

## **Bursary information - 2021**

In preparation for applying for bursaries, either through Vanier or external organizations, it is important to understand the process and what you can do prior to help organize your bursary package and to lower your stress level during a busy and hectic time in February and March.

### The Timeline:

- ❖ The Bursary Program will be released and available online on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- ❖ You will have until March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1:00 pm to hand in your completed applications.
- ❖ You will be notified of a bursary award at either the bursary tea in June (Covid permitting) or it will be handed to you at graduation.

### The Process:

Vanier Bursaries are either chosen by a committee of teachers (Vanier selected) or by external organizations (Donor selected). I have included a link to [last year's bursary booklet](#) for reference and to familiarize yourself with the process of application.

- ❖ Vanier selected bursaries require only **one** application package.
- ❖ Donor selected bursaries require one application package **per bursary**.

### All bursary application packages must include:

1. Application Form
2. Letter of Introduction – this can be done now and updated prior to submitting application
3. Resume – do it now and update prior to submitting bursary package
4. 2 reference letters – give the referees lots of time to complete – one of your references should be from a community member
5. Current grades

### What can I you do to make my bursary package stand out?

1. List every volunteer hour, community involvement from grade 9 through grade 12, as well as things about part time jobs and extra curricular activities.
  - a. For volunteering and community involvement, talk about projects taken on, what the impact was on the community, as well as commenting on when things did not go as planned.
  - b. Be genuine and honest – talk about what you did, why you did it and who helped.
2. List other information about you as a person – not just what you have done – how do you balance work/school/life? Why did you choose the organization you were volunteering for? What are you passionate about? Who do you look up to?

3. Be diverse in your activities – does your volunteering cover personal, community and province wide projects? Is there a good balance between school and community activities?
4. Don't assume the bursary committee knows who you are. Sell yourself, your skills, activities, volunteer etc.

Common Mistakes made that might disqualify you for a bursary:

1. Ignoring the instructions – ensure you answer all questions in full
2. Submitting an incomplete application – read all requirements carefully
3. Forgetting to proofread
4. Not checking day and time deadline – late applications will not be accepted

Scholarship Websites – there is lots of money available, here are some websites to begin your search:

[www.bcscholarships.ca](http://www.bcscholarships.ca)

[www.studentscholarships.org](http://www.studentscholarships.org)

[www.studentaidbc.ca](http://www.studentaidbc.ca)

[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)

[www.scholartree.ca](http://www.scholartree.ca) – sign up and check regularly for new scholarships

[www.educationplannerbc.ca](http://www.educationplannerbc.ca)

Many Universities have their own bursary and scholarship programs. If you know where you plan to attend your post-secondary education, check their website or inquire with student services for more information.

Remember:

**You can apply for Vanier Bursaries:**

2021 Bursary booklet will be available online February 10, 2021

**Bursary Applications are due**

Vanier and Donor selected bursaries are due on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 1:00 pm in the counselling office.

