

## WAYS TO FINANCE POST-SECONDARY STUDIES

- RESP funds and parental contributions
- Parental employers
- Student contributions – savings/summer jobs/part-time employment
- Apprenticeship/Co-operative Work Programs/Internship Programs
- Government-sponsored loans – Federal and Provincial sources
- Loans from lending institutions or student lines of credit
- Grants/Bursaries/Scholarships

### SCHOLARSHIP TERMS:

- Award: An award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement. Awards may be in the form of books, plaques, subscriptions or money. A monetary award is usually called a scholarship or bursary.
- Bursary: A non-repayable grant of money, bursaries are awarded primarily based on financial need, but academic achievement is also considered. Usually, the applicant must provide detailed documentation describing their financial situation when applying for a bursary.
- Scholarship: A non-repayable sum of money awarded to a student to help finance further education. Most scholarships are based on merit in areas ranging from academic achievement to athletics. Usually, scholarships are not based on financial need.
- Entrance Award/Scholarship: A scholarship or award given to a student entering his/her first year at a post-secondary institution. Also referred to as an Admission Award.
- In-course Award/Scholarship: Awarded to students already enrolled in post-secondary studies, beyond the first-year level.

### INTERESTING FACTS:

- Scholarships come in many different areas including: academics, school involvement, community involvement, leadership, volunteer work, sports, or financial need.
- There are awards for all students – there is over \$50 million in entrance scholarships available.
- Not all scholarships are dependent on high grades – 83% of awards do not require an academic average in their criteria.
- Keep searching throughout the year – awards have deadlines throughout the year.
- You can't win an award if you don't try – some awards have few applications.

- Get involved in the school and community – many awards require some school or community service.
- Look beyond colleges and universities for awards – there are over 1,000 award providers. Most are companies, associations, and other non-educational organizations.

### **THE HOW-TO OF EFFECTIVE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS:**

- Volunteer from Grade 9 onwards if you have your eye on scholarship funding.
- Keep a record of your successes, awards, prizes, and awards. This includes the areas of school, extracurricular activities, athletics, and volunteer activities. This is why it is critical to start and keep an up-to-date portfolio.
- Check out clubs, churches, your parents' employers, and service organizations for sources of scholarship funding.
- Plan ahead! Keep track of deadlines.
- Start early – begin researching scholarships in Grade 10 and 11.
- Read eligibility requirements carefully and make sure you demonstrate how you meet the criteria.
- Know your strengths and don't be afraid to advertise them.
- Don't leave items blank. Include all requested attachments.
- Write a stunning essay, with an original slant. Go for quality, not quantity.
- Proofread your application and essays.
- Start applications early. Please don't wait until the last minute to ask for letters of recommendation.
- Read carefully and follow the instructions exactly.
- You have to be prepared to do the research and winning scholarships requires effort.

### **FFCA SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- **Valedictory Award:** This \$250 award is given to the graduating FFCA High School student who is selected as valedictorian displaying excellence in academics, character and leadership while at FFCA.
- **FFCA Association of School Councils Outstanding Leadership Scholarship:** This \$1000 award is given to the graduating student who earns the FFCA High School Outstanding Leadership Award. No application is necessary as all FFCA graduating students are considered for this award with nominations being accepted from students, parents, and staff.

- **FFCA Association of School Councils Outstanding Character Scholarship:** This \$1000 award is given to the graduating student who earns the FFCA High School Outstanding Character Award. This student must have demonstrated outstanding character with the FFCA community as well as beyond showing the ability to consistently model the core character virtues of respect, responsibility, integrity, self-discipline, and compassion. No application is necessary as all FFCA graduating students are considered for this award with nominations being accepted from students, parents, and staff.
- **Pritchard-Poole Scholarship for Outstanding Dedication in Athletics and English:** This \$1,000 scholarship is provided by the FFCA Board in honor of Mr. Jay Pritchard and Ms. Meredith Poole for their contributions to the Alberta Association of Public Charter Schools. It is awarded to a graduate who has shown outstanding character and performance in English and Physical Education. Applications are available through the school office each April.
- **FFCA Fine Arts Scholarship:** This \$2,500 scholarship is sponsored by the FFCA North Middle School. It will be awarded to a graduate who has made outstanding contributions to the FFCA Fine Arts program. This includes the areas of Visual Arts, Dramatic Arts, and Choral Music.
- **FFCA Southeast Elementary Campus Character and Academic Scholarship:** This award is given to a graduating FFCA High School student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and character within the FFCA community and beyond. The winner of this award will have shown the ability to consistently model the core character virtues of respect, responsibility, integrity, self-discipline, and compassion.
- **Dosanjh Young Entrepreneur Scholarship:** This scholarship was established by the Dosanjh family in 2014. It is a \$600 award presented to the graduating student who best exemplifies an entrepreneurial spirit through positivity, adaptability, leadership, and ambition. Acceptance into a post-secondary program with an entrepreneurial focus is strongly recommended.
- **FFCA Board of Directors “Unsung Hero” Award:** This \$1,000 award is a staff-nominated award with the final decision being determined by the Board. It is meant for a student who makes a substantive yet unrecognized contribution whose effort and commitment is largely unacknowledged.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCING RESOURCES:**

Here are websites and resources to consider in financing post-secondary studies:

- [ScholarshipsCanada.com](http://ScholarshipsCanada.com) – a free website with Canadian scholarships
- [StudentAwards.com](http://StudentAwards.com) – another great source of scholarship information
- [Alis.gov.ab.ca](http://Alis.gov.ab.ca) – this is an outstanding site regarding Alberta information on careers, employment, scholarships, and student financing
- [CanLearn.ca](http://CanLearn.ca) – the Government of Canada website
- [Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com) – a free website for US scholarships
- [SchoolFinder.com](http://SchoolFinder.com) – information on Canadian colleges and scholarships
- [Books4Exchange.com](http://Books4Exchange.com) – a website where you can buy and sell used textbooks