



WESTMOUNT

CHARTER SCHOOL

Scholarships

Information Package

Scholarship Information

Scholarship information and updates will be communicated via SOURCE Blocks and the Career Development website throughout the year. Students planning to apply for awards and/or scholarships are strongly encouraged to set up an account and create a portfolio with Scholarships Canada. Please check the website for school sponsored scholarship deadlines and specific links regarding school nominated awards for 2015-2016.

1. Contact **Elke Zilla or Wendy Cole** in **Student Services** for information or clarification regarding scholarship applications.
2. Start to prepare for eligibility in grade 10 by:
 - Getting involved in extracurricular activities, community service, volunteer work
 - Most scholarship programs have other criteria in addition to academic excellence
 - Financial need is often a criterion
3. Parents may need to inquire about scholarships offered by their employers.
4. Check on awards and bursaries offered by the post-secondary institution that you plan to attend. This information is readily available on the Internet at university and college websites.
5. **CHECK THE SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN BOARD!** (Outside Student Services and on the third floor) It will include new scholarship information!!
6. **DO NOT LEAVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE.** Most are quite complex and involve portfolios, essays, 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 similar requests may be made on other scholarships you may apply for.
7. **WATCH DEADLINE DATES CAREFULLY!** Applications are not accepted beyond these dates.
8. All scholarships require your **Social Insurance Number** before monies are paid out. Apply for a **SIN** now if you do not have one.
9. Check these websites to discover many scholarships:

www.alis.gov.ab.ca (link to Student Loans)

www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships (new data base with over 400 awards)

www.educationmatters.ca

www.milleniumpscholarship.ca

www.scholarshipsandawards.com (Internet companion to Scholarship 2007)

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com>

<http://www.schoolfinder.com>

www.studentawards.com

www.mtroyal.ca

www.nait.ab.ca

www.queensu.ca

www.sait.ca

www.ualberta.ca

www.ubc.ca

www.ucalgary.ca

www.uleth.ca

www.utoronto.ca

www.uvic.ca

www.uwaterlou.ca

www.yorku.ca

10. Students apply for most-scholarships in Grade 12. Large entrance awards for post secondary institutions are often processed in the fall. Student Loans, CBE Awards, Government Awards like the Alexander Rutherford Scholarship and School based awards are processed in the Spring of the applicant's grade 12 year.

Definitions of Award Types and Terms

Scholarships and bursaries are awarded upon consideration of several criteria. The most common criteria are academic achievement, citizenship qualities and financial need. Some awards are based on only one of these criteria, some on two, others on all three.

The following descriptions will be helpful in determining your eligibility:

Academic Achievement. Usually refers to your overall final average or in some instances your final mark in a particular group of subjects.

Bursary. A bursary is a cash award given to a student who has attained a certain level of achievement and is in need of financial assistance to continue their education.

Citizenship Qualities. Usually takes into consideration your extra-curricular activities (in and out of school, e.g., clubs, teams, organizations) and your overall contribution to the school (initiative, cooperation, etc.).

Financial Need. Takes into consideration your family's ability to contribute financially to further education (e.g., limited family income, number of children, other financial commitments, extenuating circumstances.)

Loans/Grants. A loan is advanced on the understanding that the money will be repaid upon the completion of one's studies. The federal and provincial governments both provide student loan plans. Some financial institutions are also introducing student loan plans.

Prize. A prize is a small award given in recognition of some specific superior accomplishment. Prizes may be in the form of such things as books, plaques, subscriptions, or cash.

Scholarship. A scholarship is a cash award given to a student primarily on the basis of academic standing. Leadership and citizenship are often considered.

Tips for Students Seeking Letters of Recommendation

- Give the referee all the pertinent information IN WRITING regarding the scholarship for which you are applying.
- Give the referee a written list of your accomplishments from which s/he may choose to improve the reference. Organize this list according to the criteria required for scholarship application.
- Indicate whether the referee should address the letter "To Whom It May Concern" or to a specific person. Indicate the exact address and include a stamped and addressed envelope if the referee is to mail the letter directly.

DO NOT ASK FOR A REFERENCE TO BE READY THE SAME DAY.
Give the referee time to do the job well - two weeks if possible!

Tips on Reporting Community or Extra-Curricular Involvement

- State the name of the specific organization or agency you volunteer with.
- If space allows, describe your responsibilities.
- Estimate the number of hours you participate each week or month or year.

This information is critical to get a true picture of your extracurricular/ community involvement in relation to your academic workload.

Additional Sources of Scholarship and Financial Assistance

- Calendars from various post-secondary institutions contain scholarship information available for their institution:
 - University of Calgary: www.ucalgary.ca/awards
 - Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT): www.sait.ab.ca/support/alumni/award_a.htm
 - Mount Royal College: www.mtroyal.ab.ca
 - Alberta College of Arts and Design (ACAD) www.acad.ab.ca/financial_aid.html
- Scholarships programs may be offered by companies or groups with whom parents or family members are affiliated.
- Private groups within the community at large.

Accessing Scholarship Information on the Internet

- The following web site contains additional post-secondary scholarship information for Alberta Scholarships and Financial Assistance:
www.alis.gov.ab.ca/learning/FinancialAssistance
- The web sites below generate a list of Canadian scholarships you qualify for, based on the profile you enter online
<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com>
<http://www.studentawards.com>
<http://www.schoolfinder.com>
- Beware of scholarship web sites requiring payment for information. The above sites are free, up to date and contain comprehensive information on Canadian awards.
- After registering at a specific site, check the information regularly. Most sites notify you when a new scholarship you qualify for comes on-line.
- Update your profile regularly. Any change in your status (for example, your grades improve, you decide on a different college) may create a change in the scholarships available to you.

Tips for Completing Scholarship Applications

- Review scholarship application forms for the criteria and information requested. Ask for help if you do not understand what is being asked.
- BE NEAT, and where possible, type your responses.
- Organize your application when presenting information. Think of appropriate categories of organization such as academic merit, leadership experience, extra-curricular commitments, personal strengths or financial need.
- Provide only data that is required for the application. Do not pad your form with extraneous, unrelated detail. Answer questions completely and honestly.
- Use dynamic and appropriate language that is clear, assertive and succinct.
- Arrange for final marks to be included if they are needed.
- Be sure you know when and to whom the completed application form should be returned.

Sign your application, and have your parents sign it if required.

Student Recommended Web Sites

These sites have been identified by students and Scholarship Coordinators as extremely useful resources in your search for scholarships, financial assistance, and educational information. Please let your Scholarship Coordinator know which of these sites you find most useful; and of any other web sites you would like to recommend!

Site Name	Description
CanLearn Interactive	Sponsored by the Government of Canada, this web site contains information and interactive planning tools you need to explore learning and educational opportunities, research occupations, develop learning strategies, and create the financial plans to achieve your goals. www.canlearn.ca
Tuition Fees & Academic Calendars for Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions	Through the CanLearn web site, this provides easy access to all Canadian college and university academic calendars, with quick links to tuition fees, campus newspapers, etc. www.canlearn.ca
My School - 101	A free interactive web site that allows you to participate in polls, join clubs, sound off and share with other students. Buy and sell used text books. Shop at "the Mall"! This Canadian site also contains scholarship, educational, & career planning information. www.myschool101.com
U.S. College & University Information, including scholarships and financial aid.	Access information on colleges and universities in the States; free college and financial aid searches, SAT and ACT test preparation tips. www.college-scholarships.com/
Writing your SAT's	Student must write SAT exams when applying to U.S. schools. This College Board site gives you all you need to register and prepare for the SAT exam, and includes information regarding colleges and financial aid in the U.S. www.collegeboard.com/
Writing the TOEFL	International students studying in Canada, the U.S. or other countries where English is the language of instruction must take the TOEFL - a test of English language proficiency. Visit this web site for test center updates, test preparation information and student resources available on line. www.toefl.org