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bridges to university

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 **Bridges**

Introduction



AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

Hello and welcome to the third issue of the official bridges newsletter!

University is a great place to learn new things and meet new people. For many of you, your university's campus will be where you will be spending quite a lot of time. You'll be attending lectures, spending time with friends, and so much more! With all this time outside the comfort of your own home, it'll be extremely easy to spend money--even if you don't want to! It certainly doesn't help that university is so expensive.

If you have any other questions, feel free to send us an email at bridgestouniversity@gmail.com! We are always more than willing to help you out!

in this issue...

- Everything related to your school finances
- How government aid works.
- The ins and outs of scholarships
- Tips on how to save money while attending school.

Government Aid To Save the Day!

AUTHOR(S): Hussain Jan

Living in Canada, you've probably noticed that almost everything you buy is taxed. Wanna buy that new sweater? There's a tax for that. New laptop? There's a tax for that! After all these years of paying these taxes, it's about time you get something back!

Canada's Federal Government and Ontario's Provincial Government provide students with financial aid in one primary way, the Ontario Student Assistant Program (OSAP). This program aims to help students in financial need by providing them with a source of money for their academic aspirations. It does this in two ways: grants and loans.

grants and loans!

- Grants are government money that you don't have to pay back.
- Because of COVID-19, the federal government have agreed to double grants up to \$6000 for post secondary students, provided they meet the criteria.
- A loans is money that you must pay back.
- These loans accumulate interest, which you have to pay back with the initial loan.
- Loans start accumulating interest as soon as you complete your full-time post-secondary studies.

It is important to know that loans and grants do not come in a package. If you think you can afford school without taking the loan, you can reject it.

The amount you receive from each type of aid is dependent on many factors that you provide when applying to OSAP. Your parents annual income, your scholarships, and the amount of dependent siblings you have all contribute to how much the government will give you. It is very important that all the information you provide to OSAP is true and accurate. If not, the government can reject giving you any financial help, and can possibly turn your grants into loans.

At the end of the day, OSAP is an useful tool that students can use to help them on their way to fulfilling their academic goals!

Is That a Scholarship I See?

AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

Going into university, you hear a lot of talk about scholarships, bursaries, and other forms of financial aid--but what exactly are they? And how do we find them? Well look no further, because all your questions will be answered shortly!

scholarships...

- Scholarships are a form of financial aid that are awarded to a student in order to help them pay their tuition.
- The large variety of scholarships makes it so that there's a scholarship for everyone!

vs.

bursaries...

- Bursaries are a form of financial aid that is given to students with financial need.
- Like scholarships, they all have their own criteria that must be met to apply.

For both scholarships and bursaries, the method of application can vary. You may have to write an essay or simply just submit an application--it all depends on what kind of scholarship or bursary it is!

There are many different forms of scholarships and bursaries, so looking for them may be a challenge. One method of looking for scholarships is through your university. If you visit your university's financial services, they can direct you towards specific forms of financial aid that fit your profile. If you would rather not visit financial services, you can also look to see if your school has a scholarship portal that you can access online, such as Ryerson's [AwardSpring](#). Portals like this give you easy access to a large number of scholarships that you can apply to with ease!

While all scholarships have requirements, it should be noted that you don't have to completely fit all their requirements to obtain the money. There have been countless stories of students applying for scholarships that they didn't fit the requirements for, but still received the money from! So apply for as many scholarships whenever you can. There's no harm in trying!

links to university scholarships!

- [Ryerson University](#)
- [University of Toronto](#)
- [University of Waterloo](#)
- [University of Western Ontario](#)
- [York University](#)

links to third-party scholarships!

- [ScholarshipsCanada](#)
- [StudentAwards](#)
- [Yconic](#)

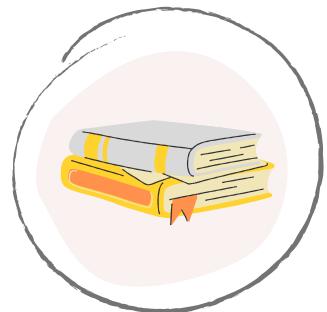
University is a Wallet's Worst Nightmare - So Don't Make it Worse!

AUTHOR(S): Stephanie Huynh

As mentioned before, it's easy to spend money while you're out and about! We understand that feeling all too well, so here's list of tips and tricks that we found helpful during our first year!

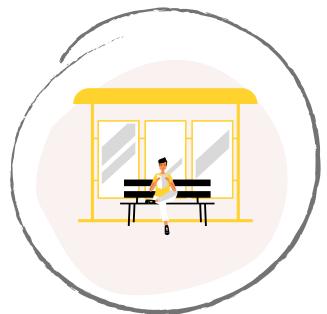
Want to save money on supplies?

- Try opting for a PDF textbook! You can find free textbook PDFs on [Libgen](#), or in your program's group chat.
- If you want physical textbooks, buy them used! Search for books on sites like [Kijiji](#) or Facebook groups. Just be wary of who you're buying from and where you meet up!
- If you need to buy equipment, you don't have to buy it all at your school's campus store. You're likely able to find it elsewhere for much cheaper. Just make sure it fits the requirements!



Want to save money on food?

- Pack a lunch! It's a simple, easy and an easy way to save hundreds of dollars.
- Get some sleep! Buying coffee/tea every day can easily become your biggest expense. Limit yourself to only when you really need it!
- Keep up-to-date with what happens around campus. Sometimes student groups decide to give out free food! It can help satiate that takeout itch!



Want to save money on transit?

- Research and find the best method of payment for commuting! For example, TTC users can get a Student Presto Card or use student tickets
 - Student tickets (valid till you're 19) are no longer sold at stations, but they may be available at stores like Shoppers Drug Mart!
- If possible, carpooling to school can save you a ton of money!



Want to save money in other areas?

- Get a student bank account! It's an easy way to save money on monthly fees and taxes.
- If you do a lot of shopping, consider getting an [SPC](#) card! If you're banking with CIBC, you gain access to SPC deals for free!