

# The hunt for scholarships and awards...

Websites are the most up-to-date resource for information related to scholarships.

Start with: [www.bcawardsonline.org](http://www.bcawardsonline.org) (create login id)  
[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) (create login id)  
[www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com) (create login id)  
[www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com)  
[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org) (create login id)

The college or university you apply to is also a potential source for financial aid. Go to their website for more information. If you are planning to go in the Fall of 2009, know that date of application makes a difference for many programs. Go to [www.pas.bc.ca](http://www.pas.bc.ca) to apply online or make an appointment with your school counselor. Keep your school counselor informed about

- 1) your career plans and
- 2) The institution(s) you have applied to or are interested in so relevant material can be forwarded to you.

If you haven't already talked about a budget for your post-secondary plans with your parents, do so now. Cost estimates for tuition and books can be found at [www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca). (Which is also a great source for information about all public college and university programs available in BC and what the admission requirements are)? Average costs for one year of college or university (including tuition, books, and living costs) is \$12000-\$17000 depending on your standard of living, where you go to school and the particular program. However, the payoff is that for every year of post-secondary education, you will earn back what it cost you in five years from the increased income your education provides.

Treat your quest for scholarships and bursaries as a research project – you must spend time looking for the information that will help you.

Information about local scholarships and bursaries will be provided to students during X Block in the spring.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Why are scholarships available?* For all kinds of purposes. To recognize and reward academic and other achievements. To attract students to the institution offering the scholarship.

*Who is eligible?* There's a scholarship or bursary for everyone. They are awarded at all levels for students of all disciplines and backgrounds. Some you may have to apply for. Others you may be automatically considered for or be nominated for by people in your school. Criteria for awards vary. Students who participate in school or community activities can win scholarships based on extra-curricular and volunteer involvements. Students with specific talents, hobbies, ethnic backgrounds or family affiliations can meet award qualifications.

*What's the difference between a scholarship and bursary?* A scholarship is awarded based on achievement, usually academic or based on marks. A bursary is awarded based on need or satisfying other criteria.

*Who sponsors scholarships and bursaries?* You may think of schools as being the only administrators of awards. However, there are many other kinds of institutions and groups including governments, unions, service and philanthropic organizations, companies, corporations and individuals.

*How do I get a scholarship?* Apply. It's that simple. Many students assume they won't win, so they don't bother to apply. That's why many scholarships go uncollected each year. Carefully fill out the application, gather any additional information requested and send them in early. If you are asked to include a transcript, request one from your school office 1-3 days ahead of the scholarship deadline. Pay attention to application deadlines as those received late will not be considered.

*Who can help me?* Your school counselor and the financial awards office at the college or university to which you are applying and people who know you. Ask teachers, employers and community members if they would be willing to be references for you should reference letters be required.

*What do I say?* Brainstorm a list of all of your achievements and involvements – at school, in the community, connected to a church. What awards have you ever received? What clubs have you joined? What achievements are you proud of? What sports have you played? What skills do you have? What leadership or service experience do you have? Volunteer work?