

SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY TIPS

***Scholarships** are merit based (for excellence); **bursaries** are for deserving students with *financial need*. ***Maintain a high GPA!** Awards include the following **from the B C government** (must be a *Canadian citizen or permanent resident*).

- 1) **BC Achievement Scholarship** (\$1250) – Awarded **automatically** to the top 8000 graduates in BC. Based on academic achievement in Grades 10-12 courses used to meet grad requirements. Must have a 'B' average in English Studies 12. A cumulative GPA will determine winners. Notification in November after graduation.
- 2) **BC Excellence Scholarships** – 55 (\$5000 each) available to recognize well-rounded BC grads. Must be **nominated** (ONE only) by school. Winners will have demonstrated community service both in & out of school and shown aptitude & commitment to their possible career paths. Application pkg. available at gov.bc.ca/scholarshipsprogram & includes a written statement worth 60% and a resume worth 40%. Must be completed online in mandatory format, printed, signed & submitted by mail with principal's verification. Students must have at least a 'B' avg. in their Language Arts 11 final mark, as well as a 'B' avg. in Math 11, Science 11 and SS 11, and maintain a 'B' avg. in Grades 11 & 12 final course marks required for graduation. **If you wish to seek the school's nomination, complete the application and submit to Counselling early in January with a rough draft.** Nominated student's application must be submitted to the Ministry no later than February 15.
- 3) **Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship** is a \$5000 annual scholarship recognizing 20 **exceptional** grade 12 students who have demonstrated a commitment & aptitude for a career in teaching. Students need a B in Eng. 11, a B avg. in Sc. 11, SS 11 & Math 11, with no more than 1 C+; a B avg. in all grades 11-12 courses needed for grad; resume, 2 reference letters & 500 word written response. Complete applications submitted to the Ministry by Feb. 15. More info & application at gov.bc.ca/scholarshipsprogram.
- 4) **Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarships** (\$1000) – Must be a registered youth apprentice with the ITA; C+ avg. in grade 12 courses; **graduate**; complete SSA 11A, 11B, SSA 12A, 12B; report a total of 900 work hours to the ITA within 6 months after graduation.

.....

Research the Awards/Financial Aid/Scholarships section at the web site of the **school(s)** to which you are applying for **Entrance Scholarships**. Some Canadian universities have **automatic scholarships based on GPA** & are open to int'l students. **U. Vic** is the only BC school to consider you with a minimum 90%/32 IB points/Indigenous & Women in Eng./CS (85%) on your grade 12 GPA needed for admission. **MAJOR** awards need an excellent academic average, and **demonstrated leadership, initiative, service and extensive extracurriculars**. December (***UBC – Dec. 1***/****SFU** - Dec. 15****) through March is typically when you will apply for entrance scholarships. **Out of province schools may have earlier deadlines**. As you progress through your post-secondary education, you'll be eligible to apply for **continuing** scholarships & bursaries based on performance and financial need.

*See what your local **SD84** has to offer for graduating students.

*Conduct your own **DATABASE SEARCH** online. The following websites are all useful and **FREE!**

*Recommended is **Scholarships Canada** (scholarshipscanada.com) which leads the user through a series of questions covering field of study, career goals, student activities and family background, then matches the student's profile with thousands of awards in the program, with deadlines. Direct links to award applications, procedures, tips & contests. It comes with a useful search feature. Can be updated as you proceed through post-secondary studies.

***Other sites:** bcscholarships.ca vconic.ca > (Student Awards) scholartree.ca studentscholarships.org
My Blueprint YouTube channel – "What you need to Know about Scholarships"



STRATEGIES BY GRADE

GRADE 10

Do your best on all courses that satisfy graduation requirements for the BC Achievement Scholarship. Focus on your strengths. Get involved in school Leadership opportunities &/or participate in activities of your choice. Try to continue with them for the duration of high school. Do some general research on scholarships so you can target & improve your qualifications for your senior year. Join a credit union and start saving.

GRADE 11

Your **Grade 11 marks may be looked at for early admission purposes and for some scholarships.** These courses are the foundation to prepare you for the Grade 12 academic subjects necessary for direct university entrance. Continue to participate in activities of interest. Expand your responsibilities, especially in leadership areas if possible. The most prestigious open awards in Canada (Loran & Canada Trust) have early fall deadlines in Grade 12, so you need a body of work well in progress. Use the databases to target key scholarships & develop a month timeline for Grade 12 applications. Format your work resume to be more of an activity and accomplishments list. Record awards and special achievements. Apply for enriched opportunities such as Shad Valley, the BC Youth Parliament or Mini Med School. Initiate action to address school or community needs. *The Horatio Alger Scholarship program rewards students with the character to succeed in life & critical financial need.* Apply in grade 11 (horatioalger.ca).

GRADE 12

Begin early in the year. Implement a scholarship timeline. **Target key awards.** Apply to anything & everything for which you realistically qualify and have the time for a quality submission. Be organized & proactive! **Note deadline details.** Don't leave your application to the last minute. Check often; new awards are posted regularly. Reflect on your skills and background. Look for opportunities to participate in conferences, certification, contests; lead & perform senior or executive duties.

Think about whom could be your references; people who know you as a person, not just as a student. Contact them early with at least 2 weeks' notice, meet and provide complete details about the award and yourself. Be **prepared to write about your goals, leadership, insight, difficulties, as well as your academic intentions.** Save copies of your scholarship applications, as well as any required personal statements needed for universities. **Ask yourself both how you spend your time out of class and why it's meaningful to you. Think about the impact and influence you've had. There's no activity that's better than another. Working, hobbies, volunteering or helping out at home all matter. Share the ways and the whys of how you invest yourself.**

Follow instructions carefully. Ensure the format is correct and abide by the regulations and rules set out in the award details. Written responses need to be specific and results oriented. Indicate directly what you did, what obstacles you overcame, your decision-making process, your action-based results and what you learned. Complete all sections, even if they are optional. **Edit, edit, edit,** then proofread & then have someone else proofread. Apply! Many scholarships & bursaries go unclaimed because no one applies. Even smaller awards can add up and make a significant difference.

EXAMPLES OF OPEN SCHOLARSHIPS – there's a wide variety based on your talents, background, affiliations & future plans

*For students with challenges disabilityawards.ca *Basant Motors *Loran Award *Remax Quest for Excellence
*Beedie Luminaries *TD Canada Trust Scholarship for Outstanding Community Leadership *BCGEU *Burger King
*BC Principals' & Vice Principals' Association *BC Soccer *Duct Tape Scholarships *Girl Guides
*RBC Royal Bank Scholarships *Engineers & Geoscientists BC Entrance *Ted Rogers scholarship *Schulich Leader
*David Lam/BC Teal Foundation (ELL) *Walmart Canada Community Scholarship *Prospera Educational Awards
*Ken Dryden Scholarship *Terry Fox Humanitarian *BC School Sport *Fraser Valley Indo Canadian Business Association
*BC Federation of Foster Parents Bursaries *House of Commons Page Program *Cdn. Mental Health Association of BC
*Indigenous Bursaries Search Tool sac-isc.gc.ca *Aboriginal Learning Links aboriginallearning.ca *Indspire indspire.ca TD Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples (early November)

