

# Student Accessibility Services Student Technology Assistant and Resource (STAR) volunteer position

- Position title: **Student Technology Assistant and Resource (STAR)**
- Department: **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)**
- Term: **Fall 2025**
- Hours: **10 hours per month**
- Length of position: **September through December, excluding Reading Week and Final Exams.**

*This is a competitive student leadership volunteer position for UCalgary students*

## **Position description**

The Peer Technology Assistant Program fosters a supportive and inclusive environment where students receive guidance using adaptive technologies, share experiences, and empower one another in their academic and personal journeys. The program creates a safe space for students to explore and use assistive tools effectively, develop technological skills, and overcome barriers. We provide accessible student-centered support that promotes academic success, independence, and a sense of belonging within the University of Calgary community by equipping students with the knowledge and confidence to navigate and thrive with assistive technology.

A Student Technology Assistant & Resource (STAR) is a dynamic and engaging role guiding students with integrating assistive technology into their learning environments. STARs are peer guides in the use of various technology tools and resources that support accessibility for individuals with diverse needs, including those with disabilities. They help users identify appropriate technology and provide preliminary training to maximize their success, fostering a more inclusive and accessible community.

## **Tasks and responsibilities**

- **One-on-one peer technology support:** Offer one-on-one support to students in using assistive technology tools, such as note taking software strategies, time management software, text-to-speech applications, and more.

- **Assist with assistive technology setup and troubleshooting:** Help users set up and configure assistive technology devices or software on various platforms (computers, mobile devices, etc.), and troubleshoot where possible any technical issues that arise.
- **Promote awareness:** Actively engage with the University of Calgary community to increase awareness and adoption of assistive technologies by implementing comprehensive outreach and support initiatives.
- **Support adaptive technology evaluation and improvement:** Provide feedback on assistive technologies effectiveness and recommend improvements or additional resources based on user needs.
- **Maintain a positive and supportive environment:** Create a welcoming and supportive environment that encourages independence and confidence in using assistive technologies.

### Commitment

- **A commitment of one term:** This volunteer role requires a commitment of at least one term for Fall or Winter. The position runs for the entire term except for Reading Week and final exams.
- **Two hours per week drop-in advising:** Hold an in-person drop-in advising session once a week to help students with their technology questions.
- **Two hours per month professional development:** We want you to improve your assistive technology knowledge. You'll dedicate two hours per month learning about assistive technologies in both in-person and remotely.

### Benefits

- **Strengthen your connection with campus:** Student volunteers are one of the pillars that the University rests on. You're an integral part of the UCalgary community.
- **Learn more about assistive technologies:** The use of technology in an academic setting is constantly changing. The skills you develop in helping others will help your academic journey.
- **Form connections with others on campus:** You'll be helping others through their university experience and forming connections with diverse students all across campus.

- **Work together with other students to solve issues:** Work with others to help them answer questions, solve problems and build skills collaboratively.
- **Improve your academic skills:**
  - Interpersonal communication
  - Leadership
  - Teaching and tutoring
  - Advocacy

### **Qualifications**

- **Interest in working one-on-one with other students:** In this role, you'll connect directly with other students in our quiet and cozy Nat Christie lab. You'll talk with students one-on-one to help them with their specific questions.
- **Lived experience with assistive technology:** Have you used text-to-speech? How about taken notes in-class on a laptop or tablet? You've used assistive software.
- **Understanding of University of Calgary systems:** Have you written an exam on D2L? Connected to AirUC Wifi? Your knowledge and experience can be of huge value to anyone who hasn't yet figured these things on their own yet.
- **Interest in helping others:** You like solving problems for others and making things better for other students.
- **Interest in learning new software:** Assistive technology is always changing and improving. Learning new ways of doing things is highly encouraged.

### **Conduct statement**

This position requires students to be in good conduct standing for non-academic misconduct. Students who are not in good conduct standing have an active sanction of "Probation for Non-Academic misconduct" that has been assigned through formal conduct proceedings per the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy. Students are informed in writing of the sanction by the Student Conduct Office. Note: Involvement in the Non-Academic Misconduct process does not automatically mean a student is not in good conduct standing; this applies only to those students who have been assigned the sanction of Probation for Non-Academic Misconduct. If you have been found responsible of a violation of the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and you are unsure if you have received this sanction, please contact [conduct@ucalgary.ca](mailto:conduct@ucalgary.ca). Please note that in submitting your application, you are verifying that you are in good conduct standing and consent to this

being verified by the Student Conduct Office. Note that details of non-academic misconduct cases are not shared through this process

### **Application process**

To apply, please send one of the following (your choice) to [access.fast@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access.fast@ucalgary.ca).

- **Your resume and cover letter**
- **Fill out the application form:** [We have a linked application you can fill out and send it to us](#) if you don't have a resume at the ready.
- **A video introduction:** Want to talk to us without talking to us? That's totally fine too.
- **Something else:** Have a different way to introduce yourself to us we haven't mentioned. Let us know what works for you.

Interviews will be held for the position in **late August** for the upcoming term.