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# *bridges to university*

issue no.9

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"october madness"



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# ***Introduction***



AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh & Hussain Jan

Hey everyone! Welcome to the latest issue of the official *bridges* newsletter!

This week, we at *bridges* have decided to make a special newsletter covering two very important yet distinct topics: midterms and awards! Though we've covered both of them in a very general way in the past, we think these two topics are essential to succeeding in your own post secondary schools. With October well under way and the term in full swing, it's about time we talk about these topics in more detail!

To make this newsletter more clear, we will be splitting it up into two sections. We'll begin with midterms and then transition into awards during the second half. Having said that, let's get right into it!

## ***in this issue...***

- preparing for midterms
- scholarships, bursaries-all that free money!

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## ***Wait... What's a Midterm?***

AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

Before we get into anything else, let's first discuss what exactly a midterm is. Many of you probably remember having unit tests that you had to do in your senior year of high school. It could be as frequent as once every few weeks to once every few months. A lot like these tests, midterms are major milestones in your course where you have finished learning a significant chunk of that course's material. Unlike high school however, midterms are nowhere as frequent as unit tests, even the major ones. In fact, almost all your courses will only have one or two midterms throughout the entire semester. Unfortunately, this also means that they are worth much more than what you would be used to in high school. Some could be worth as low as 10% or as high as 50%--it all depends on the course.

In today's pandemic environment and the current unprecedented focus on online schooling, it's very likely that your midterm would be online. Unfortunately, this will be yet another change you will have to get accustomed to. Though some midterms may require you to open your webcam, others may not. Many students might consider this a rare opportunity to freely cheat and not study for your tests. Just a word of caution: If you have to keep checking your notes for answers during the midterm, you will be lucky to finish half of it. You must be familiar with the course content if you truly want to do great this year.



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# ***What's the Study Plan?***

AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

When it comes to getting ready for your assessments, no one is completely immune to distractions. Your undergraduate degree will take multiple years and will be full of huge varieties of experiences and events. No matter who you are, chances are you will mess up sometime. The key however is to stay consistent with your studying and getting right back up and back to work. Accidentally watch too many episodes on Netflix? Keep your head up and try to make up for it asap! Here at *bridges*, each of us occasionally falls into procrastinating traps as well. Over the years, we were able to save up our best tips and share it with you guys!

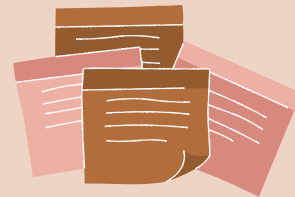
## ***past midterms***

Doing past midterms can be a life saver. You have hundreds of students in a program that's likely been going on for multiple years (or decades!). There's a high chance you will have repeated (or very similar) questions from previous years.



## ***don't waste time***

Don't waste time making notes a few days before the midterm. Notes take time and are meant to be done weeks in prior so you can review them. By the time you'll have finished your notes, the midterm will be in 2hrs.



## ***take breaks***

Your brain isn't a blackhole ready to suckup whatever you read. Make sure to take breaks here and there to let your mind and body rest and digest what you've just learned. Otherwise it's going to be in through one year and out the other.



## ***take care of your body***

Take care of your body! Get some exercise! Make sure to get 8hrs of sleep! It doesn't matter how much you've studied if you're going to be sleeping during your midterm.





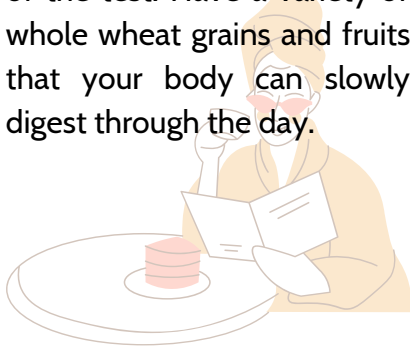
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# ***When it's Finally Here...***

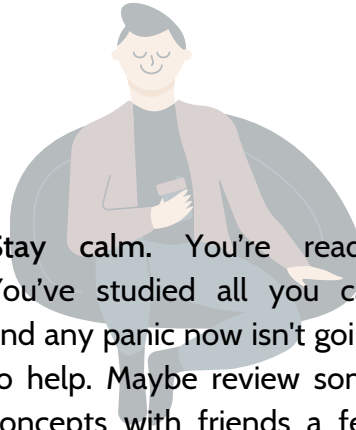
AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

When it's finally time for the midterm, feeling anxious and stressed is perfectly normal. It's up to you right now to make sure you minimize that feeling and be as ready as you can on test day. Here are some of our tips on how to ace a midterm!

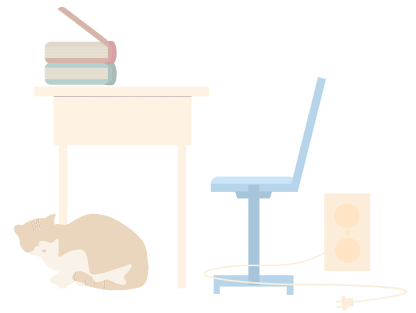
Have a healthy breakfast. Make sure it's not sugary or you're going to get hyper very fast and crash in the middle of the test. Have a variety of whole wheat grains and fruits that your body can slowly digest through the day.



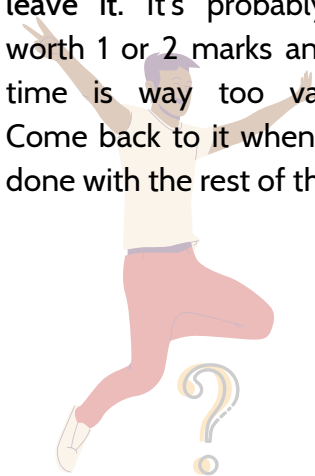
Stay calm. You're ready! You've studied all you can and any panic now isn't going to help. Maybe review some concepts with friends a few hours before the midterm but make sure not to panic.



Look the midterm over, check how much stuff you have to do and how much time you can assign each page or section.



If you don't get a question, leave it. It's probably only worth 1 or 2 marks and your time is way too valuable. Come back to it when you're done with the rest of the test.



Think of it like any other homework assignment. Don't let the moment stress you out and cloud your judgment.



Listen to everything your professor is telling you on test day. It could be anything from typos on the test or some hints on some questions.



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# ***Scholarships? Bursaries? What're Those?***

AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

While *bridges* would normally refer to this section as “scholarships”, what we really mean is “types of financial aid that you don’t need to pay back”. That doesn’t necessarily have the same ring to it though, does it? That’s all because scholarships are a form of this financial aid--and there are many more! The following are just some types of this financial aid you may come across:

## ***scholarships***

Scholarships are a form of financial aid given to a student to reward them for the achievements (both in extracurricular and academic) they earned during their studies. Scholarships can be given to reward a student’s academic standing, athletic ability, community work, and more.

## ***bursaries***

Bursaries are a form of financial aid given to a student based on their financial need. A student’s financial standing has no effect on whether or not they can obtain this money.

## ***grants***

Grants are a form of financial aid typically given by the government.

## ***awards***

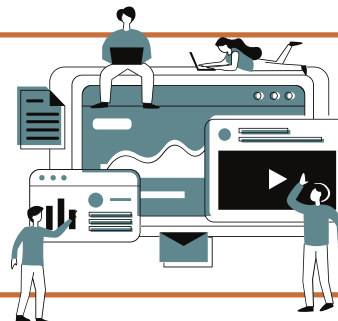
Awards are an umbrella term for most forms of financial aid in this category (excludes grants).

# The Hunt For Funding

AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

With so many awards out there, you may be wondering: where do I even look? The least helpful answer aside from “I don’t know” is to “go Google it”. To help you avoid the stress of trying to figure out yourself, look no further! We’ve gathered a list of just some of the places where you can go look for these scholarships.

Your school’s awards portal. If your post-secondary institution has an awards portal, this is one of the places you should be looking at first! Your school’s awards portal is constantly being updated when they’re informed of any new scholarships and bursaries after all.



Third-party websites. *Trusted*, third-party websites are a great place to look for awards you can apply to. These websites often compile many of these awards in one place. Some of these sites include: [Student Life Network](#) and [Youth of Canada](#).

Your community group. Are you a part of a community group of some sort? If yes, then there’s a chance that this group offers some type of award!



Your school’s student financial office. Whether or not your school has an awards portal, all schools should have a student financial office. The staff who work here are always willing to help you find these awards--many of which will fit your requirements! You can reach out to them online or in person.

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# ***How Do I Even Apply?***

AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

The application process is the most time-consuming and difficult part of the award-hunting process, and we here at bridges know that. As a result, we've compiled a list of tips that can help you with your applications!

Keep your marks up. Entrance scholarships are one of the easiest ways to get money as you're always automatically considered in the process (unless your school of choice says otherwise).



Check your school's awards portal. If your school has an awards portal, remember to check it often! New awards are constantly being added to this portal.



Get involved. While many scholarships don't ask for you to be in a club or team, being in one can certainly help your chances of receiving it!

Apply to as many awards as you can. Never be afraid to apply for an award just because you don't exactly fit the requirements. There are many instances where money cannot be given out solely because no one applied for the award.



Don't belittle yourself. Don't ever think that there isn't an award for you--there are thousands of awards out there waiting for an application! Again, there are many awards that go unused--so shoot your shot!



Look for exclusive awards at school. Some post-secondary institutions have exclusive scholarships/ bursaries being offered to their students. Check with your student financial office to see if your school offers any!





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