

HOW TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships are administered by the Canadian government, provincial governments, private foundations, and not-for-profit organizations and Canadian schools.

Higher education is not free in Canada unlike high school and as an international student you will pay higher fees than as a Canadian student. However, most universities offer scholarships for graduate students.

In accordance with Citizenship and Immigration Canada regulations, you must prove you have enough money to meet your financial needs while studying in Canada before beginning your studies. So, if you're going to pursue a scholarship to help finance your education, start researching opportunities early.

Needless to say that when you secure a full scholarship admission in a Canadian school, the chances you will be given the visa is 90 percent. They rarely deny or delay scholars or else you didn't package your visa application well enough.

Graduate programs are basically of two types in Canada. The first being thesis or research based admission and the second course-based admission. While thesis based is meant for researchers and people who would not mind a PhD in the near future, course based is mainly suited for students who would prefer to work in the industry hence most course based programs have a coop or work term component i.e. paid IT and it usually runs for 4 months.

Due to the nature of thesis based master's degree, it is usually more rigorous and highly competitive; you are given a full scholarship from basically three sources. The first is School of graduate studies; the second is your home department while the third is from Research assistant role or teaching assistant role.

The accumulation of these funds runs in thousands of dollars paid to you per annum. They deduct your tuition and other expenses and pay you the rest on a bi-weekly basis. It is worthy of mention to state explicitly that once you apply for a thesis route master's degree, you need not apply for any other scholarship separately. It comes together.

Now the big question is how do I qualify and/or what are the basic requirements. Well for the most part, you need a CGPA of nothing less than a 65-75 percent in your undergraduate. This is equivalent to a 3.5 on a 5.0 scale. Depending on your choice of program, you may need GMAT as part of supporting documents for MBA especially even though you can request for waiver. As earlier stated the competition is always very fierce. Hence you need to be that irresistible and promising young scholar.

This is where creating a scholarly profile comes in. It is not a requirement most times but I recommend including your scholarly publications in your application and certificates of membership of academic bodies. If you are still an undergraduate, Join IEEE, AIESEC and all these student organizations to volunteer in any type of project. Don't bother if you aren't in school any longer.

FORMS AND SOURCES of Scholarships

* Fully funded (100% fee waiver + monthly stipend)

* Tuition fee waiver (100% fee waiver + NO stipend)

*Partial scholarships 25-75%. This 25-75% of a scholarship is offered by the university and the rest of 25% can be covered by department. It means you will get 75% from university + 25% from the department which is equal to 100% tuition fee waiver.

SOURCES OF STUDENT FUNDING INCLUDEs:

Graduate Fellowships —Fellowships are generally merit-based internal or external awards to support a student in a full-time course of study. These fellowships for graduate students subsidize costs related to their graduate school experience, like tuition. Fellowships may also include a cost-of-living stipend and health insurance, and they sometimes cover expenses related to a grad student's professional development, such as fees for academic conferences.

Teaching Assistantships – They assist faculty members with various duties, which might include assisting with lecture preparation, marking assignments and tests, etc. A TA work assignment may take place outside the academic unit to which you are applying if your academic record shows strengths in other areas.

Research Assistantships — Graduate research assistants support professors and researchers involved in ongoing research projects, usually in exchange for a stipend or tuition reimbursement. RAs are hired by faculty members (normally your supervisor) to assist with a research project that will be directly related to your own research. RAs are paid for with funds from the faculty member's external contracts or research grants.

The employment consists of on-campus work where you may be asked to help with the research being conducted, such as scholarly review of journals, conducting experiments, recording data, conducting interviews, etc.

Entrance Scholarships — Additional entrance scholarships are awarded by the Dean of Graduate Studies and graduate programs. No application is required.

Which Types of Scholarships Are Available to International Students in Canada?

To help you make sense of the various kinds of financial aid available, we've broken down the different types of scholarships available to international students in Canada!

Merit Scholarships

These awards are typically given out to students with a high level of achievement in academics grades from previous degree/program, leadership, the arts, or outstanding community work. Recommendations for these scholarships are made by your department during the application. Although some merit scholarships can be awarded for special talents, leadership potential, or other personal characteristics. Scholarships may also be given because of group affiliation (eg. YMCA, AISIEC). At most post-secondary schools in Canada, admitted students are automatically considered for merit scholarships.

Financial Scholarships

Also known as bursaries, financial scholarships are given to students who demonstrate financial need. Check with your university or college to see if you are eligible.

Government-funded Scholarships

These are scholarships made available to international students by the Canadian government. These government scholarships are available at both the undergraduate and graduate level. This includes:

Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships: This is organized by the Canadian government with the aim of attracting and retaining doctoral students that are outstanding and be able to project Canada as the global Centre of excellence in regard to higher learning and research programs. There are three types of scholarships offered by Vanier Canada Graduate and the scholarships are evenly distributed amongst the three federal granting agencies. The agencies include:

- Canadian Institute of health research (CIHR)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)

The value of the scholarship is \$50,000 per year and covers a period of three years which is non-renewable.

More information regarding the scholarship can be obtained from the website:

https://vanier.gc.ca/en/administering_the_scholarship-comment_administrer_la_bourse.html

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships: This provides awards to some of the best postdoctoral applicants with the focus of contributing to the country's social, economic and research based growth. The objective of the fellowship is to attract and retain top post- doctoral talent at both national and international level.

The value of the scholarship is \$70,000 per year for a period of two years.

Information regarding the scholarship can be accessed from: <https://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

Ontario Graduate Scholarship:

The Ontario Graduate Scholarship is funded by the provincial government available to all students – including international students – in all disciplines of academic study. The award is valued at \$10,000 for two consecutive study terms and \$15,000 for three consecutive study terms.

To qualify, students must:

Be enrolled in graduate studies at the master's or doctoral level.

Be enrolled in a full-time program for two or more semesters (21 to 52 weeks in total) for the academic year you're submitting your application for.

Attend one of the following participating Ontario schools:

[Brock University](#)

[Carleton University](#)

[University of Guelph](#)

[Lakehead University](#)

[Laurentian University](#)

[Nipissing University](#)

[OCAD University](#)

[University of Ontario Institute of Technology](#)

[University of Ottawa](#)

[Queen's University](#)

[Ryerson University](#)

[University of Toronto](#)

[Trent University](#)

[University of Waterloo](#)

[Western University](#)

[Wilfrid Laurier University](#)

[University of Windsor](#)

[York University](#)

To find out how to apply for the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, click on it and check with your school's undergraduate or Graduate Studies Office for more details.

Privately Funded Scholarships:

There are many businesses and private donors who set up scholarships for students. Often, these awards are targeted towards particular areas of study, so check with your faculty organization to see if there are any available at your school.

University/College Scholarships:

Most universities and colleges offer their own scholarships to students. Many of these are entrance scholarships, meaning students don't need to apply in order to be considered for the award. Always be sure to check your school's website to see what kind of financial aid they offer.

This is where your grades in last-two academic years come in. The closer it is to 100% the better. You can expect something if you hold 65% and above. If you are not clear with the conditions, you can ask your supervisor after he has accepted you i.e. research-based programs

Some key awards include:

[Humber College](#) International Entrance Scholarships worth between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

[University of Manitoba](#) Graduate Fellowships ranging from \$14,000 to \$18,000 (depending on Master's or PhD-level).

[University of Calgary](#) Graduate Awards of \$1,000 to \$40,000 across various fields of study.

UBC [Graduate Global Leadership Fellowships](#) to citizens of developing countries valued at \$18,200 per year for a total of four years in doctoral studies at the [University of British Columbia](#).

[Dalhousie University](#) Scholarships of up to \$40,000 offered to international students pursuing the university.

University of Alberta has a wide array of awards, scholarships and prizes to assist in funding your graduate studies.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/awards-and-funding/scholarships>

University of Waterloo Canada

Graduate Admission Link:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/before-you-apply/types-admission>

Graduate Scholarship Link:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/funding-your-education>

Additional Information for International Students (Graduate):

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/international-students>

University of Calgary Canada

Graduate Admission Link:

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/how-apply>

Graduate Scholarship Link:

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/financing-grad-school>

Additional Information for International Students (Graduate):

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/international-students>

York University Canada

Graduate Admissions:

<https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/prospective-students/international-students/>

York University Scholarships (Graduate):

<https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-finances/funding-awards/>

Carleton University Canada

Graduate Scholarships Link (Research and Teaching Assistantship. Some supervisors might offer monthly stipend based on the amount of funding they have).

<https://graduate.carleton.ca/financial-assistance/admissions-funding/>

Graduate Admission link:

https://graduate.carleton.ca/?utm_source=globalNav&utm_medium=globalNavCMS&utm_campaign=globalNav

Humber College International Entrance Scholarships - Humber offers renewable full and partial tuition scholarships to NEW international students beginning classes in September and January of each year.

<http://international.humber.ca/student-services/managing-your-finances/scholarships-awards.html>

York University International Student Scholarship Program - International students who have an excellent academic record and admitted to York University are eligible for scholarships worth \$60,000 – \$100,000 for a four-year degree program.

<https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/funding#intl>

University of British Columbia Scholarships for International Students - UBC recognizes the academic achievement of outstanding students from around the world by devoting more than \$8 million Canadian annually to awards, scholarships and other forms of financial assistance for international undergraduate students.

<https://you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/scholarships-awards-international-students/international-scholars/>

Carleton University Entrance Scholarships for International Students - Carleton offers partial scholarships worth \$4,000 – \$16,000 to exemplary students who meet the admission average criteria of 80% and above.

<https://carleton.ca/awards/scholarships/entrance-scholarships-for-new-students/scholarships/>

Western University International Admission Scholarships. Various Canadian scholarships offered to international students undertaking study at the University of Western Ontario.

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/scholarships_awards/international_students_scholarship_information.html

Simon Fraser University Financial Aid and Awards. A range of scholarships and other funding opportunities for domestic and international students currently studying or planning to study at Simon Fraser University.

<https://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid.html>

Fairleigh Dickinson Scholarships for International Students. Scholarships for international students of all levels, undertaking study in Canada at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Vancouver

<https://www.fdu.edu/admissions/international/>

CURRENTLY ADVERTISED MASTERS AND Ph.D FUNDING

1) Fully funded MSc and PhD opportunity in Veterinary Microbiology at University of Saskatchewan Canada

MSc in Strain diversity and infection phenotype of the Lyme disease pathogen

PhD in Ecology of mixed strain infections in the Lyme disease pathogen

Link: <https://researchers.usask.ca/maarten-voordouw/>

2) Fully Funded PhD Opportunity in Public Health at University of Saskatchewan Canada

Title:

Listening and learning: applying a community based participatory approach to design a physical literacy model for Indigenous Older Adults

Link: <https://usask.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=5742&site=14>

3) Fully funded MSc and PhD opportunity in **Parasitology (Vet Microbiology) at University of Saskatchewan Canada**

Link: <https://usask.csod.com/ats/careersite/JobDetails.aspx?id=5449&site=14>

4) **Fully Funded MSc and PhD in Biological Science at University of Alberta**

Supervisor: Dr Richard Uhrig

Closing date: July 31, 2020

Link: https://www.uhriglab.com/uploads/1/0/8/0/108003081/msc_position_uhriglab_startdate_sept2020a.pdf

5) Ph.D. position in in Biological Science (plant functional genomics) at University of Alberta

Link: https://www.uhriqlab.com/uploads/1/0/8/0/108003081/phd_position_uhriqlab_startdate_jan2021a.pdf

Closing date: August 15, 2020

Admission requirements:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/biological-sciences/graduate-studies/for-applicants/index.html>

Other funding opportunities within University of Alberta

(UofA): <https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/awards-and-funding/international-student-funding>

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP LINK

- www.scholarshipscanada.com/
- <https://scholarship-positions.com/category/canada-graduate-positions/>
- <https://www.scholarshipportal.com/scholarships/canada>
- <https://yconic.com/>
- <https://www.scholars4dev.com/6179/scholarships-canada-international-students/>
- University of Waterloo - <https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/current-students/international-student-funding>
- Quest University - <https://questu.ca/admissions/afford/scholarships/>
- UoFT University: <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards/>
- York University: <https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-finances/funding-awards/>
- Ryerson University: <https://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/future-students/financing-your-studies/scholarships-awards/>
- UBC University: <https://www.grad.ubc.ca/scholarships-awards-funding>

- McMaster University: <https://gs.mcmaster.ca/awards-funding/awards-funding>
- University of Windsor: <http://www.uwindsor.ca/graduate-studies/456/scholarships-and-awards>

KEYPOINT ABOUT CANADIAN SCHOLARSHIP

- 1) Funded programs are not solely for first class graduates. You can get a scholarship or funded program with your second or third class grades except that you have to put a thorough and airtight application. Your goal is to convince potential supervisors that you are equal to the task. Scholarship's selection criteria have variables other than CGPA. If you have low CGPA then work on other variables (research papers, work experience/ internships, and Massive Open Online Courses - MOOCs) to compensate your low CGPA.
- 2) For funded programs, most schools required you to secure a supervisor first before they admit you into the school. Some school do not, they admit the best applicants to their funded programs and assign you a supervisor to work with
- 3) Pay less attention to the affordability of the school when searching for a supervisor since you are going to be funded to an extent anyways
- 4) Your funding can be full or partial, its still better than nothing, take it. Once you are in the system you can secure more scholarships
- 5) Don't focus on government-specific opportunities instead of school specific opportunities while you are still in your home country. When you fully interact with a school, you know the ones giving out scholarship and the ones that don't so you can fully focus on the ones with funding.

Government specific opportunities has little or no requirements but school-specific opportunities has lots of requirements to meet but the good part is that you'll know if you

meet the standard in short time and able to move to other schools than competitive government opportunities with crowded applications

6) After getting potential supervisor names on academic journals you take their name back to Google to search for their primary contact. Google scholars will guide you so that you don't waste so much time and energy. It streamlines searches for papers and advisors:

<https://scholar.google.ca/> , <https://www.academia.edu/>

7) Create a long list of 10-20 advisors. Put a name to the advisor using a course name/department and university. Craft and Send an emotional Letter of Introduction to sell yourself tailored to each supervisor. Attach your transcript or necessary document.

8) Understand the requirements. Canadian scholarships have some unique requirements that if not duly met would definitely disqualify one the opportunity of winning that particular award. Read the eligibility requirements through very carefully. If you're not sure what one of the requirements means, or if it applies to you, contact the scholarship administrator. Though, you shouldn't be too scared to put in your application when you believe you'll win the application

9) Don't forget about the smaller awards. Obviously winning \$10,000 is much more appealing than winning \$2,000. I get that. There are scholarships in Canada that is quite easy to get and doesn't require a sophisticated application process.

Any award with a high-value prize is going to be extremely competitive, making it a lot less likely that you'll have a chance at winning. This is where it becomes important to go for the smaller awards. You'll have a lot higher chance of winning, meaning that the effort you put into winning them will be rewarded.

10) Most of these entrance scholarships have deadlines, so make sure you apply early. Browse the university's website to see what they have.

11. If you submit a scholarship award letter as Proof Of Fund, CIC still wants you to submit your Statement of account (doesn't have to be buoyant, it depends if you claim to be a working class for many years, you should have average of \$500 in your personal/salary bank account) and details of a sponsor, if you don't have personal assets.

12. Look at the cheats for each application. The Terms and Conditions will have insights into what the judges will be looking for. Sometimes there's even a marking grid (e.g. 10% on marks, 40% on volunteer work, 50% on essay.) and often there are specific statements about what they are looking for. Tailor your application exactly to those specific items! The judge will love reading an application that feeds exactly into their marking rubric!

So here's the best reason to take a couple of hours each week to apply for some awards: free money! Plus, any award in Canada looks good on your resume. It can help you win more awards (success breeds success) and it will help your resume stand out down the road!

13) Believe you'll get the scholarship. This is somehow the most important aspect of this point. It is very tough to get what you don't believe in. Therefore, apply for every scholarship with the inherent belief that you would get the scholarship. It doesn't only motivate you to go an extra mile, it also unlocks the possibility of you being awarded the scholarship.

IMPORTANT RESOURCE LINKS:

Go through these links to watch experiential opinion of others about the scholarship process

1) Study in Canada: Steps to be taken for guaranteed admission & Scholarships for MSc or PhD degree(s): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ8rFrGNWe0>

2) Getting Scholarship and Funding for M.Sc and PhD Research:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFVXyPd16d8&t=1238s>

3) Tips on Getting a Supervisor for M.Sc or PhD research in Canada:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vvGbCvVc2I>

4) 2020 Vanier Scholar Shares Her Story - Journey from Nigeria to Canada, Masters and PhD Experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRcOZaXm7IA&t=16s>