

General Information

What is a scholarship?

A scholarship is a monetary award given on the basis of academic merit and often includes secondary requirements, such as leadership and citizenship skills demonstrated by the student's participation in the community and in extracurricular activities.

What is a bursary?

A bursary is a monetary award granted on the basis of academic merit to those students who are in need of financial assistance to continue their education. Often, there are secondary requirements such as proven leadership and citizenship skills.

What is a student loan/grant?

Student loans are provided by the federal and provincial governments to students in need of financial assistance to continue their education. Some financial institutions also offer their own student loan plans. A grant is a portion of the loan that does not have to be paid back.

Who can help?

Speak to the guidance counsellor at your high school. Ask parents, relatives and friends about scholarships offered through employers and organizations they belong to.

Scholarship and Student Financial Aid Information

Other Useful Websites

Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement

<http://alis.alberta.ca/et/fo/pay/scholarships/info.html?EK=11>

Student Aid Alberta

<http://alis.alberta.ca/et/fo/pay/loans-grants.html>

Alberta Learning Information Service

<http://alis.alberta.ca/hs/fo/paying-post-sec.html>

EducationMatters

<http://www.educationmatters.ca/student-award-information/>

The Calgary Foundation

<http://www.thecalgaryfoundation.org/grants-awards>

Association of Universities and Colleges

<http://www.aucc.ca/programs-services/scholarships/>

Tips for Scholarship Applications

- **Build Experience** - If you are interested in post-secondary education, it is important, during grades 9 and 10, to start creating a portfolio of your out-of-classroom experiences. You can increase your chances of acceptance and eligibility for awards by participating in athletics and volunteer work, as well as extracurricular and co-curricular activities.
- **Check Your Eligibility** - Scholarships and bursaries are awarded based on several criteria. The most common are academic achievement, financial need, leadership and citizenship qualities, and volunteer work. Some awards are based on one, two or all of these criteria.
- **Know Your Deadlines** - Applications are not accepted past the specified deadlines. Remember that dates are subject to change and it is the student's responsibility to confirm these well in advance. Be aware that some deadlines refer to "posted by" a certain date, while others may state "received by" a certain date.
- **Follow Directions** - Do not leave scholarship applications to the last minute. Most are quite complex and involve portfolios, letters of recommendation and summary data. Plan to work a minimum of one to two hours on each application. Keep copies of all your applications as other scholarship forms may ask for similar information. Please remember that incomplete applications will not be accepted.

- **Ask Questions** - Do not leave a section blank or partially complete. If you are unsure of how to respond to a certain question or section, ask your parents, teachers or guidance counsellor to review your application and provide feedback.
- **Apply Anyway** - It is important to be aware of your eligibility for awards. However, even if you do not meet all of the criteria but you feel you at least meet most of the eligibility criteria, you should still apply for the award. Occasionally there is a shortage of award applicants or extra awards become available that may relax the criteria necessary to be eligible for the scholarship.

Remember your scholarship application represents YOU!

Note:

Calgary Catholic School District scholarship applications must be submitted to your school's scholarship coordinator no later than May 1 of each school year.

Application Process

Most scholarship applications require a Social Insurance Number (SIN). Apply for a SIN as soon as possible if you do not already have one.

Detailed scholarship information and application forms can be found in the Counselling department at each high school.

The Calgary Catholic School District (CCSD) has a number of scholarships and bursaries available for students to apply for. The **CCSD General Application with list of Awards** can be found at: http://www.cssd.ab.ca/default.asp?V_ITEM_ID=218

