

## *Steps to Scholarship Success*

Scholarship research is a daunting and somewhat overwhelming task. Where do you begin? What awards do you qualify for? When do you apply? What's the difference between a scholarship and a bursary?

Successful students quickly realize that planning, organization and time management are vital to locating and applying for the numerous awards available.

Here are some guidelines to assist you in your search.

**Scholarships:** These are non-repayable awards based primarily on academic standing, leadership/community service, athletics, or subject areas.

**Bursaries:** These are non-repayable awards based on financial need. Qualifications for a bursary may include: academic standing, providing a financial plan, ethnic background, single-parent status, parental affiliations, community work, part-time status, and area of study.

## *Scholarship Planning*

1. **Talk to your high school counsellor** to gain more information.
2. **There is a way to finance your post-secondary studies.** Consider your options: scholarships, bursaries, loans and part-time work may all be necessary.
3. Just as you set aside time for studying, **plan to set aside time to research awards.** Many hours of reading, checking web-sites, writing letters or essays will be necessary.
4. **Get organized.** Set up a folder or binder to keep track of the awards you find and apply for, a copy of your transcripts, letters of reference, etc.. Photocopy the awards you apply for to keep for your records. What system works best for you to manage your materials?
5. **Start early and keep going.** You can continue to apply for scholarships throughout your entire academic career. Don't become too frustrated if you don't find immediate success – there are thousands of awards available. Be persistent.
6. **Watch your deadlines.**
7. What do you know about you? **Create a personal profile** – like a resume – that identifies your strengths that may transfer into a scholarship. Consider: marks, skills, achievements, cultural background, area of study, parental and community affiliations. Store this information in your folder.
8. **Pay attention to the school announcements.**
9. Review the checklist before sending out each award to ensure your documentation is complete and accurate.
10. **Network.** Who else do you know who may lead you to a scholarship? Parents, relatives, employers, businesses, churches, community organizations, newspapers, web-sites, libraries, friends and teachers are some of your greatest resources.

# Where Do I Look for Scholarships?

Finding resources to finance your post-secondary study is not that difficult, but it does take time and effort. There is no simple click that will point you to all the funds available and there is no comprehensive book to tell you everything.

The only guarantee is that if you don't apply, you won't get any money!

**1. Post-secondary institutions.** Check the websites of the post-secondary institutions you are interested in and look specifically for entrance scholarships (these are for students coming directly from high school). Some schools offer renewable scholarships. This could be the difference in deciding which school to attend.

**2. The Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund.** Offered by the Government of Alberta to Alberta citizens.

Examples include:

- Rutherford Scholarships
- Premier's Citizenship Award
- Alberta Opportunities Bursary
- RAP Scholarships

Information about these and other scholarships can be found at [www.alis.gov.ab.ca](http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca)

**3. The internet.** Scholarship information and applications can be found on various websites such as:

scholarshipscanada.com

albertascholarships.ca

schoolfinder.com

canlearn.ca

studentawards.com

listofscholarships.ca

studentscholarships.org

**4. Private businesses.** These are the scholarships most often advertised by your school through the announcements, SchoolZone, or the school website. However, if you don't see an ad from a certain company or business, make sure to ask. When in doubt, check!