

Investment Management Agreement for Independent Academic Institutions

Burman University
Department of Advanced Education
2021-2022

Her Majesty the Queen in right of
Alberta, as represented by the
Minister of Advanced Education



Minister

June 10, 2021

Date

SIGNED for and on behalf of Burman
University

Board Chair



Date

May 18, 2021

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Intent of Investment Management Agreement (IMA)

Alberta's twenty-six post-secondary institutions provide a variety of learning opportunities to people from within Alberta, across Canada, and abroad. These institutions are often world-class organizations which excel in teaching and research. They prepare graduates for fulfilling careers and additional learning, while contributing to Alberta's economic and community development through skill development, research and innovation.

To support system coordination and optimize the allocation of public investments in adult education, each of these institutions is designated to a sector based on its programming, research and scholarly activity, and collaboration initiatives.

For 2021-2022, each institution will also have an Investment Management Agreement with government. This agreement will include the institution's mandate, the 2021-22 Operating and Program Support Grant Amount from government, mutual priorities, and a performance metric to facilitate the allocation of outcomes-based funding, to ensure government and institutions are focused on meeting the needs of the province. Specifically, the Investment Management Agreement:

- Identifies and explains the shared objectives and priorities between the Alberta government and the institutions; and
- Describes the agreed upon investment framework that includes the key performance metric in a priority area.

While the IMA was originally designed to be a 3 year agreement between each institution and the government, this year's IMA is serving as a pilot. Therefore it's term is one year, from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, with performance evaluated at the end of the fiscal year to provide learnings and identify improvements that could be incorporated into a three year IMA.

The Investment Management Agreement is not intended to be the sole element of the relationship between an institution and the government, nor to include all decisions and issues in the post-secondary system. Government will continue to work closely with institutions and other stakeholders in a number of areas, and will continue to provide many aspects of system direction through legislation, regulation, policy, and other processes.

Investment Management Agreements may be amended in the event of substantive policy or program changes that would significantly affect joint commitments made in the agreement. Any such amendment would be mutually agreed to in writing, dated, and signed by both signatories.

Legislative and Policy Requirements

Post-secondary Learning Act

Section 78 of the Post-secondary Learning Act requires the boards of all 21 public post-secondary institutions, and Independent Academic Institutions, to enter into an Investment Management Agreement with the Minister of Advanced Education, which must include: the mandate of the institution (not applicable to Independent Academic Institutions), a performance metric(s) for the institution, and anything else determined by the Minister. The Minister may specify the form of the agreement, and the date by which it must be in effect. The boards of the 21 public post-secondary institutions are also required to prepare, approve and submit to the Minister a budget and a capital plan. The budget submitted by an institution may not project consolidated operating expenses exceeding consolidated operating revenues, unless the board has the written approval of the Minister.

Fiscal Planning and Transparency Act

Section 10 of the Act requires the board of a public post-secondary institution to provide a business plan for each fiscal year to the Minister. This requirement is fulfilled by each institution entering into an Investment Management Agreement with the Minister, in accordance with section 78 of the *Post-secondary Learning Act*.

Operating and Program Support Grant Agreement

Each institution's Investment Management Agreement is referenced in its respective Operating and Program Support Grant Agreement, and future funds will be distributed in accordance with the institution's performance in meeting the target established in the Investment Management Agreement.

Role in the System and Collaboration Mandate

As an Independent Academic Institution, Burman University may provide foundational learning, diploma, certificate, and approved undergraduate degree programming. Undergraduate diploma and certificate programs may be either ministry-approved or board-approved. Graduate level programs may be provided in niche areas under particular conditions. Burman University may

undertake research and scholarly activity in alignment with credentials offered, and may collaborate with other institutions and sectors to support regional access to undergraduate degree programming.

Institutional Profile

For over 110 years, Burman University has been providing a quality education in a Christian context, serving the community of Lacombe. Although Burman has a long, established history, the university continues to transition as the roles and responsibilities of being a university become firmly enmeshed in the operations and culture of the campus. Burman continues to reflect the trajectory and growth towards greater heights of excellence within the context of the Ministry's educational principles: accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, and coordination.

As an Independent Academic Institution, Burman University offers a quality educational experience for students as well as unique cultural offerings to the local community. For example, the Herr Lecture Series in the Humanities brings highly qualified speakers to share with the students, faculty, and local community. Speakers over the last few years have included Lt. Gen. Romeo Dallaire, Kim Phuc, and Samantha Nutt. The Music Department presents the Sunday@4 concert series throughout the academic year; featuring ensembles and soloists that often perform only in large city centres as well as a variety of concerts and recitals open to the community free of charge. The School of Education continues to develop relevant continuing education courses for current teachers. Recent course offerings for teachers featured a course entitled Teaching Truth and Reconciliation. The School of Business hosts the Business Speaker Series, a dialogue point for the university and the external business community. With all its initiatives, Burman University strives to offer distinctive, high quality programming to both students and community alike.

Burman University is an independent, board-governed university authorized by the Ministry of Advanced Education to offer a variety of programs. Current active approved programs include Bachelor of Arts (3 and 4 yr), Bachelor of Science (3 and 4 yr) Bachelor of Business Administration, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Education (including a BEd 2-yr. after-degree program), a Health Sciences Certificate and an Open Studies (non-credential) program. The University also offers certificate programs available to students registered in degree programs, and a rich array of community recreation as well as continuing education opportunities. Burman University's mission in all of these endeavors is to educate students to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence. Moreover, the University's programs support Alberta's overall objectives of adult learning system.

Vision, Mission, and Core Values

VISION

Burman University will be the school of choice for those students who desire a quality education in a Christian setting that values individual achievement and the spirit of community renewal.

MISSION

Burman University will educate students to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence.

CORE VALUES

Burman University, with its roots and traditions within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is committed to the ideals and vision found in the teachings of Jesus Christ; therefore, it holds and models the following values:

EXCELLENCE

Burman University values graduate success, intellectual exploration, personal and spiritual growth, healthful living, and a welcoming campus.

SERVICE

Burman University values caring and compassionate relationships, and programs that foster service by employees, students, and alumni.

SPIRITUALITY

Burman University values and promotes the quest for a deeper understanding of and a relationship with God, as demonstrated by Jesus Christ.

INTEGRITY

Burman University values transparency, honesty, intellectual integrity, and responsible academic freedom

COMMUNITY

Burman University values teamwork, servant leadership, safety, diversity, and inclusion.

Objectives and Priorities

Government of Alberta

The Government of Alberta is committed to post-secondary education as a cornerstone of employment, economic and social development, and overall prosperity for the province. As the province continues to recover from the many challenges caused by the pandemic, post-secondary institutions will play a pivotal role, not only through research, innovation and commercialization of leading edge technology, but also in providing highly-skilled and job-ready graduates for a recovering and dynamic labour market.

The initial goal of the GOA is to highlight the critical role post-secondary institutions play to prepare students for a future career. While this inaugural Investment Management Agreement reflects that goal, it is also meant to serve as a pilot to guide the development of future iterations that will be broader and more comprehensive for Alberta's post-secondary system. By focusing on students, innovation, efficiency, and accountability, and by working to improve system performance and outcomes, Investment Management Agreements will ensure institutions play a vital role in keeping Alberta competitive on the global stage.

Burman University

Burman University supports the Government of Alberta's commitment to prepare post-secondary students for future careers that will assist the economic, social and cultural development of the province. To this end, our university's student-centered strategic plan has one of its main goals as challenging and supporting students to develop academically, spiritually, socially, and physically in a caring, Christ-centred environment that promotes diversity, encourages integrity, and creates professional and lifelong service opportunities. As the world, and for that matter, the province continues to recover from the many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Burman university believes our highly-skilled and job-ready graduates who are educated to think with discernment, to believe with insight and commitment and to act with confidence, compassion, and competence will find their place in providing for a recovering and dynamic labor market. Our primary objective the year following, hopefully, a post-COVID-19 era is to evaluate and improve on all our current Work Integrated Learning attributes. Secondly, we will work with all our programs to foster plans to achieve next year's target and tolerance threshold for the WIL metric, and lay the groundwork for the ultimate goal of 100% of our programs having a WIL component.

Operating and Program Support and Performance Based Funding Allocations

Table 1: 2021-22 Allocations for Burman University

Total Operating and Program Support grant	\$3,198,025
Proportion tied to Performance	5%
Performance based funding allocation	\$159,901

Performance-based Funding Methodology

This inaugural Investment Management Agreement for Burman University, and the performance based funding it represents, is based on one metric—the proportion of approved programs at Burman University that have a Work Integrated Learning component.

Table 2 below provides the specifics on the performance metric that will be used to calculate any funding impacts. A baseline result has been established at the beginning of the 2021-22 fiscal year using data housed in the Provider and Program Registry System (PAPRS). A target and tolerance band has been negotiated with Burman University.

Over the next 12 months, as Burman University prepares for the 2022-23 academic year, it will provide updates into PAPRS about new or existing programs that have a Work Integrated Learning component. The existing metric will be updated on March 31, 2022. If the result meets or exceeds the target, there will be no adjustments to 2022-23 OPS funding as related to the metric.

If the result fails to meet the target, and is lower than the tolerance threshold, then an adjustment will be applied against the 2022-23 funding that is proportionate to the achievement from the expected result (to a maximum identified in Table 1).

Table 2: Performance Metric

<p>Work integrated learning: Proportion of approved programs that have work-placements identified as part of the program.</p>				
<p>Core Area: Skills and Labour Market Outcomes</p>	<p><u>Baseline Established</u> March 31, 2021</p>	<p><u>Baseline</u> 77%</p>	<p><u>Target</u> 80%</p>	<p><u>Tolerance Threshold</u> 2%</p>
<p>Burman University's baseline result was established at the beginning of the 2021-22 fiscal year using data housed in the Provider and Program Registry System (PAPRS). We show here that out of our 31 current active specializations, we have 24 (77%) that have a Work Integrated Learning component. A target % of 80% for next year and tolerance band/threshold of 2% have been negotiated with the Ministry of Advanced Education. We plan to work with our program to review our current WIL attributes and implement a few additional ones. This outcome will be based on how soon the province recovers from COVID-19 in the coming year.</p>				

