

# Scholarship, Grants, and Bursary Information

## When to start your search:

- As early as possible!
  - Many scholarships and awards have application deadlines in the spring.
  - If you are asking family, friends, teachers, and/or employers for letters of reference you will need to give them as much time as you can.
  - Some awards require an essay with your application, these take time to prepare
  - It will take some time to fully research what may be available to you

## Where to start your search:

- Talk to your high school Guidance teacher and check the Guidance department display boards
  - There may be scholarships specific to your school or school board
- If you have accepted a place at a certain College or University
  - contact their Financial office and the Office for students with special needs/Accessibility office (the name will vary). Make an appointment to speak with them (by phone or in person)
  - check their website for school and field of study specific scholarships or awards
- Online
  - Most school, college, and university websites will have links to potential sources of financial support. Be prepared to spend some time searching through them.
  - Some web sites such as [scholarshipscanada.com](http://scholarshipscanada.com) will help narrow down the search for you
  - Links for funding help can also be found on websites for different diagnoses (i.e. Cerebral Palsy Association, Learning Disability Association, Easter Seals, Terry Fox, or treatment centers such as TVCC, Holland Bloorview, Erinoak Kids).
- Community Agencies, service clubs, religious affiliations, leisure clubs or places of employment may offer scholarships or bursaries

## Factors to Consider:

- Scholarships are created to support and encourage students to study at post-secondary level. Some reward specific talents such as academic achievement, participation, community involvement, sport achievement, unique program of study etc. Some support and encourage unique student population groups such as persons with financial needs, disability, international students, English as second language, women, persons with children etc.
- Consider your uniqueness as an individual, your talents, and your support needs. You may meet the criteria of many different scholarships. Think beyond disability.

- Review criteria of different bursaries/scholarships such as: academic marks, participation, community involvement, financial need, specific talent/interest, program of study
- Check requirements for application process such as: submit a portfolio, complete questionnaire, letter of recommendation from others (give them lots of time) or academic transcripts.
- **Review deadline dates of each one you apply for- they all differ**
- Create a plan of action.

### Some useful websites:

<a href="https://osca.ca/en/students/2013-11-07-18-12-28/scholarships-financial-aid.html">https://osca.ca/en/students/2013-11-07-18-12-28/scholarships-financial-aid.html</a>	Ontario School Counselor's Association Links to Business and Industry Scholarships as well as links to the financial offices of Ontario Colleges and Universities
<a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-financial-aid.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/student-financial-aid.html</a>	Government of Canada website 'CanLearn is the source for interactive information and tools designed to help you save, plan and pay for post-secondary education'
<a href="http://www.osap.gov.on.ca">www.osap.gov.on.ca</a>	Website to apply for Ontario Student Assistance Program
<a href="http://www.schoolfinder.com">www.schoolfinder.com</a>	Click 'Resources' on the menu bar and then select 'Scholarships'. Articles on finding scholarships and a tool to search for scholarships.
<a href="http://www.scholarshipscanada.com">www.scholarshipscanada.com</a> <a href="http://www.yconic.com">www.yconic.com</a>	Free online search services – register and submit profile to be provided with a list of scholarships that may be of interest.
<a href="http://www.disabilityawards.ca">www.disabilityawards.ca</a>	An online search service focusing on disability specific scholarships and awards
<a href="http://www.neads.ca">www.neads.ca</a>	National Educational Association Disabled Students List of scholarships related to disability. Transition Guide, Advocacy supports
<a href="http://www.aucc.ca/">http://www.aucc.ca/</a>	Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada – manage a variety of scholarships listed on their website

## Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)

- OSAP provides loans (that have to be repaid) and grants (that you do not have to repay) for those that are eligible. This link <https://www.ontario.ca/education-and-training/how-get-osap> provides information on eligibility, amounts available, and how to apply.
- Applying online is free at [www.osap.gov.on.ca](http://www.osap.gov.on.ca). You are able to submit a paper application if you prefer.
- As a student with a disability you may qualify for up to \$10,000 dollars through the Ontario Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD) and the Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (CSG-PDSE). **It is recommended that everyone with a disability apply for OSAP** and check off that they have a disability. If you qualify for \$1 or more you can then access the BSWD and CSG-PDSE. If you are denied OSAP you are able to appeal, speak with the Financial Aid office at the college/university.
  - Equipment available to you may include a laptop, specialized software, lifts and personal care equipment. Services include note taking, educational assistants, and academic strategists. There will be differences between schools in how they interpret the guidelines and apply the funding. Work closely with the Accessibility Office and the Financial Aid Office to determine your eligibility and needs.
  - If you are receiving ODSP you can still apply for OSAP, make sure you talk with your ODSP worker.
- OSAP defines a full time student as someone taking a 60% or higher course load. Students with a permanent disability taking between 40% and 60% can choose whether they wish to be considered a full-time or a part-time student. Those taking less than 40% will be considered as part time.
  - OSAP for full-time students may be used to cover full living costs, tuition, fees, and books. The part-time OSAP program provides funding for tuition, fees, and books, but does not include a living allowance.

### For more information:

<http://www.transitionresourceguide.ca>