



# SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

INFORMATION SESSION

# First thoughts

This is *a time consuming process* so prepare to dive in and research, plan and act in order to accomplish your goal of achieving some form of financial aid. You find scholarships they don't find you, and keep in mind you never win scholarships you don't apply for! Begin by creating a folder (both digital and paper). This should include all reference letters, applications, essays and forms completed. This is useful going forward with your search and you can reuse suitable material for future applications.

Check timelines carefully! Scholarship applications run throughout the school year and many happen each month. Have a monthly target you plan to apply for and be sure to meet your timelines. **Note: If you require a school endorsement for your award or scholarship you must submit this request to guidance a minimum 2 weeks prior to the final due date.**

# Next steps

## 1. SPECIFIC UNIVERSITY and/or COLLEGE WEBSITES DIRECTLY

Google the School Name and type in "Financial Aid" to find possible scholarships for students entering first year.

Example - Google "WLU Financial Aid" for Info on Laurier Scholarships and Bursaries.

[Applying for Scholarships, Awards and Bursaries | Students](#)

## 2. PERSONAL CONNECTIONS:

Consider places of employment: parents work/ your workplace, for possible financial aid.

Community organizations: [Indigenous Bursaries](#)      [Disability Awards](#)

## 3. WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD SCHOLARSHIPS

[Scholarships - Waterloo Region District School Board](#)

Our own school board offers a variety of scholarships and bursaries so check out the options by visiting the wrdsb website.

# Next Steps continued

## 4. PHS GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Quick Link to the [PHS General Scholarship Application](#) due April.

These awards are for PHS students only who are graduating in this upcoming year.

Graduating students must complete the 'PHS General Application Online Form' to be eligible for these awards. Applications are due in the 3rd week of April.

## 5. SCHOLARSHIPS ADVERTISED BY THE PHS GUIDANCE OFFICE [Monthly Scholarship List](#) and Updates on Google Classroom.

# Next Steps continued

## 6. WEBSITES - helpful sites for your search

College and university information

[www.ontariocolleges.ca](http://www.ontariocolleges.ca) (Ontario colleges - go to Colleges link and go to 'Paying for College' tab)

[Welcome to Ontario Universities' Info](#) (Ontario universities - go to 'Finance' tab)

<http://phs.wrdsb.ca/> (PHS website - go to guidance and then click on 'scholarships')

General information regarding scholarships, awards and bursaries available in Canada:

<https://osap.gov.on.ca> OSAP Aid Estimator

[Student loans, grants, scholarships and bursaries](#)

[www.campusaccess.com](http://www.campusaccess.com) Click on "Financial Aid")

[http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student\\_financial\\_aid/scholarships.page](http://www.esdc.gc.ca/en/student_financial_aid/scholarships.page)

Specific services for receiving updates and notifications regarding scholarship opportunities.

<https://yconic.com>

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

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

<https://scholartree.ca>

# Scholarship Strategies

Create the following:

- Activity List of your past involvements at school, work or community.
- A personal strengths list of your positive qualities and attributes.
- A list of potential references.
- A scholarship calendar.

Clean up your social media accounts.

Read all scholarships carefully for key words and bios of previous winners.

# Scholarship Committees are Looking for:

- 1) Valuable work experience and qualities gained from this employment opportunity.
- 2) How you have overcome obstacles in the past.
- 3) School involvements in any capacity.
- 4) Volunteer work - how these have shown your passions and personality.
- 5) Unique traits you possess. What makes you - you.
- 6) Examples of leadership, initiative and innovation.

Know your audience and share information that provides depth and personality.

Proofread carefully and be aware of due dates!

# FINAL THOUGHTS



Be patient and determined as you seek financial aid. Entrance scholarships for your marks are always a good starting point, and OSAP is tried and true when looking for aid that everyone is eligible to apply for.

Continue to pay attention to the Google Classroom for upcoming scholarship and award updates. Finally be sure to find us in guidance if you have any questions. We are happy to help any way we can and good luck with your search!

<https://osap.gov.on.ca> OSAP Aid Estimator

Fill out this [Google Survey](#) to make an appointment with your guidance counsellor.