

The 4 Step Process

Step 1 - Use Search Engines

This is probably the most important step, as it is likely to yield the largest number of results, and the data you get is easy to use (i.e. it's sortable, hotlinked and concise, AND it refers ONLY to scholarships you actually are qualified for).

There are two major Canadian search engines:

- Studentawards: <http://www.studentawards.com/>
- ScholarshipsCanada: <http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

These search engines are better for Canadian post-secondary studies than U.S.-based search engines. They have tens of thousands of scholarships in their databases.

- Create an account. It's free!
- Fill out the registration form in detail. The more information you provide in the form, the better a job they can do of matching you with the right scholarships.

There are two major U.S. engines:

- Peterson's: <http://www.petersons.com/college-search/scholarship-search.aspx>
- Princeton Review: <http://www.princetonreview.com/login3.aspx?RDN=1>

Although Peterson's claims to have over a million scholarships in its database, again, this does not mean a U.S. search engine will do a better job for Canadian schools. However, for those seriously considering U.S. or international education, these search engines are obviously worthwhile.

Step 2 - Check for School-Based Awards

All schools offer various entrance scholarships of all 4 types; some offer more money than others.

- Some are automatic consideration, but others require application. Check the websites of each school carefully

In general, it is more important to find the right school than to go for the best scholarships.

- HOWEVER: IF you are at or near the top of the honour roll, it might be worth your while to look at the extremely valuable scholarships they offer to the best of the best.

Many universities have special scholarships targeting students with certain characteristics (e.g. a specific cultural/ethnic background, or a disability etc.)

- If you possess one of these special characteristics, your chances of obtaining a scholarship from the school that targets it are obviously enhanced.
- Finding these scholarships, however, would be an onerous job. Fortunately, the vast majority of universities publish all their scholarship information to the Student Awards and Scholarships Canada search engines and you therefore do not have to worry too much about missing one of these.
- If there is a scholarship at a certain school for a special characteristic that you possess, you should already have found out about it through step 1.

Step 3 - Check Your Connections

Many, many scholarships go unawarded year after year because they are so narrow in focus and are not known to the search engines.

- Any organization that you or your extended family are associated with could have one of these. Enquire. Ask your family and contacts to enquire on your behalf.
- This step is a bit more time consuming than the first two and will yield few, if any, results.
- However, any scholarship you do find using this method will have very few other applicants and therefore you will have a really good chance of receiving it.

Step 4 - Apply to Education Matters/Rutherford

The Rutherford Scholarship is given to any Alberta resident who is either a citizen or a landed immigrant whose marks in grades 10, 11, and/or 12 are in excess of 75% on five selected subjects.

- This scholarship is applied for in grade 12 and the deadline for the committee's receipt of the application is May 1. Forms are available online or in the Student Services office.
- Education Matters is the organization that coordinates a number of scholarships exclusive to students attending CBE or Calgary Catholic schools.
- Every spring they put out a package of information on the various scholarships students can apply for.
- For this year, at this time, you will need to look at this package in order to determine which of their scholarships you are and are not eligible for.