

FAQ and Answers for Parents based on the chat from the Parents As Education and Career Coaches Workshop on Nov 25th, 2020

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Q: Can students choose to study at two different post-secondary institutions to earn their bachelor's (4 year) degree?

A: Students can choose to study at two institutions for example, they may take a 2-year associate program at a college and then transfer to year 3 at a university. It's always best to check transfer policies at institutions directly and plan the transfer with an academic advisor. The BC Transfer Guide is a great place to check out how courses transfer within institutions in the province. Some institutions have partnerships such as SFU and Douglas or UBC and Langara (this is not the same as transferring, please check websites for details).

Q: If I am applying to a post-secondary institution in BC, is there a database or website that I can use? And how do I apply?

A: Education Planner BC website is managed provincially, and the database currently contains information about programs offered in BC public post-secondary institutions only. Students can apply to most of the institutions in BC through that website. UBC, UVIC and BCIT currently have external application systems (links are also found on this website) but are currently working on joining Education Planner BC sometime next year.

Q: If I am applying out of province, how do I start my application?

A: If students are interested in institutions out of province, please start by checking their website for program details, admission requirements and deadlines because those can be quite different from the ones here in BC. Always seek help and guidance from your high school advisor to explain a good starting point.

A: My Blueprint website contains a huge database and links to universities and programs from across Canada. Other similar systems to my Education Planner BC - out of province - include: Apply Alberta and Ontario Universities Application Center (OUAC)

Q: How can students get work or volunteer experience in the current COVID circumstances?

A: Please ask your student to check with the career center as well as checking the Career Center Connect Team on Microsoft Teams. There have been several opportunities available in the school as well as in the community. Mostly offered online and some in-person with safety protocols in place for students' safety. It is the students and parents' responsibility to check those opportunities and make sure that they are a good fit.

Volunteering and/or work experience as well as having strong reference letters are important if you want your university applications and/or scholarship applications to stand out, that's the case for some schools and programs not all. Having related experience in your areas of interest as well as leadership

and community service adds so much value to your applications e.g. UBC personal profile, SFU Entrance scholarship and awards, Douglas Sports Science or Social work.

Q: Before applying to scholarships does the student have to be accepted to a program?

If the student is applying to a college or university-based scholarships and awards, s/he can apply before getting accepted to a program – as long as they apply to the institution before early admissions/consideration deadline e.g. UBC Dec 1st and SFU Dec 15th. Check the Financial aid and awards page at your university of choice for scholarships AND awards AND bursaries information, if you meet the criteria apply! It is an investment that's totally worth your time. Many small scholarships/awards can add up to 5K or 10K if not more.

If a student is applying to an external scholarship or award (not affiliated with a university or college), they should check the criteria first before applying. Some external scholarships and awards will request proof of registration at a post-secondary institution as part of their criteria. A great resource for external scholarships is: scholartree.ca as well as scholarshipscanada.com

Please check the school website, under career for important scholarships coming up. Some scholarships require nomination from the school with internal school deadlines. Get into the habit of checking one month in advance because some deadlines are at the beginning of the month. We try our best to keep information up to date but it is the student's responsibility to keep track of deadlines and double check information from main websites.

Q. Where can someone get help on writing scholarships?

A: Please see the post-secondary and career advisor or your school counsellor. We would be more than happy to help.

Q. What is the difference between a scholarship and a bursary?

Please read the TF Financial opportunities booklet for detailed information, found in the scholarships channel under files. You can find that on Career Center Connect Team on Microsoft Teams. In general, scholarships are based on high level of excellence in a particular area such as academic excellence and/or athletics i.e. based upon Merit – which is usually a combination of grades plus something.

Bursaries are based on financial need.

Check this website for more info: <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/News/16/2974/Scholarships,-Bursaries,-Loans-and-Awards-What-s-the-Difference?>

Q. Should students still apply this year if they are considering taking a gap year?

A: Based on the student's course choices and final marks students can choose to wait or take a gap year. One thing to keep in mind is that admission requirements may change from one year to the next.

As per SFU "You may apply to defer your offer of admission for up to one full year and to any term within that year. For example, you have been admitted to the fall term, you may apply for a one-time deferral to spring, summer, or the following fall term. Deferrals are approved for students who wish to take a gap year and for students with extenuating circumstances. Deferrals are not granted for students who plan on attending another post-secondary institution or who are not financially prepared to attend

SFU. If you have been impacted by COVID-19, see the details below". Most post-secondary institutions offer this option. Please take note of deadlines for deferral requests.

Q: For international students who are below 19 in BC, do they need custodianships during their university study in BC or just in high school?

A: In general, the answer is no.

Q: Do students need a reference letter from a teacher/counsellor or workplace to apply to University or College?

A: Depends on the institution and program of study. For example: UBC only requires references contact information, not a letter. SFU requires an online reference form to be filled. Douglas college for Sports science requires an online reference form to be filled by coaches. For some other schools and especially for scholarships – reference letters might be required and are always good to have.

Q. Can students interested in Trades apply directly to the trade's schools e.g. BCIT or VCC?

A: If you are a student in grade 10/11 or 12 please speak to the post-secondary and career advisor about the trades offered through the school district before reaching out directly to the trades schools. The "Youth in Trade" and "Youth work in Trade" programs are both offered through SD43 and are funded so students can be saving money, getting high school credits while taking their level 1 foundations while completing grade 11 and/or 12 at a secondary school.

Q. How can students submit their transcripts to the post-secondary institutions?

A: This is done through the Ministry of Education Student Transcript System (STS). There is a power point slide presentation with step to step instructions on how to order and submit your student transcript on Career Center Connect Team on Microsoft Teams, found under the scholarships channel under files. Students should try to do this as soon as possible as this is an application requirement. Please note that some schools require self-reporting as well on their student portals and/or require uploading of transcript and some ask the secondary school to send transcripts in addition to the STS. Students should check their emails regularly as well as their student accounts/portals for updates and application status. Students can visit the Career Center anytime for assistance. The counselling department will be visiting the grade 12 students' classes soon to assist with the transcript submission STS process.

Please get in touch with Ms. El Sonbaty if you have any questions about university or trades applications as well as scholarships. She will be more than happy to provide you with information needed. Please encourage your grade 10s and 11's to connect with her, it's always good to plan early!

**Students can Join Career Center Connect on Microsoft Teams - Open to all Terry Fox Students
Lets stay connected!**

Team Code: knr0sru

And Follow us on Instagram: TfsCareerCenter