

2018-2019 Statistics & Actuarial Science Endowment Award

One or more awards, each valued at the university's award minimum or more, will be granted annually in any term to full-time undergraduate students who meet the following criteria:

- are enrolled full-time in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science in the Faculty of Science;
- are in their third or fourth year of study;
- have a declared major in Statistics or Actuarial Science;
- are in good academic standing; and
- have demonstrated commitment to the department and/or their chosen discipline, for example (but not exclusively) by:
 - -serving as a volunteer at department events;
 - -representing the department at University/external events;
 - -serving as a volunteer for activities sponsored by professional societies of Statistics or Actuarial Science;
 - -serving on the executive board of the Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association;
 - -undertaking activities to enhance the engagement of peers with the department and/or its related disciplines;
 - -undertaking activities to enhance the stature of the department and/or its related disciplines.

Nikola Surjanovic writes:

The decision to study statistics at university came at nearly the last moment. In my final year of high school I was choosing between engineering and other subjects. I always had a passion for mathematics and problem-solving, and I felt that studying statistics could interest me in this way. At the same time, advice from my older sister along with a sort of hunch told me to pursue statistics. I am now finishing my studies, and I am very happy with my decision. I feel that statistics offers a beautiful blend of theory and application. I enjoy the problem-solving and theoretical aspects of statistics, as well as the potential to apply knowledge quickly in the real world.

In my first year of university I joined SASSA (the Statistics and Actuarial Science Student Association), where I met many people who shared two things in common with me: they liked to talk about mathematics, and they enjoyed the concept of free food. From the start of university, I also found many professors and faculty offering their guidance and advice, and the secretaries were also quick to lend a helping hand; the atmosphere of the department was great from the beginning, and my appreciation for the people who were part of it grew. In the past I have helped out with the Math Circles program, which aims to provide high school students with mathematics material that goes outside of the regular curriculum, and have helped organize the BC Undergraduate Mathematics and Statistics Conference.