

## **The 5Ws of Scholarships**

### **WHY Apply for a Scholarship?**

There are two very good things about getting a scholarship:

- It will help you to pay for your postsecondary education.
- It is a mark of distinction, an honour that demonstrates your merit in some regard. Scholarships look good on your resume.

### **WHO Should Apply for a Scholarship?**

- There are an incredible number of scholarships available.
- A significant number of them have very specific eligibility criteria and don't require extremely high marks.
- There is a good chance that you are eligible for more scholarships than you are aware of.
- So it is definitely worth it for every student to follow the 4 step application process.

### **WHAT Kinds of Scholarships Are There?**

- Academic
  - Awarded solely on the basis of performance in a subject, or some combination of subjects.
  - Nearly all universities offer this kind of scholarship to entering students and many universities award them automatically to any student who surpasses a certain cut-off average (say, for example, 89.99%).
- Merit
  - This type of scholarship goes to people who demonstrate both very high academic ability and exemplary personal characteristics.
  - The definitions of academically able and exemplary character vary from one scholarship to another. In general, the larger (and more prestigious) the award the higher the standards for each component.
- Athletic
  - Most universities provide some form of reward for outstanding athletic achievement.
  - In general, athletic scholarships to US universities are far more generous than exist for Canadian ones.
- Financial need
  - When a scholarship is determined solely on the basis of this criterion it is called a bursary, and again, many universities offer them.
  - More frequently, financial need can be a consideration that helps to determine who is awarded one of the other kinds of scholarship listed above.
  - In some cases, it isn't a consideration at all. In others it's a very important one.

### **WHEN Do I Start and WHERE Do I Look For Scholarships?**

- Now using the Four Step Process.