

**PORT MOODY
SECONDARY SCHOOL**



SCHOLARSHIPS

BURSARIES

AWARDS

LOANS

FINANCIAL STRATEGIES

PLANNING FOR POST-SECONDARY

EDUCATION

October 2019

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

With a little effort one can develop a “*scholarship strategy*” which will enable you to sort through the myriad of available scholarships, bursaries, grants, and awards with relative ease. The keys to success are planning and education. Planning and preparation should begin early in the school year to provide maximum flexibility in the pursuit of your scholarship goals. You, of course, must also know what you are looking for and what you are capable of attaining; and this is where education comes in. You will have to become familiar with scholarship types, scholarship terminology, necessary qualifications, application procedures, references, etc.

WHY DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR MONEY FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?

Grade 12 is the time in your life when you are making decisions that could potentially impact your future. In today’s changing job market and economy, post-secondary education is not only expensive but necessary. Given this reality, most students need to look at potential sources of financial aid to assist them with these expenses.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

(These are estimated costs only; costs vary from person to person, school to school, and program to program.)

One Academic Year	University	College
Tuition and fees	\$6,473 (UBC)	\$5,927+(Langara)
Books and supplies	\$2,120 estimated	\$900 estimated
Residence with meal plan OR rent off campus with roommate - incl. groceries/ utilities)	\$10,992 (residence/meal plan)	\$8,686 estimated (renting in Vancouver)
Personal Expenses	\$1,360	\$1,960
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	\$20,945	\$17,473

Besides holding down a part-time job, having a college/university fund set up by your parents/guardians, or an inheritance, the only other way to get funding for your post-secondary education is to apply early for financial aid.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

For financial aid and applications to post-secondary institutions, students should research where and how application forms may be obtained. It is the responsibility of the student to check deadline dates, obtain application forms, complete the necessary documentation and make their submissions before the deadlines.

SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- Complete Personal 'Brag Book' or a digital Personal Resume
- Research the scholarships for which you may be eligible
- Obtain application forms
- Complete application forms
- Request letters of reference
- Obtain or request documents (transcripts)
- Write or prepare any essays, resumes or goal statements
- Check into who is responsible for transmission of documents - and how
- Adhere to the deadline

CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS OF APPLICANTS

In general, the criteria include:

- Academic excellence
- Excellence of service activities within the school and/or community
- Leadership in volunteer activity, athletics, or other group endeavours
- Ability to write a short biographical essay and personal resume
- If available, (and requested) performance in external competitions such as those in Math, music, performing arts, science, written expression (e.g. Arts Essay Contest, Euclid Math competition, Physics & Chemistry Olympiad, other similar competitions).

THINK AHEAD AND START EARLY

- It takes **TIME** to prepare a good application; time for teachers and others to write letters of reference; time to prepare transcripts; time to get the principal's signature; time to revise your application.
- Different awards require different documentation. Check the specific instructions carefully in the Career Resource Centre, or online. Some application procedures may require information about you in an essay or letter, while others may have detailed forms.

THE LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE MEETINGS - 2019

Wednesday, Oct. 16	3:10	MPR	Introduction to Scholarships
Wednesday, Nov. 13	3:10	MPR	Details: application form, documentation, references
Wednesday, Dec. 11	3:10	MPR	Local Scholarship Package handed out

FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. Types of Financial Assistance Available

1. *Scholarships:* Monetary awards given for academic excellence.
2. *Awards:* Monetary awards made in recognition of achievement and significant individual contributions to the school, cultural and athletic development of school/community. Academic achievement is usually defined only as the ability to enter post-secondary.
3. *Bursaries:* Grants made to students who demonstrate financial need. Support documentation must be included with your application.
4. *Loans:* Money borrowed by a student demonstrating financial need which usually must be repaid. A full financial statement is a necessary part of the application form. Student loan application forms are available on line at www.studentaidbc.ca.

B. Types of Scholarships

1. PROVINCIAL: BC Achievement Scholarship for Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents

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

A student will receive a \$1250 BC Achievement scholarship if he/she meets the basic eligibility requirements:

- ~ *achieves at least a final mark of B (73% or higher) (exam and school mark combined) in English 12*
- ~ *Has no more than one Transfer Standing (TS) or Standing Granted (SG) indicator among course marks used for the calculation of winners, excluding Language Arts 12, which must have a percentage score*
- ~ Awards are granted based on student achievement in grade 10-12 courses required for graduation, **including electives**. A cumulative average % will be calculated and form the basis of determining the winners.
- ~ **Awarded to the top 8000 graduates within the province**

Note: students do not apply for this scholarship; your grades will automatically qualify you.

2. PROVINCIAL: BC Excellence Scholarships for Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents

55 BC students will receive a \$5000 scholarship if they meet the eligibility requirements:

- ~ demonstrate community service and leadership inside and outside of their school
 - ~ have a commitment and aptitude for their chosen career path
 - ~ Have at least a 'B' (73%) or above in language Arts 11 final mark
 - ~ Have a 'B' average in Science 11 or 12, Math 11 and Social Studies 11 or 12, with no more than one C+ (67% or above) final course mark
 - ~ Have maintained a 'B' average in Grades 11 & 12 final course marks required for graduation (includes required and elective courses)
 - ~ **MUST BE nominated** by their school for this award (one only per high school)
- DEADLINE TO APPLY:** website will be updated by the end of October/2019

3. **PROVINCIAL: Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarships for Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents**

A student will receive a \$5000 scholarship if s/he meets the basic eligibility requirements:

- ~ Awarded to students who are exceptional and who plan to enter the teaching field
- ~ 20 awards are given to graduates intending to enter a BC Faculty of Education program
- ~ **MUST BE nominated** by their school for this award (one only per high school)

DEADLINE TO APPLY: website will be updated by the end of October/2019

A student cannot win both a BC Excellence and a Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship. Be sure you have a social insurance number. If you don't have one, see the Post-Secondary Career Advisor in the Career Centre or visit the local Service Canada Office in Coquitlam.

4. **PROVINCIAL: District/Authority Scholarships and Awards for Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents**

Each qualifying candidate receives a \$1250 voucher that can be used towards post-secondary education. District/Authority Scholarships are applied for using the **Local Scholarship Package application form** (see section #6)

To win a scholarship, a student must:

- ~ meet the basic eligibility requirements
- ~ fulfill the requirements of the Graduation Program
- ~ meet the criteria determined by the local District Scholarship Committee, which requires a student to demonstrate superior achievement in ONE of the following 7 areas:
 - **Curricular: Fine Arts** (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
 - **Curricular: Applied Skills** (Business Ed, Technology Ed, Home Economics)
 - **Curricular: Physical Activity** (not limited to Physical Education; includes school-based athletics, Cheer, Gymnastics)
 - **Curricular: International Languages** with IRPs or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses
 - **Curricular: Indigenous Languages & Culture** at school or in the community
 - **District Curricular: Technical and Trades Training** (Youth Train in Trades programs, e.g., Carpentry, Automotive, Mechanics, Cook Training, etc.)
 - **Community Service** - Volunteer activity demonstrating awareness of local and global issues and cultures.

5. **PROVINCIAL: Youth Work in Trades (formerly Secondary School Apprenticeship)**

\$1,000 Scholarship - For students registered in a school district Secondary School Apprenticeship Program prior to graduation. For details, see your counsellor.

6. **PROVINCIAL: BC China Award for Excellence in Chinese for Canadian Citizens or Permanent Residents**

50 awards for BC Grade 12 students studying Chinese. Applicants must have completed Mandarin Chinese 11 with a minimum grade of 86 %, are or will be enrolled in Mandarin Chinese 12, and have completed all Grade 11 courses with a minimum grade of B (73%).

Must be nominated by your Mandarin Chinese teacher to apply. Applications will open in mid-December. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/scholarships-awards/bc-china-award-for-excellence>

7. PROVINCIAL: BC International Student Ambassador Scholarship - for International Students from the original partner countries of the People's Republic of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, or from the more recent partners' group of countries

School Districts may select five nominees from the partner countries; students nominated will demonstrate high academic standards, including English language ability. Each Secondary school will submit 3 nominees to the School District Scholarship Committee for consideration. Applications will open in early 2020.

8. University/College Entrance Scholarships

Most universities, colleges and private post-secondary institutions throughout North America provide Entrance Scholarships to superior Grade 12 students. The criteria for screening applications may be based upon any one or any combination of the following:

- scholastic standing, admissible subjects and/or provincial examination results
- record of secondary grades (Grade Point Average)
- Personal letter, interviews and/or overall performance in a given area (such as music, athletics, etc.)

[UBC Presidential Scholars Award Program](#)

- Offers prestigious awards available to students entering UBC, including a one-time award of approximately \$5,000 and renewable awards of up to \$60,000 payable over four years. **Apply for admission to UBC by Dec. 1, 2019** (*Applicants are evaluated for the Presidential Scholars Award for their first-choice degree based on their Academic Profile and Personal Profile sections of the online application.*)

[UBC Centennial Scholars Entrance Award](#)

- UBC's entrance award program supports academically qualified high school students who would not be able to attend without significant financial assistance. One-time & renewable awards of up to \$40,000 are available, payable over four years. Students and families must complete an application to demonstrate financial need and provide a reference letter from someone who knows the student well - **apply and submit ALL DOCUMENTS by Dec. 1, 2019**

[SFU Undergraduate Scholars Entrance Scholarships](#)

- Major Entrance Scholarships - Offered to students with a 90% + or minimum 31 IB points average (does not include predicted bonus points). Application form required; **apply by Dec. 15, 2019** (Applications now open).

[UVIC Entrance Scholarships](#)

- Undergraduate Entrance Scholarships & Bursaries - GPA-based or application required: **deadlines for application submissions vary; visit <https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/safa/entrance-scholarships/> for categories and submission details**

[BCIT Entrance Awards](#)

- President's Entrance Awards, and other Entrance Awards - Check

www.bcit.ca/finaid/awards/entranceawards.shtml for programs beginning in April 2019

Douglas College Entrance Scholarships

- Minimum Grade Average of 81.5% or higher for Grades 11 and 12; apply online; visit <https://www.douglascollege.ca/student-services/financial/financial-aid/scholarships/entrance-scholarships> for details.

9. Locally Sponsored Scholarships/Bursaries (School Administered)

A Local Scholarship Package with specific criteria will be available at the December scholarship meeting. These awards are open to all graduating Port Moody Secondary students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents and are awarded on bases of academic achievement, financial need, citizenship, service, and extra-curricular activities. A single application form allows students to apply for all scholarships listed in the package, including the *District/Authority scholarships*. (see Section 2)

10. Scholarships Sponsored by Private Organizations

Awards sponsored by businesses, unions, fraternal lodges, etc. In some cases, a parent or a grandparent must be a member or an employee of the sponsoring organization. Check with parents to see if their employer, union, club, church, etc. offers scholarships or bursaries. Do the same for any organization with which you are affiliated (e.g., Girl Guides, Scouts Canada, sports clubs, etc.).

11. British Columbia Student Assistance Program (Loans)

B.C. Student Loans offer interest-free assistance to students enrolled in full-time study at post-secondary institutions. Payment of principal and interest commence six months after the student ceases full-time studies. **BC Student Loan Program: 604-660-2610** or apply on-line at www.studentaidbc.ca in late May or early June. More information also at canlearn.ca (Canada Student Loans)

Spend time searching for scholarships or Financial Aid on the Internet. A list of internet addresses is available on the school's Public website; check the Career Resource Centre pages. Some excellent ones are:

studentscholarships.org
schoolfinder.com
scholarshipscanada.com
yconic.com
bced.gov.bc.ca/awards
canlearn.ca

C. Hints for a Successful Financial Aid Application Process

1. Start a Financial Aid-Post Secondary file either digitally (or in a binder) and store all information, web addresses and details regarding post-secondary institutions and financial aid/scholarships in it.
2. Follow the Career Centre news on Twitter (@PMSSTransitions), on the school's Mobile App, in the Times, and check the school website (Career Centre/Financial Aid/Scholarships

regularly!! Many scholarships, bursaries and awards are advertised throughout the school year.

3. Attend scheduled **Scholarship Meetings** as advertised in the *Port Moody Times*, in the *My School Day App*, and online on the Career Centre pages of the school website.
4. Check the *Scholarship & Bursaries File Cabinet* in the Career Resource Centre.
5. Ask your parents to check with their employers, unions and any organizations to which they belong, as to whether there are any scholarships or bursaries available. Remember to check with any organizations that YOU belong to, as well!
6. Remember to check your institution's Financial Aid website pages for up-to-date information on applications and deadlines.
7. Visit canlearn.ca for scholarship information and financial planning aids. (Drop in to the Career Resource Centre if you need assistance in accessing this information).
8. **Deadlines:** read all applications carefully, fill them out accurately, and get them in **ON TIME**. Deadline dates are **set in stone**. Some scholarships specify the date 'as postmarked'; most as 'received by'. Avoid disqualifying your application: prepare and submit your applications early.
9. **Requests for transcripts:** remember that transcripts from the Office take **at least five business days from request to delivery**. If you do not require an 'official' transcript sealed in an envelope with the school embossing stamp, please indicate this on your Transcript request - it will speed up the processing time!
10. **Be sure you have a social insurance number.** If you don't have one, see the Post-Secondary Advisor in the Career Resource Centre or visit the local Service Canada Centre in Coquitlam. SIN numbers are no longer available online: you must apply in person with identification documents.
11. Start completing your '**brag book**' or your **Personal Resume** (copies available in the Career Centre, from your counsellor, or download a digital version from the Career Centre/Financial Aid & Scholarships page online at sd43.bc.ca/school/portmoody. Your Personal Profile will help your referees write reference letters which stress your accomplishments and goals, connecting YOU to specific scholarship criteria. **KEEP SEVERAL COPIES IN YOUR FILE.**
12. **Nomination** - Some scholarships, usually high academic or university entrance scholarships, require a school nomination or nominations for a specific award, usually from the Principal or counselling department. The Principal or your counsellor may be unaware of these awards, so inform your counsellor and take the time to discuss your options with the Principal or counselling department head. Scholarships which require nominations usually have early application deadlines.
13. **Reference Letters** - Decide whom you wish to ask to provide references or reference letters. You will need at least 4 references. Two of these should be from teachers in the field to which you are applying and who know you reasonably well. Two may be from community people who know you well and who can focus on your strengths. Approach your referees **NOW** to ask for permission to use them as your references. **DO NOT LEAVE THIS TO THE LAST MINUTE: please give your referees at least two weeks' notice.** Help out by providing them with a copy of your resume. Keep duplicates of all your letters!

If you are applying for several scholarships, suggest that the person writing the letter save it digitally so that they can reprint the letter instead of rewriting it.

14. Provide the **criteria of the scholarship** for your referees. A letter that is a general description of your strengths, but which does not mention how well you meet specific scholarship criteria is not a powerful letter: the more precise it is, the better. Specify those things that you would like to see emphasized in the letter. Among these might be:
 - your character
 - your accomplishments
 - unique characteristics and strengths
 - your service activities: clubs, etc.
 - awards and prizes
 - academic standing and qualities if these are relevant to this scholarship
 - interests as they relate to the letter writer

15. Prepare a **personal letter/essay** to be used for applications. **If** there are no specific requirements for an essay or letter, you should consider the following:
 - Include identity, academic standing
 - Reflect how specific subjects have influenced you
 - A brief outline of your interests, hobbies and activities
 - A brief summary of positions and offices held by you in school, youth organizations and/or the community
 - A short statement of your purpose in seeking to attend a specific post-secondary institution (include future plans)
 - Information concerning awards, scholarships and prizes won by you in any field
 - Details of employment in the last two years, during vacations or after school
 - Details of any volunteer work you have done
 - If instructions do not specify that the letter or essay be handwritten, print the document, using standard business style on 8 ½x 11-inch paper, one side only.

Good luck and work hard! 😊