



Quick Link to Career page  
/Finance & Awards:



**SCHOLARSHIP  
MEETING #1**

**WELCOME!**

# Fall updates to note:

## CHANGES TO UBC AND SFU FOR ADMISSION TO FALL 2026

- **AT THIS TIME, EDUCATION PLANNER BC IS NOT 100% UPDATED FOR CHANGES TO SFU. Spring application window is still open. (old requirements)**
- **Go to the SFU website directly TO CONFIRM ADMISSION REQ'S AND THE NEW APPROVED COURSE LIST.**
- **APPLICATIONS OPEN OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>. Students in the 90% range should apply early to be evaluated earlier (Nov-Dec)**
- **SFU** no longer requires self reporting.
- **NEW\*\* One unified approved course list.** No list A and B. More holistic approach to admission. AP courses accepted as approved course.
- **NEW\*\* SFU-EXETER NEW ACCELERATED LAW** (6yr dual degree) program. [Accelerated Law \(SFU-Exeter\) - Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences - Simon Fraser University](#)
- Grade 11 science req's expanded -faculty of science. (two of chem 11, life sci 11 phys 11)
- **New\*** Have a minimum grade of 70% or higher in 70% in a senior level English
- Medical School may open in 2026 TBD.

# UBC updates

**UBC** no longer has an 'early admission deadline'. The deadline to apply by Dec 1 - ONLY for selected major scholarships.

- Now using **first review process** to assess students early. Top students can apply earlier to be assessed earlier.
- UBC **Admission averages** continue to increase across all faculties. SEE MRS HW AFTER THE MEETING FOR DETAILS.
- UBCO New BCom program (re-brand) Aligns with Sauder UBCVan.
- UBCO Bachelor of Nursing requirements changes (Chem 12 still recommended)

- **Canadian Coast Guard Academy 80 seats.** apps close in February
- **Douglas College** Some names have changed. Volunteer hours waived for most programs except Social Work. HCA and Mental Health & Substance Abuse programs now go thru **Douglas** application process. Apply early for Limited Entry programs.
- **TRADES** many waitlisted 2 years plus (Electrical, Hvac, Piping). Apply **EARLY** in grade 12. See Mrs. HW VCC adding Electrical as of Jan 2026.
- **KPU** now offers an Engineering diploma (2yr) for Transfer.
- **BCIT** Housing is now open! Apply Early for popular programs – spots fill.
- **UVIC** Open now, no supplemental for BCom. Deadline Jan 31 most programs.
- **Langara** New Digital Media and Design program
- **APPLY FOR ENTRANCE AWARDS IF YOU MEET CRITERIA! THEY HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR GRADS!!**

# **Scholarship eligibility:**

**\*Graduating students** \*Canadian Citizenship, PR or Landed Immigrant Status, Protected persons/Refugees will fulfill most requirements and criteria.

**\*\*International Students do not meet this requirement.**

There are a few sources of funding for International students via government agencies, post-secondary institutions and other independent donors

---

1. **INTRODUCTION**
2. **AWARDS**
3. **DEFINITIONS**
4. **DEFINING NEED-**
5. **APPLICATION STRATEGIES**
6. **POST SECONDARY timelines**

**Mark you calendars!**

**Centennial Local Scholarship Package**  
(2026) Meeting #2 in the LIBRARY on

**February 19<sup>th</sup>**


**Due: April 9, 2026**



Select buttons  
for information  
and links  
regarding  
**Financial Aid &  
Awards  
(Scholarships/  
Bursaries)**

Also  
**Employment,  
Volunteering  
and Post-  
Secondary  
Information  
and info  
sessions.**

[Welcome](#) [Post Secondary](#) [Trade & Apprentice](#) [Employment](#) [Experience & Volunteer](#) [Finances & Awards](#)

Click on the **buttons** above  to navigate the site for each page

## Welcome to the online Career Centre!

*A resource centre of education pathways, employment, and volunteer opportunities, scholarships, awards and bursaries (financial aid) and post-secondary information*

- Resources and information about Universities, Colleges, Technical/Trade schools both public and private; local, national and international including info sessions/open houses.
- Financial Aid information including loans, scholarships, bursaries and awards.
- District Transition program information - Work in Trades - Train in Trades
- Career exploration using My Blueprint, Education Planner BC and more.
- Volunteer and Employment resources and networking opportunities
- Information about Student Transcript Service, BC Ministry websites etc.



The Career and Post-Secondary advisor is available to assist students in clarifying their post secondary options for work, travel, technical/trade, college, or university.

Students in grades 10-12 are encouraged to visit the centre, especially at course selection time, to verify their choices for the following year. Parents and students are encouraged to contact Mrs. Healey Wright at [dhealeywright@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:dhealeywright@sd43.bc.ca) with any questions or concerns.

### Notable News and Events

Denise Healey Wright

Career and Post-Secondary Advisor

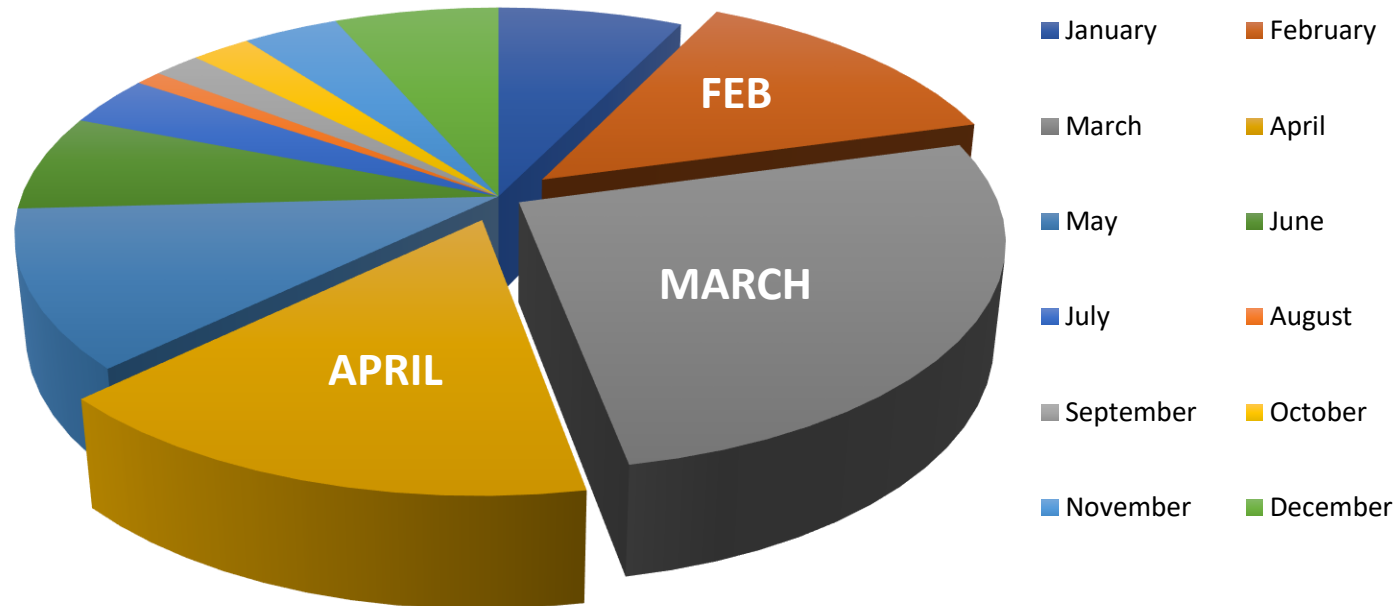


GRAD 2026

District Career Center

# Scholarships open and close during the year.

- **WHEN** should I apply for scholarships?
- Start NOW for Entrance Scholarships and National/Major Awards
- Most scholarship deadlines occur within the months of **February-May**



# Post-Secondary Funding options:



StudentAidBC

## ☐ **Student Aid BC (re-payment)**

For student loans there is an expectation that ***YOU and your parents*** will contribute some funds to your education! Talk to your parents about this.

Do research on the website <http://www.studentaidbc.ca>



## ☐ **Bank Loans (re-payment)**

## ☐ **Savings** from part-time and/or summer employment

## ☐ **REF** (Registered Education Fund) or money from family

## ☐ **Scholarships**

## ☐ **Awards**

## ☐ **Bursaries** (based on financial need/family income)





# SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES & AWARDS - AN OVERVIEW

*Financial aid is not the same as Financial need*

## Financial Aid:

- Refers to **monetary support**, in general, as a loan or scholarship, that is used to pay for school, especially higher education:

*“I don’t qualify for need-based financial aid, so I’ll apply for **merit-based achievement, community service and/or leadership awards.**”*

## Financial Need:

- The difference between the **cost** of an educational program and what the student can **afford** to pay. One's **financial need** may qualify one for grants, scholarships, or low-interest loans and/or student aid.

# Student Aid BC - Explore the website-

- **Parental & student annual income is considered for students applying for Student Aid BC including both low and median income households. You and your parents are expected to contribute to your education costs.**

## **2025/2026 weekly maximums**

- If you do not have dependant children, you can receive **up to \$520 per week** of full-time study.
- Note: the above amounts reflect a temporary increase to the weekly Canada Student Loan limit, in place until July 31, 2026.

2025/26 Living Allowances for Students residing in B.C.	Monthly	Weekly
Single student away from home	\$2,423	\$563
Single student living at home	\$824	\$192

# Sample Costs of Post Secondary

## College:

**Douglas College:** First year full time Tuition can range from \$5,000 to \$13,000 per year including Fees & Books- depending on choice of program and where you live.

## University:

**UBC** approx \$22,000 per year full load, (including living on campus (shared/ meal plan) books fees and living expenses.

- ***Private colleges and universities and US schools have much higher tuition.***

## Trades

Foundation programs (24 weeks on average) \$2K to \$4K plus gear. Lots of funding available. Many programs are waitlisted 2yrs+.

# **PROVINCIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

## **BC Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship \$5,000**

(20 awards available to students entering a Faculty of Education program)

## **BC Excellence Awards \$5,000 One nominee**

There are 55 BC Excellence Scholarships available to recognize well-rounded B.C. graduates. Winners will have demonstrated service and leadership, both at school and in their communities, and shown aptitude and commitment to their chosen career paths. They will receive a \$5000 scholarship voucher to use for post-secondary tuition. DUE: Feb 15<sup>th</sup>

## **BC Achievement Scholarships \$1,250 **Automatic** Students do not apply.**

Recognize the **top 8000 graduates in the province.**



## **District/Authority Awards \$1250 -** *Apply within our local scholarship package in the spring.* 35+ available for Centennial graduates.

- *The application will require teacher signature which verifies that you **EXCEL in the focus area.*** Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) and have that on record with the school at which you registered for Grade 12 Be a B.C. resident. Valid for 5 years.

### **Superior Achievement/Excellence in one of the following areas:**

- **Fine Arts** (Fine and Performing Arts: Art, Music, Drama, Voice etc.)
- **Applied Skills**
- **Trades and Technology**
- **Physical Activity** (community and/or school-based teams and/or provincial/national level)
- **Curricular Second/international Languages**
- **District / Curricular Technical & Trades Training**
- **School & Community Service** (min 100 hours to apply)
- **Indigenous Languages and Culture**

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships>



# Major Scholarships & Major Entrance Scholarships (Merit based)

Deadlines are early in the school year

Speak to your counsellor if you would like to be considered for a nomination.

## Major and Entrance Awards:

- Loran Awards (October 15) Community service no nomination required. Apply directly
- U of T National Scholarships & **U of T Book Award** (Oct 2) (1) Merit – Apply to be our **nominee**
- **Lester B Pearson Int'l Student** Scholarship (October 2) (1) Merit/**nomination** - Apply to U of T by October 18, 2024
- Queen's University Entrance Award Chancellors (December) (3) Merit – Speak to your counsellor
- SFU **USES** Entrance Awards DEC 15
- UBC **Centennial Scholars Awards** Dec. 1 The UBC **International Scholars Program** Dec 1
- **Schulich Leader** Scholarships - Early January (**internal** via Form) (1) Apply internally to be our **nominee**
- **Cmolik** (Feb 7) (1) Apply internally to be our **nominee** (Adversity/Tenacity)
- University of Western Ontario (Jan 20) Merit
- **SFU UGGLA** (January 19<sup>th</sup> 2026) Ten scholarships are awarded each year to students who face significant financial barriers to participation in post-secondary education. This may include students who identify as Indigenous, Black, or a person of colour, students living with disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+ students, and students of all gender identities.
- Horatio Alger Awards (Opens in March)

# Loran Scholars Program / Major Award

[www.loranscholar.ca/apply](http://www.loranscholar.ca/apply) APPLY DIRECTLY TO THE LORAN FOUNDATION

**Value:** up to \$100,000, \$5,000 and \$2,000 awards available.

**Eligibility:** Must be a graduating student, have a minimum cumulative average of **85%, over the past 3 years** be a Canadian Citizen or permanent resident, be at least 16 years of age by Sept. 1 of the following year.

Loran Awards are only tenable at **participating universities** in Canada, but finalist and provincial awards are tenable at any accredited public university in Canada.

**Criteria:** Must have outstanding service, leadership and character (integrity, humility, kindness, courage, tenacity and personal autonomy) and demonstrated a commitment to serving and improving their community/school.

**Deadline OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

# University of Toronto Book Award & U of T National Scholarships

We may **nominate one student** for the U of T Book Award and they will also be our (1) nominee for the National Scholarship.

If you intend on applying U of T and would like to be nominated *submit a brag sheet to Mrs HW by **Oct 2.***

15 Scholars (winners/full ride)

Also, 10 Arbor Scholars (**runners up-** Approx \$10,000 each)

- Visit: [www.uoft.me/national-scholarship](http://www.uoft.me/national-scholarship)
- **Internal deadline to determine nominee Oct 2.**

## Queen's University. Major Admission Awards

- Deadline to apply for **MAA** (early December): Must apply to Queen's Univ. no later than **Nov. tbd**
- **QUARMS** – Queens U Accelerated Route to Medicine is no longer linked to Chancellors Scholarship application- The goal of QuARMS is to offer a carefully selected group of up to **10 outstanding Black and/or Indigenous peoples** that are graduating high school, an exciting and innovative 2-year pathway that culminates with application for admission to the 1st year **of Med School** at Queen's. **Apply via OUAC by Dec. 1** <https://meds.queensu.ca/academics/quarms>

# UBC Major Entrance Awards

**UBC Presidential Scholars Award** (academic/leadership)

Apply to UBC through the online application by **December 1 each year Select yes.**

**International Scholars Award – Apply by Dec 1**

**Centennial Scholars Entrance Award 80K** and due **December 1**

(based on **financial need** and still be a strong academic student who is involved and meet all UBC admission requirements) Application is required **Application form (open Oct. 1)**

**Scholarships for international students:**

Apply to UBC by **Jan. 15, 2025** to be automatically considered.

**Awards for Aboriginal students:** must self-identify on UBC application.

**Beyond Tomorrow Scholaships** - You must self-identify as Black (African, African-American, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)

- Submit your [UBC application](#) by **December 1.**
- Complete the [UBC Entrance Award Application](#) and select the Beyond Tomorrow Scholars Award by **December 1.**



# SFU Entrance Awards

High School Entrance Scholarships, Awards, and Bursaries are only available to applicants applying to SFU for the Fall.

**The Fall 2026 Undergraduate Scholars Entrance Scholarships application is open October 1 - December 15, 2025.**

The Undergraduate Scholars Entrance Scholarship (**USES**) Program is designed to attract both **domestic and international** high school applicants who demonstrate potential to enrich the university community through ongoing academic and community contributions. The USES Program has a number of scholarships that range in value from \$20,000 to \$140,000. **Eligible applicants will be considered for all USES Program scholarships based on one application.**

(Other Entrance Scholarships may require **individual applications.**)

# What can you do now – prepare and start:

**Register for POST-SECONDARY INFO SESSIONS.**

Post-Secondary reps are a wealth of information about **Financial Aid programs and Entrance Awards**. **Research** tuition costs and visit financial aid pages at your institution(s).

**Maintain** a scholarship file.

**Make** sure you have one or two referees/references.

**Complete** your brag sheet/Academic resume to provide to your referees. This helps them write a good concise letter!



# The process is ongoing all year: Apps open and close throughout the year.

- **Search:** which awards match your criteria?
- **Apply, apply, apply!** Be aware of deadlines!
- Be clear and **concise** in your application. Use word counts to your advantage.
- Have your essay proof-read and seek feedback well in advance of the due date. **Edit. Edit. Edit.**
- **Do not use companies like Grant Me to write your applications or essays – *Donors may disqualify you. Do not use ChatGPT or AI***
- In the essay, *relate to the donor*. This is your time to shine! Answer any questions. Highlight what experiences you have that make you stand out!

# **Notes: General Scholarship applications:**

Follow the instructions! Do not apply if you do not meet the criteria.




**The #1 complaint about scholarship essays**

***"STUDENTS DON'T ANSWER THE QUESTION!"***

- Tailor your application /essay to the donor's goals and criteria
- **Know your competition/candidate pool:**
- ***Centennial only*** (*school based*) or
- ***Coquitlam*** (*Local*) or
- BC (*Provincial*) or
- ***Canada-wide***

**Note: Local & Community awards = best odds & less competition!**

# Where can you find scholarships?

- The **Career Centre Website** - Scholarships are updated and available on the **Financial Aid** page.
- *Scholarship search engines, Post-secondary Financial Aid links*
- **Financial Aid Handbook** posted/emailed
- The **Centennial Today**, Instagram  **@cent43careercentre**, Bulletin Boards, TV's
- **Ask your parents/co-workers/friends** about scholarships from:  
*Employers, Unions, Community Clubs, Sport associations, Cultural, Heritage, Arts, Dance, Music, Foundations etc.*



# Strategies for Winning Scholarships ... JUST START.

**You can't win  
if you don't  
play.**

- 25% of graduating students don't apply for any funding!
- Even among talented students, winning money involves a bit of luck, not just skill.
- To win more scholarships, apply to more scholarships!
- It gets easier after your first few applications!
- Essays can be reused and tailored to each new application

# WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

TOTAL # OF GRADUATING STUDENTS	354 (43)
TOTAL # PLANNING TO ATTEND POST-SECONDARY (STS)	213
NUMBER OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT APPLY or INELIGIBLE (50%)	106
NUMBER WHO INTEND TO APPLY BUT DON'T SUBMIT (50%)	53
NUMBER OF APPS REJECTED/LATE ETC. 10%	6
NUMBER DEEMED INELIGIBLE 10%	6
FINAL ESTIMATE OF MAX # OF APPLICANTS FOR 2022	41
NUMBER OF DISTRICT AWARDS AVAILABLE	30
NUMBER OF OTHER AWARDS IN PACKAGE	26
NUMER OF ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL AWARDS FEATURED IN PACKAGE	16 = total 74
LOWEST POTENTIAL RATIO (# OF AWARD TO # OF APPLICANTS)	1.7 : 1

20/21- 376 GRADS - 21 APPLICANTS FOR 70 AWARDS. Approx 3:1


22/23 – 390 grads - 32 applicants for 75 awards. Approx: 2.3 : 1

23/24 360 grads, 36 applicants for 73 awards. Approx 2 : 1

24/25 375 grads, 38 applicants for 69 awards. Approx 1.7:1

## Writing a Winning Scholarship Essay or Personal profile.

There are plenty of tips on the Career Centre page

- **Answer the essay question** orally and transcribe the recording
- Use an outline to organize your thoughts
- Give specific examples – unique to YOU!
- Personalize your essay and be passionate! **Brag a bit!** 
- Write about something of interest to you! This makes the reader more interested.
- Talk about your impact on other people and the impact of your experiences...**what did you learn.**
- ***DO NOT USE CHATGPT, ESSAY WRITERS OR AI.***



*Grade 12 is YOUR best  
opportunity to win a scholarship!  
There will never be a time with  
more opportunities and less competition  
than your grad year.*

A scholarship search is...

***NOT “quick and easy.” It can be a lot of work!***

Expect to spend a lot of time finding leads and researching, editing your essay, filling out applications, asking for references.

*May 30<sup>th</sup>*

*Hi Ms. Healeywright,*

*I understand it may be late, but I would like help finding scholarships.*

*I've been going through quite a lot of scholarship websites and haven't found any I qualify for.*

*Thanks.*

***Please DO NOT come to see me in MAY !***

***Most sholarships will have closed by then. Start to prepare now.***

Scholarship funding is... ***NOT fast money!*** *HAVE A GAME PLAN! Talk to your parents about your tuition & costs.*

There is usually a **4 to 6 month delay** between the time you start and the earliest you might receive funding. Your first semester tuition and fees will be due (usually in full) in August!



*Make the time:* *If you spend 3 hours applying  
for a scholarship ...*



*\$1,250 = 73 hours of p/t work.*

*\$5,000 = 294 hours of p/t work*

*Beware....There are no 'guarantees'!*

*You might apply and receive **nothing**.*

Anyone who “guarantees” scholarship money or asks for money up front is probably a scam artist. Beware! Contests can be a way of getting your information.

# \$uccess\$ i\$ possible!

Centennial Grads have WON:

- 2025 Terry Fox Humanitarian Award **\$28,000**
- 2022 and 2024 *U of T Arbor scholars* **\$20K.**
- Cmolik **40K**, Beedie **30K** and SFU Uggla (**full ride**) won in 2023 and 2024!
- 2020 *Schulich Leader* winner: **\$80,000.**
- **Most** grads who apply to our **local package and/or District Authority Awards** (\$1250) and meet all criteria will win.(Spring)
- For Bursaries, **financial need/low income** is in the criteria. If you are unsure whether you qualify for bursaries see your counsellor.
- **Community service/School involvement** is in the criteria for many external awards & most community awards. **Get involved!**

# **Fall 2026 Application Timeline - BC Schools**

**MOST WILL OPEN OCT 1ST**

**Apply via Education Planner BC Application system (create account)**

**Douglas College** – Applications OPEN Oct. 1 Apply for limited entry right away

**SFU** – Applications OPEN Oct. 1 SFU Application deadline is **Jan 31**

**SFU** USES Entrance Scholarship deadline **Dec. 15**

**UBC** – Apply by **Dec. 1** to be considered for the UBC Major Entrance Scholarships.

Application **Deadline is Jan. 15**

**UVic (open)** – Application deadline is **Jan 31** (most programs)

**Capilano U** – (Oct 7) Entrance Awards deadline March 1, 2025. 1.9 million in 2025

**BCIT** – Applications open **Oct 1** until full or by deadline date. Apps for trades programs accepted all year. (rotating).

(Many BCIT programs are competitive. Apply early! Double check- some programs *do not accept direct high school applicants* & require post-secondary credits to apply) Get a DVR from your counsellor.

Deadlines are set in **STONE !!**

- ❖ College & University **application deadlines**
- ❖ Online/Distance **course completion** deadlines
- ❖ Standardized **test deadlines** TOEFL, SAT, IELTS etc.
- ❖ **Transcript** request deadlines: BCeID#, STS deadlines.
- ❖ Forms close automatically

# UPCOMING EVENTS & INFO SESSIONS

- **BCIT Business and Media** at **Centennial** Sept 26 (FRIDAY) Lunch Library
- **SFU Faculty of Applied Science** at **Centennial** Oct 2 Lunch Makerspace
- **BCIT BIG INFO** – Oct 9<sup>th</sup> Burnaby Campus
- **SFU Future Student info session** at **Centennial** Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at lunch
- **Langara Info Week** Oct 20-24<sup>th</sup>
- **Douglas College** Info session Oct 6 at **Centennial - Library**
- **Douglas Campus Info Fair** New West Campus Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm
- **PSBC FAIR NOV 24** 9-11 AM at **Centennial** Gr. 11/12's
- **Explore CapU** Open House Nov 29<sup>th</sup>

More being added regularly:

[Career Centre - Centennial Secondary School \(sd43.bc.ca\)](https://sd43.bc.ca)





# Thanks for attending!

**Next scholarship meeting**  
**Thurs. Feb 19th**

**Local Scholarship Application  
package & SD43 Community  
Awards/Provincial DAA Awards.**

*Follow us on Instagram*



@cent43careercentre



## Post Secondary and Career Advisor

Denise Healey Wright

[dhealeywright@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:dhealeywright@sd43.bc.ca)

Visit Career Centre Website

[www.sd43.bc.ca/School/Centennial/ProgramsServices/CareerCentre](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/Centennial/ProgramsServices/CareerCentre)

Daily 8:00 am – 3:30 pm except Tuesdays

Awards &  
Bursaries

Employment  
Opportunities

Post-Secondary  
Options

Scholarships

Trades Training

Volunteering

