

# Scholarships, Bursaries & Student Loans

## Inside this issue:

Scholarships Myths	2
Places to Look for Scholarships	2
Student Loans	2
Counsellor Tips	3
The Most Commonly Asked Question	4
Make a Budget	5
Printing Your Transcript	6

## Finding Scholarships

When you first start to think about finding scholarships and bursaries it can be a bit overwhelming. But finding resources to attend post-secondary really isn't too difficult. With a little persistence and effort you'll find many scholarships which you may qualify for.

Although there is no comprehensive book or website to tell you everything you need to know or where to

go, with the right attitude you'll be well on your way. Reading through this newsletter is a great first step.

The important thing to remember is that if you don't apply, you won't receive anything.

Searching and applying for scholarships, bursaries and awards is well worth the effort.

There are scholarships and

bursaries out there if you look for them and put in the time to be organized. Don't be afraid to ask questions and to take the time. It will pay off!



## Special points of interest:

- Find out where to find Scholarships and Bursaries
- Get Tips on making successful applications
- Figure out how much money you will need to fund your post-secondary schooling
- Learn how to print your transcript and get them to post-secondary institutions

## Scholarship Terminology

Some of the terminology associated with scholarships and financial aid can be confusing. Listed below are some of the most common terms that you will hear:

**Scholarships** –awarded based on marks; may also ask to see community involvement

**Bursaries**—money based on financial need; may include marks.

**Entrance scholarships**—money (typically based on marks) awarded to students by post-secondary institutions at the time of acceptance. Check when you apply.

**Student Loans**—money loaned from the government to students. Must be repaid.

**Grants**— money that does not have to be repaid.



# Places to Look for Scholarships

## PROVINCIAL & NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Many scholarships, bursaries, and awards are from union or employer groups, professional organizations, special interest groups, etc. Although there is no “master list” of scholarships out there, there are many scholarship databases that students can use to help them find scholarship opportunities. Good places to start your search:

- [bcscholarships.ca](http://bcscholarships.ca)
- [scholartree.ca](http://scholartree.ca)
- [scholarshipscanada.com](http://scholarshipscanada.com)
- GP Vanier Announcements Weekly (Go to GP Vanier Website and scroll down).

## ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Every post secondary institution has its own scholarships and bursary program. When you apply to an institution check their website (usually under financial aid). Some of the scholarships and awards require a separate application. Talk to the institution's advisor directly if you have questions.

## VANIER BURSARY/SCHOLARSHIPS

The GP Vanier Bursary/Scholarship program opens to grade 12 students on **January 31, 2024**. There will be an assembly outlining the application process and counsellors offer sessions to support students on successful applications. Information can be found on the GP Vanier Website under the “Grad” Tab. All GP Vanier students are strongly encouraged to apply. Student have until **Thursday, March 7th at 1pm** to hand in their completed applications.

## DISTRICT/AUTHORITY AWARDS

These awards worth \$1,250 recognize excellence in non-academic fields, including Fine Arts, Applied Skills, Physical Activity, Second Languages, Community Service, and Technical and Trades Training. More information available in the Vanier Bursary and Scholarship Booklet available **January 31, 2024**.

# Scholarship Myths

**MYTH:** Only super smart people can get scholarships.

**REALITY:** You don't have to be an academic genius to get a scholarship. Although there are scholarships that require a certain GPA, there are just as many that don't consider your academic standing. Scholarship programs want to recognize students of all kinds of achievements and backgrounds. They are given to students for a variety of reasons, including such things as community service, performance, athletics, leaderships, music, art and 2nd languages, just to name a few.

**MYTH:** You have to be financially needy to get scholarships.

**REALITY:** Some scholarships take into account students' financial need, but many do not. Remember, scholarships are given to students for a variety of reasons, not just financial need.

**MYTH:** You need to have tons of extracurricular activities to get a scholarship.

**REALITY:** The most important factor is quality not quantity. Showing a serious interest or passion to a particular activity or activities is more important than who has the longest list of extracurricular activities. It's about demonstrating who you are and what you care about through the activities you participate in and enjoy.

## Student Loans

There is no doubt that funding your post-secondary education will be expensive. It is extremely worthwhile to spend the time searching for and applying for scholarships and bursaries.

However, you may find that you cannot afford to pay for the full cost of post-secondary. Student loans exist to help students overcome financial barriers to higher education.

**STUDENT LOANS** are repayable financial assistance. Government-provided student loans are based on financial need and are interest-free while you are enrolled in full-time study (no interest rate is charged for BC government-issued student loans). One application to [StudentAid BC](#) covers application to both the BC and Canada student loan programs.



**LINE OF CREDIT LOANS** are loans that provide students with moderate interest level loans or a line of credit for education funding. Talk to your financial institution for more information

**OTHER STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE** programs include specific supports for low- and middle-income students, former youth in care, students who have a permanent disability, or a persistent or prolonged disability, and borrowers who need help with repayment. For more information, visit [StudentAid BC](#).

## Counsellor Tips

1. Begin drafting a letter of introduction and include:
  - a) Introduce yourself
  - b) Explain your post-secondary plans
  - c) Summarize your interests, activities, involvements, accomplishments, etc.
  - d) Comment on your financial circumstances if appropriate
  - e) Closing comment thanking committee for considering your application
2. Think about which teachers, mentors or coaches could write you a glowing reference letter. Ask two people to do this and give them lots of time.
3. Take some time to explore the GP Vanier website and provincial and national websites (ex. Scholartree) to familiarize yourself with the application process.
4. Save everything! Print or save a copy of all applications, reference letters, essay questions etc. You will find that a lot of scholarships applications require the same information and ask similar essay questions. Save yourself time and energy by having this information at your fingertips.
5. Pay attention to deadlines. Stay organized so you don't miss deadlines
6. Never assume you are not good enough for an award. Apply! Apply! Apply!
7. Start early so you can relax in May and June—you'll have enough to think about then!

# The Most Commonly Asked Question

Q: If I don't go to post-secondary next year should I still apply for scholarships and bursaries?

A: If in doubt, apply! Many organizations will allow you to defer collecting your award for a year unless they specifically state otherwise.

“Don't limit your challenges. Challenge your limits.”



## Accessing Your Transcript

Follow these steps to view your school marks, transcripts, scholarships and send transcripts electronically to post secondary institutions and employers. To register you will need your PERSONAL EDUCATION NUMBER (PEN) found on your report card.

Step 1: Go to <http://www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca>

Step 2: You MUST sign up for a BCeID before you can use the Transcript Service

Step 3: Log-in to Student Transcripts Service using your BCeID

Step 4: From your Dashboard, you can choose your post-secondary institutions to send your send your transcripts to, send and order transcripts, view exam and assessment results and view scholarship information.

For BCeID questions: <https://www.bceid.ca>

For Student Transcript Questions: [servicebc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:servicebc@gov.bc.ca)

The infographic provides information for counsellors about the Student Transcripts Service (STS). It includes the following details:

- Student Transcripts Service (STS):** An online application for students to view their school marks, scholarships and transcripts, and send transcripts electronically.
- Counsellor Access:** You will continue to access information the way you do today through the School Secure Web (SSW).
- Services:** View exam and assessment results, Order and send transcripts to post-secondary institutions, View transcript to order, View and send transcripts to employers, View BC scholarship awarded, essay and extension marks.
- Get Started:** Register for STS-counsellors will need:
  - Personal Education Number (PEN)
  - Full legal name
  - Day phone
  - Email address
- Step 1:** Go to the Ministry of Education's Transcripts and Certificate website at <http://www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca>
- Step 2:** Students must register for a BC Government account, a BCeID. Follow the system prompts and register for STS. Finally log-in to Student Transcripts Service using the BCeID.
- Step 3:** From a student's (ST) Dashboard make post-secondary institutions selections, send transcripts, view assessment results, and send transcripts immediately.

Applying to BC public universities and colleges also can get access. Students can do so at [www.bceid.ca](http://www.bceid.ca) and apply on [documenttransfer.ca](http://documenttransfer.ca)