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# News release

# **University of Alberta Launches Digital Academic Credentials**

Starting today, the University of Alberta's Spring 2021 graduating class will have 24/7 access to their digital degree parchment in their own virtual credential wallet.

The University of Alberta is the latest Canadian post-secondary institution to give its students access to MyCreds™, the National Network owned by the Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (ARUCC). Students will now be able to securely and conveniently access and share their academic documents with other colleges and universities, government, employers, and third parties. Documents issued through MyCreds™ are tamper evident and cryptographically signed, making them authentic and official.

"The University of Alberta continues to look for ways to support our students with efficient and convenient options, particularly during a time when we are more dependent on digital delivery. Having 24/7 access to official documents through MyCreds™ will empower students to control how they access and share this information," says Melissa Padfield, Vice-Provost & University Registrar. "Our Spring 2021 graduates will be the first students to be able to share their degree parchment digitally as needed in a secure, tamper evident, and legally valid way through the MyCreds™ network. We also recognize the value provided to our graduates with the issuance of a paper parchment and this will continue with the added benefits of a digital credential they can access free of charge for the first issue of the parchment."

"We're excited to see another U15 University join the MyCreds™ National Network. Alberta is leading the way in adopting ARUCC's new digital platform to make credentials accessible to all learners in Canada," says Kathleen Massey, Associate Vice President (Students) at the University of Lethbridge. "As President of the Groningen Declaration Network (GDN), I am proud to see more Canadian post-secondary institutions adhering to the GDN principles, which emphasize, 'Citizens worldwide should be able to consult and share their authentic educational data with whomever they want, whenever they want, wherever."

Starting this summer, current and former students will be able to request and digitally share their official transcripts with employers, government institutions, and other third parties. With approximately 38,000 transcripts requested each year, this will be a valuable new option for the university's 40,000+ students. Other digital credentials will be phased in over time. Implementing



MyCreds™ is another step in the University of Alberta's ongoing efforts to provide students more convenient and secure online services.

Visit our website to learn more.

## About MyCreds™

MyCreds™ is a national, shared service and platform that provides students and graduates access to a secure, online, password protected learner credential wallet. This virtual wallet allows them to view and share their verified and official transcripts, credentials, and academic documents in a digitized format on a 24/7 basis – anytime, anywhere. It enables peer-to-peer official document and data sharing between issuing organizations such as colleges and universities. Secure, cryptographically signed documents can be sent conveniently and require no further verification. MyCreds™ is the first and only national bilingual system of its kind in Canada. Visit www.mycreds.ca for more details or contact ARUCC's Executive Lead, Joanne Duklas at info@aruccnationalnetwork.ca.

## **About the University of Alberta**

The <u>University of Alberta</u> in Edmonton is one of Canada's top teaching and research universities, with an international reputation for excellence across the humanities, sciences, creative arts, business, engineering and health sciences.

#### About ARUCC

The Association of Registrars of the Universities and Colleges of Canada (<u>ARUCC</u>) owns <u>MyCreds™</u>. ARUCC provides leadership in the post-secondary education field and service to its member institutions nationally and internationally, helping foster the advancement of registrarial practices and learner focused service delivery in Canada.

#### **About Digitary**

Digitary provides the underlying engine powering MyCreds™. Digitary was launched in Dublin, Ireland in 2005, and has grown to become a leading online platform for certifying, sharing, and verifying academic credentials. Learner-centric since the very start, Digitary enables millions of learners to share their verified academic achievements online, securely, quickly and easily. Digitary is now used by organizations in over 135 countries. For further details visit www.digitary.net.

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