and my other two sisters are also in university." - graduate student

"For the quality of online education I'm receiving, I don't think this is fair." - 1st year Arts student

"I literally have had to delay graduating for 2 years to work full time to be able to afford to live and pay tuition." - 4th year Arts student

"This means I will likely have to take on student debt, live with my parents longer (which puts financial stress on them too)." - 1st year Arts student

"I am already working 4 days a week and full time in the summer to pay for school. Also, with online learning, the quality of education has decreased along with our access to campus resources. A price increase does not make sense." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Since it is \$400, it will not affect me too significantly, because my family is already having to shell out 1000's of dollars for fees. But it is frustrating because this money

could have been used on textbooks or other school supplies." - 3rd year Science student

"Yes. I already have loans taken out. I was planning on not taking out a loan this coming year to lessen the load, but I don't think I have that option." - 2nd year Science student

"Yes. This increase, in the middle of a pandemic, will drastically impact my education. I am finding it extremely hard to find jobs, and this will add enormous stress." - 3rd year Arts student

"Yes, I already have student loans. Over half of my loans went towards tuition. With covid, I didn't make as much money as I was hoping last summer and it took me four months to find another job after my summer contract ended. I had to apply for a supplementary bursary just to make ends meet." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. I've been working 20 hours a week during the school year and I clock close to 50hr work weeks over the summer to try to pay tuition. This probably means that I'm going to get further away from paying off my tuition before I have to pay interest on it." - 3rd year Education student

"I'm likely going to max out my student loans and struggle to afford food for the year. I'm worried I'm going to have to drop out because I can't come up with the money." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I am paying for my education on my own with no outside support from my parents or government loans. \$400 is equivalent to 27 working hours, those 27 hours take time away from studying and prevents me from doing the best I can." - 1st year Science student

"It means it will take me that much longer to pay back my student loans which prevents me from buying a reliable vehicle and starting a family, both of which are things I dream of having one day." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Unfortunately, the Alberta government decided tuition isn't deductible anymore, so it is essentially going to cost me even more." - 1st year Engineering student

"Yes, why do they need to increase tuition right now. I understand there have been budget cuts but right now everyone is really struggling. Increasing tuition after a year of poor online instruction would be ridiculous." - no faculty or year of study specified

"As an international student, I already pay very high tuition fees for my education. The university budget slashes coupled with an increase in tuition annually makes me very

concerned about the future and puts added stress and financial burden on me. Not happy with the decision made." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Being an international student with a bunch of loans on my parents and my own shoulders is a huge factor of stress already." - 2nd year Science student

"Yes, this will absolutely affect me. I have been a student at the U of A for 7 years and have invested every single cent I have ever made into this institution for my education. I am deeply disturbed that a tuition increase was implemented in the middle of a global pandemic and another one is happening before the pandemic is even over. Student's are among the most financially impacted populations as their main sources of income are typically the industries that have struggled the most (bars, restaurants, etc.). Student loans are already BARELY enough to live off of, and if students have families to support or have spouses (or themselves) that have lost their jobs over the past 12 months, an increase in tuition will essentially cut them off at the knees. As a student that is currently paying MORE in tuition this year while receiving LESS for my money (I have not set foot on campus in 12 months and my own personal expenses have increased), I am appalled that the university is even considering this increase." - graduate student

"Yes it will affect me, as I will use up more of my RESP and not be able to afford grad school." - 3rd year Business student

"Yes, I will not be able to afford it. I am already in a desperate financial situation, I don't know how I will be able to continue." - no faculty or year of study specified

"This will affect me as I will now start to have to pay for school out of pocket. I was born and raised in the NWT so I am fortunate enough to receive funding from the government through grants and for most of my degree it has covered tuition costs. Now tuition is now more than what they are providing to many NWT students that I know who study at the UofA." - 4th year Arts student

"Yay more expensive loans I'll never be able to pay off! It's also annoying because I've had more profs at this university that get paid and don't actually teach then I had at MacEwan." - 2nd year Education student

"That 7% increase is really going to hurt me. I am choosing to do a spring course and then graduating right away as I am losing hope that in person will be worth the wait. I can't afford to lose another 8 months." - 4th year Science student

"As a permanent resident, this will definitely have an impact on my financials. Any increase in tuition is more on the debt I have to pay off once I finish my education." - 3rd year Science student

"Yes, I will be paying more for less of an education due to learning online which has been a horrible experience all around." - 3rd year ALES student

"I can't get any scholarships despite my active volunteering and high GPA and I will be in school for 6 years. \$400 increase may not be THAT much but it'll add up." - 1st year Arts student

"Yes, I hate it \$400 is a lot of money and what's worse is I don't even know what they're going to spend it on. I'd feel different if I knew what it was gonna be used for." - 3rd year Science student

"How [expletive] dare they." - 3rd year Arts student

"This will affect me, as I already spend quite a bit to live in Edmonton, even with room-mates. Generally, my only income is from my Summer job, as I often do not have the time to work while at school." - 4th year Science student

"It'll mean I have to work even more than I already do. And I was already told by a member of the faculty in my department that the amount I was working now, to put myself through school, made it so I wasn't a good enough fit for the program I'm in." - 4th year Arts student

"I am already struggling to pay for school, and I am heavily relying on winning awards this year to be able to afford school and limit further student loan debts. I am going into my 5th year, and had I known how much my tuition could increase over the years, I may not have gone to school here at all. I have also been encouraging my younger sibling to not go to university next year due to the uncertainty about tuition." - 4th year Augustana student

"Yes, it has been extremely hard to acquire volunteer hours during covid, which makes it even more difficult to apply for scholarships." - 1st year Nursing student

"My tuition is now almost \$1000 more than it was two years ago." - 3rd year Engineering student

"Raising tuition will cause me to have to take less classes per term to be able to afford them. This makes my degree last longer than the original 4 years planned." - 3rd year Science student

"I am fortunate enough that my parents pay for my tuition. We've been lucky in that none of us have lost work during the pandemic so while it will still be an inconvenience, we are able to remain relatively unaffected compared to most." - 3rd year Education student

"That's way too much, I'm already over-paying for school and it's all online." - 5th year Science student

"Tuition has already been difficult for me to pay in the past, but this year I am unemployed due to being laid off and currently living off of EI. I am worried that I won't be able to work enough this summer to pay my tuition in Fall 2021," - 3rd year Arts student

"Yes, my parents are immigrants and it is becoming increasingly difficult for people like me and others to keep up with universities." - 4th year Science student

"Yes. I've been laid off twice since covid started and when I did work, it wasn't often. I have savings but I'm depleting them and nothing is going into savings." - no faculty or year of study specified

"With the current shortage of jobs many students, myself included, have not been able to find a job during school. With an increase in tuition I find myself debating whether it is worth it at all anymore to attend university as it will dig me a deeper debt upon completion." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. This will affect me because I am paying for the majority of my tuition. I go to school full time and I work part time and working part time at minimum wage does not even begin to cover what I'm paying now. With that increase it could put me into even more debt." - 1st year Science student

"It will make it so that my parents and I will have to take on extra shifts in order to pay off the extra tuition." - 2nd year Education student

"COVID-19 has affected the finances of many families in Alberta, including my own, and increasing tuition could be a real burden on us. I understand that the university has to increase tuition in order to keep itself running, I just wish they could have spared students an increase in the year after a pandemic...So if I do not get scholarships, where does that leave me? How am I supposed to cover a tuition increase? Even working 6 hours per week as an RA would not cover it." - graduate student

"I live with a single working mother and it was already hard to budget enough money to get a laptop since most proctoring programs require a webcam to work. Tuition just keeps getting higher and higher and I wonder how I'll be able to afford it if it continues to rise." - 1st year ALES student

"Of course it will affect me. I am a single student living on my own, who relies on student loans to pay tuition and living expenses that my part time job doesn't cover." - 2nd year ALES student

"Yes. How the [expletive] am I supposed to afford to finish my degree AND my Master's if tuition keeps increasing? I might actually have to drop out and become a prostitute." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. I'm out of work this year because of COVID and am struggling to save money to pay for school. This increase will make that even harder." - 1st year Arts student

"I thankfully will graduate before most of the tuition horrors unfold, but I feel bad for the students in years below me." - 4th year Engineering student

"Yes. It makes me worry if I can continue attending uni next year." - 3rd year Medicine and Dentistry student

"Yes, I'm on student loans and it's the worst thing that could happen to me right now." - 1st year Engineering student

"At this point if the tuition prices continue to rise I probably won't have enough money to move out of my parents house until I'm 35 years old." - 1st year Arts student

"Yes. I'm a low income STEM student who lives on my own, with no parental funding... I'm also unable to get scholarships...so I'm either going to move home, sell my car, get a third job or live on loans as a 2nd year student." - 1st year student in St. Stephen's College

"It will affect me. My family is already living on a knife's edge financially due to COVID. And this increase is nudging us over the edge." - 1st year Engineering student

"Yes, significantly. That is half my rent for a month and will significantly hinder my ability to continue making credit card payments without going into more debt." - 5th year Business student

"It does not directly since I'm blessed to have my parents pay for my tuition, but it is frustrating that tuition keeps going up and it'll definitely impact my parents." - 3rd year Arts student

"Yes, because my parents are unemployed right now." - 2nd year Engineering student

"If tuition is going up might as well move to another province where tuition is lower and is much nicer there." - 1st year Science student

"This will absolutely affect me. That's almost the cost of a month's rent. I'm pretty much guaranteed going to be visiting the food bank just to afford this." - 4th year ALES student

"Yes. I will have to work more hours and study less. I will be more depressed than I already am, and more hungry." - 3rd year Engineering student

"Yes it will affect me as tuition was already raised and currently students have to pay for facilities like the gym when we can't even enter the building, which is a complete waste of money. But for additional costs to also be raised, when a lot of students have lost their jobs and are unable to find work currently is just disappointing and unacceptable." - 1st year Science student

"This will absolutely affect me. I'm predominantly paying for my own schooling, with some support from parents and scholarships, and the tuition increases did not factor in when I planned out my finances for these four years. There is not really that room in my budget, and especially considering how jobs for students have become scarce because of the pandemic, these increases are happening at the worst time." - 2nd year Business student

"It will be harder to pay since jobs are hard to get. I cannot get a job to support my tuition." - 3rd year Science student

"The past year has been so unpredictable for my family and myself. One of my parents has been laid off due to the pandemic, I'm finding it risky to try and work while going to school and taking care of the household. I work on weekends, but still, find it overwhelming. While trying to save my own mental well-being and sanity, I'm putting my family in a tight financial position which doesn't make me feel any better. I understand the province's need to boost the economy, but I believe that this money should be extracted elsewhere, not from students and parents who are already trying to compensate for the previous tuition increase." - no faculty or year of study specified

"My job has been suspended due to covid and with no extra source of income, any increase in tuition is not minor for me as an independent student." - Faculté Saint-Jean student

"I am poor. If y'all can make my debt LESS for once, that'd be great. Stop loading the cost onto students. \$400 is 4 months of groceries!" - 2nd year Arts student

"Yeah, that's a month's worth of rent basically down the drain. It's already ridiculously expensive for what the university is actually offering...Where is this money going because it's not increasing the quality of education at the U of A." - 4th year Arts student

"In for a penny, in for a pound. Won't affect me but serves as a barrier to education for others and is a sneaky project of systematic patriarchal, cis-white ableist supremacy and its allies and beneficiaries, to reverse gains made in Alberta through education in arenas of social mobility, equity, and descent. It's just another provincial political

violence against those in greatest need. (Feel free to use my words, you have my permission.)" - 1st year Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences student

"This affects my life! My family is in a dire financial situation and I can't imagine how much tuition is going to increase when in person classes start." - 1st year Science student

"My parents struggle to give me a good education and one of the reasons I decided to attend the UofA was because of affordability. I could've gone to higher ranked universities if I'm going to be paying the same price. UofA had that balance of good education and affordability." - 3rd year Science student

"\$400 is what I spend on groceries per month and I'm already \$50 000 in debt (post graduate program). So to say I'll be hurting is putting it lightly." - 2nd year Medicine and Dentistry student

"Yes, that will affect someone in my class and living situation, especially. I am going to be a 2nd year student living with my brother (in an expensive engineering program) and my single working mother. She is the only one who works to earn for the family and she is supporting two houses. We live with family friends since we are going through a messy split and life is hard enough finding a job and managing costs." - 1st year Arts student

"I have the means, but it's worrying for those who don't." - 2nd year Engineering student

"No, but I know how it will affect others who are already having a hard time with funding." - 2nd year Science student

"Yes it will greatly. With the financial problems I have been facing after being laid off it would make it harder for me to save up for other things such as textbooks and school material along with other life necessities." - 1st year Science student

"Yes. This means I need to work a bit more to cover the cost of tuition. It also restricts me in terms of switching career choices. I also know many people that are not able to switch career choices due to the increase of tuition prices. This affected their mental health and well-being quite a bit." - 1st year Business student

"Yes. Because of the pandemic, my parents' work had decreased. My part-time work is also not enough. I will definitely struggle more in the next few years." - 2nd year Arts student

"Yes, it will affect my sister who I may be responsible for supporting." - 5th year Engineering student

"Why the [expletive] is our tuition increasing? Why are students, the ones who struggle to buy a [expletive] lunch, paying more for our tuition? It should be DECREASED. [expletive]. We're broke as [expletive]....now we'll be even more in debt." - 3rd year Business student

"On top of my struggles to just enroll in classes, assessments and exams have been brutal due to remote learning. Online proctoring, timing methods for exams, the lack of concern for how assignments are being spread out throughout the course of the semester, it doesn't suffice to claim that the same things would be happening even during regular in-person classes. I'm not getting the education I'm paying for at all." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Very worried, I'm considering going to Australia now." - 1st year ALES student

"Yes 100%. My father is currently out of work and my mother makes minimum wage. I'd have to find job(s) to help cover my tuition and other fees if they were to go up even more." - no faculty or year of study specified

"These budget cuts make it difficult to study at the university without fear of having the most student debt as an Albertan student compared to other students from other provinces. It forces me to consider other universities when I would rather stay in Alberta with my family." - graduate student

"It'll be even more - a few thousand for internationals. So obviously there's so much pressure and stress to do better at school to try securing scholarships and finding jobs to help with paying at least rent." - 3rd year Engineering student

"Yes, I saved money since I was 13 to go to school, had more than enough to cover tuition but with the amount it is increasing I don't know if I can anymore." - 2nd year ALES student

"Yes. I'm gonna [expletive] drown in debt. I'll literally be eating from the food bank. If tuition continues to rise at this rate, I will not be able to finish my degree. I will not be able to afford it." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes it will! With the level of education that I am receiving right now I can't fathom a tuition increase. I am a student from Saskatchewan and I hope that coming to the UofA was not a mistake." - 3rd year Nursing student

"Thankfully I'm financially stable, but it's genuinely upsetting that people think students are money machines and can exploit them to provide more money every year. It makes education more of a luxury than a necessity for people." - 4th year Science student

"I mean that's 400\$ coming out of a stretched-thin summer work term pay to cover my school year expenses." - 4th year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"\$800 increase to tuition (>tfw [that feeling when] professional program), rise in the cost of living, [expletive] rent prices = bad time." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Most of my courses are online right now and the profs aren't even directly teaching. In fact one of my profs is using lecture videos from last term and hasn't made himself available at all for office hours. So I think that is extremely unfair to be paying him over \$500 for using the exact same material from last year and not having any interaction or help sessions." - 2nd year ALES student

"We're already out here eating too little and saving as much as possible, so next year will be fun." - 2nd year Education student

"I am so mad online school is becoming more expensive. I am learning nothing and may leave the UofA." - 2nd year Arts student

"Yes. \$400 is a lot, and quite honestly I'm more concerned about future tuition hikes. 7% is a huge increase, and once they realize they can do that, there's nothing stopping them from hiking tuition exponentially until we're paying double or triple what we're paying this year." - 3rd year Nursing student

"Drastically. I make as much money as I can in the summer to pay for next year's tuition." - 3rd year student, no faculty specified

"Yes, this will affect me greatly. I pay all my tuition via student loans, and the money I received last year from loans was \$2000 less than I received the year before, despite tuition being higher. If tuition rises any more without loan money rising with it, I won't be able to pay my rent anymore while in school, let alone pay the loans back later." - 3rd year Science student

"Yup. It's my last year and idk if I have enough loans for school left." - 4th year Education student

"Yes because it means that I need to pay more as an international student." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. For someone who works part time, there is no way I can afford this. I'm currently doing my 5th year and have about 3 more to go. I will for sure be in debt." - graduate student

“Over the last 2.5 years, the provincial government has cut UAlberta's funding by \$170 million. Are you worried about your future at UAlberta? If so, can you tell us about that?”



“I'm definitely worried. The combination of COVID and budget cuts means honors labs are running on very low capacity and have no room, and as an honors Biochemistry student who requires graduate labs to be open in order to get the research experience I require for my degree, I don't know if I'm going to be able to finish my degree in time, even taking 5 courses per semester, just because I can't get my research experience. This is more than a little bit concerning, considering I'm already \$45,000 in student loan debt and having to take out more and more to extend my degree because there aren't the facilities to finish it honestly just makes me want to transfer schools.” - 3rd year Science student

“Since the beginning of my undergrad I contemplated doing graduate studies here at the U of A but now I'm a little bit hesitant to do so. The U of A is a great institution and I'm grateful to be studying here however due to the cuts to PSE, the future will be very hard to navigate. Especially taking into consideration issues of student numbers retention, recruiting new undergrad students and maintaining the quality of education provided. I truly think the provincial government is doing the province a great disservice by making these cuts to PSE.” - 3rd year Science student

“Yes. Job/lab funding cuts. Wanted to do research here.” - 4th year Science student

“Professors are stressed. Students are angry. Both are overworked. There's no way to put it lightly, but \$170 million in cuts will hurt the U of A for years to come.” - 4th year Engineering student

"I only have one more year here, but the budget cuts have already affected me so much and I'm worried about how much more I'll lose going forward. Some of my favourite profs have gotten laid off. I lost my job on campus, and I recently found out I may not be able to get summer research funding either because of budget cuts. I'm missing out on great opportunities and experiences because of these cuts." - 3rd year student, no faculty specified

"Definitely! Many of my best and favourite profs have been forced out due to the budget cuts while low effort profs who have tenure ramble on without the motivation to do better, hiding behind job security. The U of A lost two of my favourites, who's classes I have done the best in and felt the most supported, in the last six months alone, and those are just those I know about...Mental health support has been forced to resort to slapping metaphorical bandaids on students and sending them on their way. No one even knows about the sexual assault centre unless a prof brings it up, and even then, it is almost entirely volunteer-based anyways. There are so many amazing things at the U of A that are going to be lost because people don't have the energy to keep them going without support or funding." - 3rd year KSR student

"Yes, concerned wellness and career services will be cut in addition to what might be cut from clinical learning opportunities." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Definitely worried. The brain drain in the province is going to become a real issue and while I will stay to finish my degree, I'm worried that UAlberta will no longer have much prestige when I look for work and that maybe it would've been better had I gone somewhere else." - 3rd year Education student

"We have not been diversifying the Albertan economy and many university grads are not able to find jobs even if they are educated at UofA (the dwindling biotechnology sector in Edmonton is a good example)." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I am extremely worried about my future at UAlberta. Both professors and students are extremely stressed out about the cut in funding at the university." - no faculty or year of study specified

"No, I'm in too deep to turn back now." - 3rd year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"A little - I want to pursue medicine and I would prefer it be at UAlberta, but the current govt has made it abundantly clear they don't care about education." - no faculty or year of study specified

"It'll definitely make me have to be more careful with budgeting and possibly have to get a second job." - graduate student

"Yes I am, I am a student at Campus Saint-Jean and this year there was already lots of concern that the campus would be shut down. I still have 3 years left in my program and I find myself constantly worrying that the campus will get shut down and I will not be able to finish my program. Even if I decided to finish my program somewhere else the nearest French university is in Manitoba, and it would be very difficult for me to go finish school there." - Faculté Saint-Jean student, no year of study specified

"Yes, I feel like I am getting scammed at this school. I pay money to watch videos online, pretty [expletive] if you ask me NGL [not gonna lie]." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I am concerned. I do not want to have to choose between pursuing a post secondary education or paying for the medications I need to survive. There is really no way to win." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I have one more year left of this degree and I was planning on taking another but If tuition keeps increasing at such a dramatic rate and funding keeps getting cut what's the point in staying? A school needs to look out for its students and at this moment in time thats not happening at the UoA." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes, I am worried that because I attend a smaller U of A campus I will not get access to the same resources as the north campus and that with a higher tuition rate I may not be able to finish my degree." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Somewhat. I think I will be able to push through with the help of my family thankfully. I worry for others though. I also worry about cuts to programs that I benefit from. My faculty has already lost its library and I fear further losses." - 2nd year Education student

"Combining the funding cuts with the poor economy (difficulty getting co-op jobs), it's getting difficult. I've been lucky enough to receive scholarships, but have plenty of colleagues for whom it's becoming untenable." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. I go to Campus Saint-Jean and it already has a small chance of staying open (which is so sad). That's the thing I am the most worried about, not being able . We already had to cut half our classes and programs a ton this year. Like of course it's the francophones that are cut and under-funded (as always)." - 2nd year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"I'm worried I can't afford going here." - 3rd year Medicine and Dentistry student

"I know so many people that move out of province for post-sec for this very reason, therefore driving away the student and employable population in Alberta." - 1st year Arts student

"Education is vital for the health of a society and I am worried that these cuts will increase tuition prices and decrease the number of people attending. If the prices keep rising, I might not be able to attend either. This creates an environment where only the rich can attend post secondary, which creates a divided and uneducated society that I do not want to be a part of." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I'm leaving as soon as I'm graduated. This province has no future. Education is the warning sign. They are killing our universities and the rest will follow." - 4th year Arts student

"Yes, as someone who still has a few more years here, I am concerned about what it will mean for my technology - had a lot of problems with online exams so far. I am also interested in research and I am concerned as to how the cuts will affect that." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I'm beginning to regret my decision to transfer in and I'm evaluating options to leave." - 2nd year Engineering student

"I am worried about lack of student funding and student jobs available." - 2nd year KSR student

"I'm worried about less opportunity for field schools and interactive learning because faculties don't have the funds anymore. And also finding research assistant positions tend to be hard." - 5th year ALES student

"Yes. If I were to start a family I would not want my kids to be under this kind of government that shuns education." - 4th year Science student

"Not so much at UofA but in Alberta in general. Everyone I know wants to leave the province and I am seriously concerned about this government and my future here." - 3rd year Business student

"I am worried, which is why I will look to transfer, likely out of province so I don't have to deal with cuts like this." - graduate student

"By cutting funding to the institution, you are merely placing the burden of cost onto the shoulders of broke, hungry, and often homeless university students who can't afford another dime spent on their education, especially not during a global pandemic." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I know that my quality of learning, as with many others, will be affected due to the increases in class sizes. Additionally, being from a smaller faculty scheduling will

become more difficult as each class may only be offered at one time in a semester, or even in the curricular year. This means that there is less opportunity to pursue other open options that I may find interesting simply because I have to pick one that fits into a very tight schedule. I think that the budget cuts are detrimental to my learning opportunities and the quality of my education, and the fact that I will now have to pay MORE than I was previously in tuition feels like a very direct shot at students by the government." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yeah, last time they cut our budget 7% my faculty got a 44% cut. I'm no math major, but that doesn't make sense to me. I'm glad UofA is getting sued, maybe they'll cut the president's salary, instead of increasing tuition and cancelling all of my grad requirement classes this time." - 3rd year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"Yes, absolutely. I've already spend multiple thousands of dollars on tuition for my undergraduate degree. I now plan to pursue a Master's degree which is very expensive. All I am trying to do is create a career for myself. But if funding keeps getting cut, then tuition will keep rising, and I will not be able to afford my education to become a Physical Therapist and give back to the community." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I chose UAlberta because it is a top 5 school for science research. With budget cuts I don't see how this is maintainable in the future." - 2nd year Science student

"Absolutely. I've been considering finishing my degree in BC or somewhere else. Tuition in some European countries is also [expletive] cheap so I've been thinking about going overseas for my Master's. I just can't afford this at the rate things are going." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Already classes have been cancelled, or moved around, and clubs, grants, even online database access has been cut. Thanks, Kenney, ya right prick. Brain drain the province why don't you." - 2nd year ALES student

"Yes, I go to the French campus and I am worried about what will happen if it closes before I get my degree, and I also worry for the students after me that will not be able to get their degree in French because of the cuts to the University." - 3rd year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"I almost wish I decided on community college for the low cost or even just left Alberta and went to UBC like I originally planned, even though I would pay a ton of money in residence fees at least I wouldn't be absolutely robbed of my hard earned money for a less than excellent education." - 1st year Science student

"I am not worried about my future, but of my fellow students, as I know many others are not as blessed as I am in terms of money." - 1st year Education student

"Personally, no. I'm fortunate to currently be in a program where the quality of my education is great, and I'm graduating at the end of this semester. Moving forward, I'll be in a professional program, which, although it'll be more expensive, I'm not concerned about the quality of my education declining because I doubt they're gonna screw over students in professional programs. I could be wrong though." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I'm worried that services are going to get worse than they already are, and the unique courses that make me love the University will get cut because they don't help meet the targets set by the government. If we keep telling the government that the cuts are no problem, they're just going to keep cutting funding without increasing funding for students." - 4th year Arts student

"I guess in some ways. I'm scared that things with the restructuring will end up being a train wreck, I'm scared that things might be cut at the faculty level that would impact my ability to graduate on time. I'm scared that this will mean even more drastic tuition increases. I'm so close to the end of my degree, and I just want to be able to see it through, but concerns about instructional quality and potential dramatic cost increases have me feeling very anxious that I might not have the means to finish or that my degree won't be as valuable." - 4th year Science student

"I might transfer to MacEwan." - 1st year Science student

"Yes, professors are overworked, TAs are overworked, quality of teaching decreases." - 4th year Science student

"Yes. I am concerned about whether or not the government values higher education here and if that will translate to impacted job prospects." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Who knows how many students, professors, and researchers will be forced out of this institution due to these cuts. It's a stepping stone to destroying one of the largest economic contributors in this province, all for nothing." - 4th year ALES student

"I am graduating and moving out of AB for grad school. However, it does worry me for future UAlberta students. I also worry about the many staff members who will likely lose their jobs. I hope to become a professor in the future and I had said that I would love to come back to UAlberta to teach but now I no longer feel that way." - 4th year Science student

"I worry over the future of my program; the university does not seem to see the value in Human Ecology. I did my BSc and am working toward an MSc in this program, which is small and seems to be neglected by the university. I worry about funding for the program and I worry whether the program will even exist in five years' time. It seems

the university is pushing to do away with the program and has plans to demolish the Human Ecology building, isolating this wonderful program even further and removing it from the university's radar. The program allows students to do so much good in the world; it would be a shame to see it go." - graduate student

"I'm concerned that culture will move towards having university become a rarer experience among the new generation." - 4th year Science student

"I'm more worried about the value of my degree in the future as we watch the decline of the institution. I am also looking elsewhere for grad school as I really don't believe the UofA can continue being a top 100 school." - 6th year Augustana student

"I've heard rumours that the Campus St. Jean will be closing and I was wondering if that would actually happen." - 1st year Faculté Saint-Jean student

"Yes. I have already felt the direct effects from my faculty cutting support staff." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. I am worried I will receive increasingly poor education for greater costs. Perhaps I will have to look to other provinces for education. I am profoundly disturbed that the government does not consider educating its own citizens a worthwhile investment." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Absolutely. Are our services, quality of education and programs going to be the same? Will we still have access to the same materials, events, resources?" - 3rd year Business student

"Absolutely. I think the U of A is headed down a dangerous path (or more accurately being driven down it). The academic restructuring and cost-saving methods that are being implemented have been tried elsewhere (notably in Sydney, I believe) and resulted in a serious decline in student satisfaction. I can't foresee anything different happening here - especially given that, let's face it, further cuts are by no means out of the question." - 1st year Engineering student

"Yes, especially being a Campus Saint Jean student. I'm worried that my education will be worse compared to someone who attended a french university in another province." - Faculté Saint-Jean student, no year of study specified

"This is my first year in university, and I was most looking forward to spending time in/having access to the library in the education building. I know I still have access to the resources I need, but I am bitter about having what would've been "my" library taken away from me before I even got the chance to use it. I am not exactly worried about my future, but I am sad to know that my experience may not be as great as it could have been." - 1st year Education student

"I have almost completed my degree, so my future I'm not worried about. However, it does seem that Alberta is trying to rebuild as an uneducated province, with no interest in having a top 5 Canadian university in the province anymore." - graduate student

"Yes. I went here for the affordability of being an Albertan student. This school wasn't my first choice and I will leave if it's the same costs as an out-of-province school." - 2nd year Arts student

"Absolutely. The cuts are minimizing the benefits for students as well as increasing tuition. UAlberta is no longer a competitive choice for post-secondary in Canada, and I have seriously thought about transferring. About a quarter of my friends are, especially out-of-province students. A major point of Alberta pride for me was its accessible education, and that's no longer a factor." - 2nd year Business student

"I am worried that my level of education does not match the tuition fees. For example, I am a nursing student and we have had most of our clinicals online (I believe this might partly be due to budget cuts and lack of instructors). I am not getting a full education and the faculty is not being honest with us." - 3rd year Nursing student

"Yeah I'm worried. Due to COVID everything went online. Tuition prices have gone up. The quality of education I believe has gone down, though they try their best. Exam proctoring is [expletive] my anxiety. I'm struggling academically and mentally. I'm in a financial pit. Then the gov decides to cut funding, which is gonna increase tuition and probably lower the quality of education. I'm worried that there will be a day where I can't pay for tuition nor be able to buy a double double. So yeah." - 1st year Engineering student

"I was committed to staying at the UofA for school after my bachelors degree and I no longer think this is the case. I told my sister I wouldn't do what I did and only apply to the UofA because the quality of education is going downhill due to cuts." - 3rd year Arts student

"Yeah, because it makes education for those that can afford it, even though they are more than qualified to achieve those goals. In addition, those that want to be doctors, lawyers, writers, artists, etc. are more than likely to suffer mentally and financially in the future due to making up for this financial struggle that we are having to deal with." - 4th year Science student

"Yes, this not only impacts tuition but a lot of services on campus. For me, this is important since I accessed them before but also volunteered with a lot of them and it's painful to see staff being let go that were a big part of my student life experience during my years here." - no faculty or year of study specified

"The fact that funding has been cut shows that the government doesn't really value investing in young people." - 2nd year Medicine and Dentistry student

"I wonder if I'll have enough money to afford future years at the university or if I'll have to drop out entirely." - 1st year ALES student

"Yes. Watching the business library get shut down and databases being reduced, I worry about where the increased tuition I'm paying actually goes. It does not feel like the quality of education is going up." - Business student, no year of study specified

"Yes. I'm worried about higher tuition. I'm worried about the great instructors I have losing their jobs because the university views them as more disposable than my associate and tenured professors that are more removed from us as students. I'm worried about the already dated facilities my classes and studios are in. I'm worried about the quality of education and support for research dropping because of a lack of care from the current government." - 3rd year Arts student

"I am frustrated that the budget cuts will reduce the extent and quality of services and programs offered at the U of A, regardless of what the university says. With positions being cut and budgets being reduced, the university will unquestionably not be as good overall as it was. I want to get a master's degree after my bachelor's and this is definitely making me reassess if I want my master's to be at the U of A or elsewhere." - 3rd year Arts student

"Yeah I'm really worried, I have been thinking about doing a Master's program once I graduate but if tuition continues to increase I'll definitely be looking more heavily into attending different schools." - 3rd year Business student

"Yes because this means less classes and larger classrooms, making it harder both on professors and students. Not to mention a lot of facilities that help a student's academic career will be cut." - 4th year Arts student

"I can't afford this anymore and now I don't want to finish my degree because of it" - 2nd year ALES student

"There's no point in staying in Alberta if no one can get a job." - 1st year Science student

"I really don't know if I'll finish my bachelors at the U of A. I definitely will not be pursuing my secondary degrees here. It's a good school for education, but essentially every other factor is horrible." - 2nd year student, no faculty specified

"Yeah, I've already seen how the cuts have affected the fine arts and design programs and I am continually worried about the lack of opportunities and space in classes that keep arising." - 2nd year Arts student

"Yes, the provincial government has made disastrous decisions that will really start making school an impossible dream for many students." - 1st year Science student

"Yes, I don't want Alberta to become like the USA. Some students are drowning in debt for decades after university. A university degree shouldn't cost you your life savings for the next ten years." - 4th year KSR student

"If tuition keeps increasing I won't be able to afford school. I was going to be the first in my family to get a college degree." - 2nd year Engineering student

"I'm very thankful I'm graduating next year. I will definitely be leaving Alberta after my degree and honestly will not recommend others from my hometown to come here with the amount of cuts we've been getting." - graduate student

"I definitely do not blame the University for increasing tuition, and I don't believe our complaints should be directed at them, as they are trying to do their best with the limits imposed on them by the provincial government. I just wish that our elected officials would take into account the lives they are affecting when they make these cuts." - 3rd year KSR student

"I came back to study at the U of A after graduating a decade ago, but all these tuition hikes/funding cuts are making me wonder if getting a second degree is worth it. While I'm not too worried about my future at UAlberta, I don't understand why university education doesn't seem to be a priority in Alberta and it's frankly frustrating." - graduate student

"I am worried. Not only for the future of my career and future income, but also for the opportunities and experiences that university is about. I have worked hard to get to this point-- my immigrant parents have worked even harder- so the thought of my education being cut short for reasons almost out of my control is no less than terrifying." - 1st year Engineering student

"I'm worried that the Students' Union is not having a big enough impact on the provincial government." - 3rd year Arts student

"I have previously wanted to do my graduate studies at the U of A but I will be moving elsewhere and so will my husband. We just can't justify paying as much as we would going to a more reputable school such as McGill." - 2nd year Nursing student

"I know the money the U of A spends goes towards making education better for the students. Whether that be through smaller class sizes, TAs and tutors, other academic help sessions, mental health and general well-being, safety and much more. I am worried about what programs will be removed and what corners will be cut to make up for the lack of funding." - 2nd year Engineering student

"I have seriously been considering transferring institutions. I can't afford keeping up with the increase in cost." - 4th year ALES student

"Yes. I'm incredibly in need of research opportunities, internships, and scholarships and I am afraid of the extent to which they will be affected by this." - 1st year Science student

"I am worried for the school's future. I'm certain more and more students will seek education outside of Alberta if this keeps up since they might feel they can get better education for the same cost." - 5th year Engineering student

"It's disappointing that despite the importance of higher education in an increasing globalized and competitive society, I have to incur damages on both my mental health and expenses, with little guarantee in the worth of my degree." - 1st year Engineering student

"Not really. I'm mostly worried about after graduation and how to pay off my loans." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I feel like Alberta will undergo a brain drain because of all these cuts to education." - 2nd year Engineering student

"Yes, but I'm graduating soon and I plan on moving out of Alberta." - 3rd year Science student

"I'm worried that as budget cuts happen classes will become larger and the quality of education will fall. In this case, it seems like it may be best to just leave Alberta or attend another university entirely." - 1st year Science student

"I am absolutely worried about my future at uAlberta, specifically as a student at Campus Saint-Jean. We are a very small faculty compared to the main campus and I worry that with the continued budget cuts, more classes and programs will be cut. This, along with the worry that I have of the entire campus being shut down." - Faculté Saint-Jean student

"The UCP...keep cutting budgets in education and the costs keep getting passed along to students. Goodness I wanted to do my grad studies at the UofA but I guess I have to reweigh my options." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes I am, especially when it comes to scholarships and work experience opportunities." - 2nd year Engineering student

"Yes I am! The UofA teaching has gone downhill, we can't access the libraries or many other amenities that we've paid to access for. I love the school...but the tuition hikes make me want to change unis." - 2nd year Science student

"With so many cuts, the level of education seems to be falling. Not every professor is top-notch and cuts often lead to faculty resources being cut, and therefore affecting our experience as students." - 4th year Business student

"Luckily I'm graduating soon so I'm not too worried, but if I was able to I would transfer." - 3rd year Science student

"No, but it discourages me from staying in Alberta after my degree." - 3rd year Engineering student

"Yes. Such consistent large cuts to an institution that not only provides higher education to tens of thousands of students but also does tons of groundbreaking scientific and clean energy research is a deeply concerning direction for our provincial government to take." - 3rd year Science student

"Gap year's looking REAL cute now." - no faculty or year of study specified

"Yes. Because how can we achieve without the proper tools." - 3rd year Science student

"Extremely worried, especially because I'm in a health professional program. I'm moving back to BC if the UCP gets reelected." - 6th year Nursing student

"I thought it was a top university in Canada when I started but now cuts in funding could mean a decreased quality of education." - 3rd year Arts student

"I don't have enough context as to how this would affect our learning and opportunities." - 1st year Engineering student

"Yes. I went here for the affordability of being an Albertan student. This school wasn't my first choice and I will leave if it's the same costs as an out-of-province school." - 2nd year Arts student

"Yes, I am thinking about grad school and that these cuts would affect UAlberta's ability to secure funding for students and other research projects. With all the cuts I am worried that the quality of education will diminish, which it will since professors are

being asked to do more administrative tasks and have less time to help students out, along with the reputation of UAlberta being further reduced because of these cuts." - 3rd year Engineering student

"Worried about my small program being affected by the cuts." - 3rd year Arts student

"Yes. I will admit that the lack of funding is one of the reasons why the university has had to increase tuition. Especially with this provincial government, I can absolutely see them cutting funding completely and students paying American-like tuition prices as a result." - 3rd year Nursing student

"Yes, trying to figure out how to pay for next year and seeing valuable services get cut every year is awful." - 3rd year student, no faculty specified

"The program I'm in has already been affected as it used to be its own program and now it has been combined with 2 other programs to make 1 degree. Additionally, some of the courses are offered very infrequently to save on costs." - 4th year Science student

"Yes I am, I may have to take time off to earn the money I need to pay tuition." - 2nd year Rehabilitation Medicine student

"I am planning on doing either grad school or a professional program and with the cut in funding I have heard these programs have been targeted as well. I have heard from several profs that they'd be lying if they said they weren't looking for other jobs, and these are good profs that provide quality lectures and genuinely care about their students succeeding, so if they left it would be to the detriment of the university and its quality of education." - no faculty or year of study specified

"I'm not as worried about my future here as I am about my future in Alberta in general, but that's a different story." - 1st year Arts student