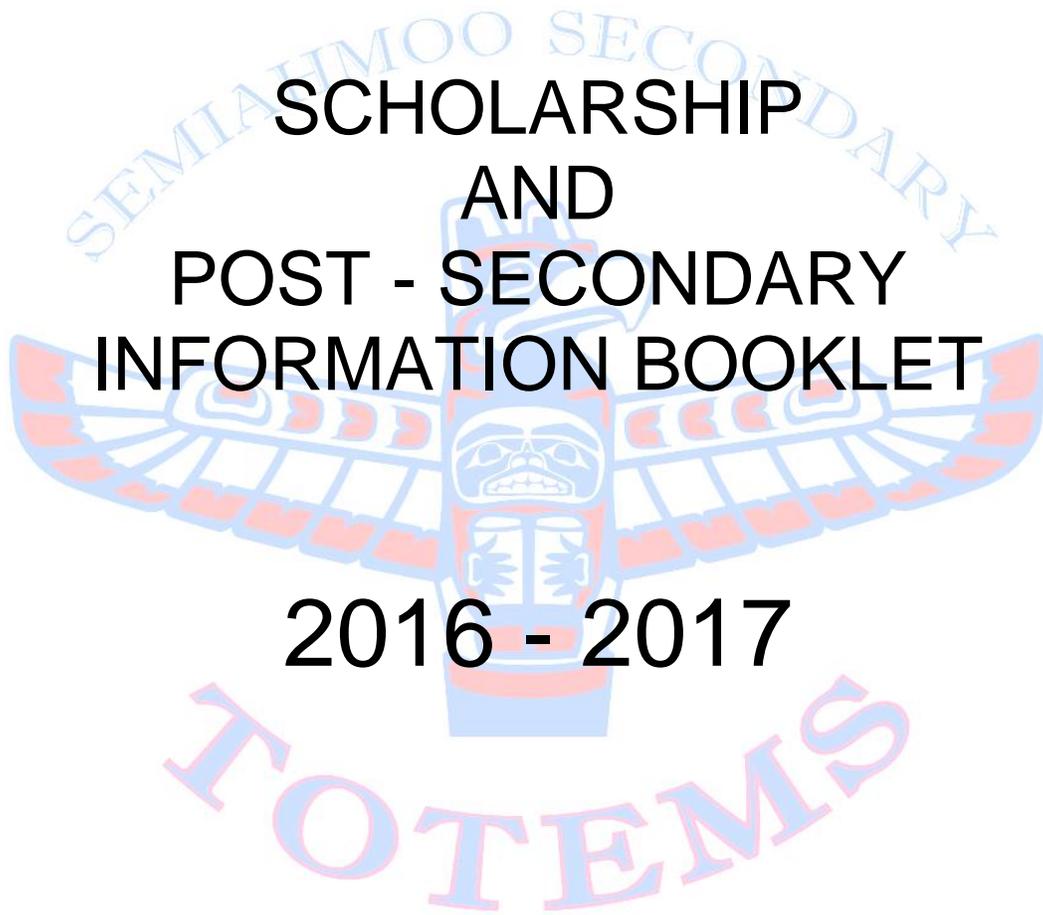


# SEMIAHMOO

SCHOLARSHIP  
AND  
POST - SECONDARY  
INFORMATION BOOKLET

2016 - 2017



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	PAGE
1. Introduction	2
• Student Responsibilities	
• Financial Aid Sources for Students	
2. Scholarship & Bursary Information	3
3. General Pointers on Preparing Scholarship Applications	5
4. Letters of Reference & Transcripts	6
5. Researching Scholarships	7
6. Writing a letter or Essay	9
7. Obtaining a Reference Letter	9
8. Types of Scholarships / Awards	10
• Provincial Scholarship Program	
• District Scholarship Program	
• Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship	
9. Instructions for Applying for Entrance Scholarships	13
10. Financial Aid	14
11. How Can I Afford Post-Secondary Education	14

## **INTRODUCTION**

It is that time of the year again when our graduating students are making applications to post-secondary institutions, planning for a job, planning a holiday, or all three. For those students making applications to colleges and universities, we hope you have been preparing yourselves for scholarships by developing good study habits and attaining good, solid marks.

Some scholarships require more than high academic results and, more often than not, require community involvement, volunteer work, participation in competition, excelling in a specific field to name a few.

Many universities offer entrance scholarships that are tied directly to your overall GPA while other scholarships offered through the universities may require direct applications. One item most scholarships have in common is that you are required to apply for the scholarships. This requires planning and researching.

Award and scholarship values, name of Award, and deadlines may change throughout the year and it is the student's responsibility to research this information.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Obtain application forms

- \* Research scholarships you are eligible for
- \* Complete application forms
- \* Obtain or request documents, such as marks, transcripts
- \* Indicate number of years for which marks are required
- \* Request letters of reference
- \* Write or prepare any essays, resumes or goal statements

## **FINANCIAL AID SOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

- \* Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training:  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/aved>
- \* BC Programs & Services, Provincial & District Scholarships:  
<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/>
- \* Student Aid BC: <http://studentaidbc.ca>
- \* Canada Student Loans Program:  
[www.canlearn.ca/eng/index.shtml](http://www.canlearn.ca/eng/index.shtml)  
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cslp.shtml>
- \* Scholarships Canada:  
<http://www.scholarshipscanada.co>  
[www.sd36.bc.ca/scholarships](http://www.sd36.bc.ca/scholarships)  
[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com)

**SCHOLARSHIP & BURSARY INFORMATION**

Dates have been updated but it is the responsibility of each student to research and confirm deadlines.

<b><u>Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
November 18	TD Canada Trust Scholarship
November 6	U of T Major Entrance Awards
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Queens University Chancellor's Scholarships
Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Queens University Entrance Bursaries
December 1	UBC Entrance Awards
Jan 6 <sup>th</sup> /Aug 5	BCIT Entrance Scholarships
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Terry Fox Humanitarian Scholarships
February 14 <sup>th</sup>	University Of Western Ontario
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup> /Mar 1	University of Saskatchewan Entrance Scholarship
February 28	University of Victoria
February 28	Trinity Western University
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup>	SFU Major Entrance Awards
March 1 <sup>st</sup>	Canadian Association of Principal's Leadership Awards
March. 1 <sup>st</sup>	B.C Superintendents' Association: Must enter the field of teacher / education on academic excellence, exemplary service and leadership.
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	University of Calgary Entrance Awards
April. 1 <sup>st</sup>	University of Northern British Columbia -Entrance Scholarships and Bursaries
April. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Duke of Edinburgh Award.
April. 1 <sup>st</sup>	VanCity Community Scholarship-VanCity member/family
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Semiahmoo School and Community Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards.
April. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Kwantlen Entrance: Academic achievement; community /school involvement.
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Certified General Accountants Association-Minimum average of B in grade 11 and 12 courses.
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Affiliation Scholarships administered by UBC.
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Affiliation Bursaries administered by UBC

### Definitions

- a. An award is any scholarship/fellowship/bursary/medal/prize
- b. A scholarship - monetary award based on academic merit or excellence in the area to which the award pertains.
- c. A medal is an award based on academic merit or excellence in the area to which the award pertains. An example is the Governor General's Medal for achieving the highest scores on government exams.
- d. A prize is an award in the form of cash or of some tangible object such as a book, based on an academic merit or excellence in the area to which the award pertains.
- e. An entrance scholarship is one that is available to students who are proceeding from Grade 12 to studies at a post- secondary institution. An open application scholarship is one that is available to all students providing that they meet the academic requirements and criteria.
- g. A limited application scholarship is one for which potential candidates are limited by criteria other than academic.
- h. A bursary is a non-payable grant made to students in need of financial assistance who have maintained satisfactory academic records. Evidence of need may be required.
- i. Semiahmoo exclusive scholarships or school-based scholarships are awards whose funds have been provided by the community or school groups and have a specific criteria. They are adjudicated by the school scholarship committee.
- j. A provincial scholarship is an award based on excellence in achievement on the prescribed B.C. curriculum, based upon performance on examinations established annually by the Ministry of Education. For exact regulations, see section on Scholarship and Awards. <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/provincial-scholarships>
- k. A District Scholarship/Award is an award based on excellence in fields other than academic. For criteria and regulations see Surrey School District 36 Scholarships. <https://www.surreyschools.ca/StudentServices/Scholarships>
- l. B.C. Student assistance Program (BCSAP) is comprised of:
  - \*The Canada Student Loan
  - \*The British Columbia Student Loan
  - \*Equalization Fund
  - \*Supplemental Fund

**GENERAL POINTERS FOR PREPARING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

1. Start early. It takes time to prepare a good application, to print out transcripts, for teachers to write letters of references and for you to revise your application.
2. Keep originals. Save originals for your final copy and use duplicate forms for working copies. Always keep a photocopy of your completed application and data.
3. Quality. Your letters, resumes, or essays should look as professional and polished as possible and printed on good quality paper. Competition for large scholarships is fierce.
4. Content. Be comprehensive. Include everything that represents a commitment of time: contests, awards, conferences, drama, public speaking, school or community service, positions held, honour roll courses, languages, hobbies, work experience. Have parents, friends, teachers, or anyone who knows you well, check for errors and omissions.

Be specific. Elaborate with details so that the selection committee can tell that your qualifications are based on fact, not platitudes. Avoid general statements such as "I like to work with people". Instead, tell specifically whom you have worked with, on what, and with what result.

Sell yourself. Explain specifically what you have done or enjoyed about your academic experiences. Go into detail about some aspect of courses or project.

5. Style: Proofread. Only when you have finished drafting for content can you begin to examine the style. Open with a good sentence stating the purpose of your application and the reasons you qualify.

Sentence structure. Check for repetition, i.e. "In grade eight I ... ; in grade nine, I achieved ... ; I played ... ; I won;" vary your sentence structure. Get help if necessary.

Vocabulary. Eliminate simplistic words and phrases such as "a lot". Be wary of absolute statements, "I always."

Proofread and revise. Have your work read by several people who care about you and know how to write well. Revise anything that sounds insincere.

6. Letters of recommendation or reference letters. Allow sufficient time (2 weeks). Don't ask on Wednesday for a letter that is needed on Friday. Provide a completed student profile to the person who is writing your reference letter.
7. Even if a person knows you, it helps to remind them of the highlights of your achievements. If possible, a copy of the award you are applying for and a copy of the criteria upon which the award is based assists the person writing the letter of recommendation.

### **LETTERS OF REFERENCE**

**TO OBTAIN LETTERS OF REFERENCE OR LETTERS FROM THE PRINCIPAL and/or COUNSELLOR:**

STUDENTS must complete the STUDENT PROFILE FORM

Indicate what you are requesting. This form can be photocopied and reused. If possible, a copy of the criteria of the award or some information concerning the scholarship/award for which you are applying would be helpful.

Principal, teacher, and /or counsellor reference letters are very important in an application. To do their best for you, they need lead-time.

**If you are seeking a school nomination**, the entire scholarship application and supporting documents must be handed in to Ms. Pelech in the Career office 3 weeks prior to the deadline. A decision about nomination will be made by the internal scholarship committee at Semiahmoo Secondary School.

If you are planning to apply for **UBC, SFU, UNBC, UVIC, BCIT, KWANTLEN or TRINITY WESTERN or any other post-secondary institution Entrance Scholarships**, please note deadlines for application to the specific institution.

Allow two weeks for processing. Do not ask for a letter of reference and expect it the following day or even the following week. Reference letters are time consuming to write and the person who is writing the reference wants to do you justice.

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Official transcripts for purposes of scholarship applications or university/college applications are available from the main office each Friday. Please sign up at the office well in advance of your required date.

### RESEARCHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Students considering applying for any type of scholarship should research the scholarships they wish to apply for or to be considered for. This research should include the following:

- \* **Admission application** - Admission applications to post-secondary institutions are separate forms with individual deadlines. These applications are usually mailed to or sent on-line to the office of the registrar of the admissions office of the university, college, or school.
- \* **Application form** - Scholarship application forms should be requested well in advance of the deadline for submitting completed forms. Not all application forms are available in the Career Resource Center. Students should research where and how application forms may be obtained. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain application forms and complete the necessary documentation.
- \* **Deadlines** - These dates must be strictly adhered to. Some scholarships specify the date as 'postmarked', some as 'received by'. Avoid disqualifying your application. Prepare your mail and applications early.
- \* **Documents** - Each scholarship/award requires specific documentation. Read, read, and re-read the application instructions. List what is required by the student, and/or what you need to request from the schools or others, i.e. marks including specific grades, interim or projected marks, principal's recommendation or ranking, letters of reference, essay, writing specific examinations, resume, bibliography to name a few.
- \* **Essays** - Some scholarships require the applicant to write an essay or bibliography. Stick to the length, format, and subject matter specified in the instructions. If goals are requested, include short and long term goals. Your long-term goals may change over the next few years, but that is usually taken into consideration. A good idea is to confer with an English teacher about your draft and final work.
- \* **Exams** - Some scholarships require the writing of government exams. High academic criteria scholarships may require specific exam results, i.e. Euclid Math Exam results. SFU's P.D. McTaggart Cowan Scholarships in Math, Physics, Biology and Chemistry have explicit requirements.
- \* **High academic** - The main criteria for entrance scholarships is a high GPA (grade point average). Research is needed into such particulars as the number and subjects included in calculating the GPA and their grade level. Some scholarships require that candidates be in the top percentile of their graduating class. A good procedure is to discuss your candidacy with your counsellor.
- \* **Nomination** - some scholarships, usually high academic or entrance scholarships, require that the school or principal nominate a student (normally one) for a specific award. The principal may be unaware of the post-secondary institutions students are considering applying to, so inform your counsellor and take the time to discuss your options with the principal. Scholarships which require nominations usually have early application deadlines.

- \* **Procedures / Responsibilities** - if you are not certain how to complete the application forms, complete as much as possible and then see your Counsellor. Read the instructions of each award, and follow them to the letter. If you are told to print, then print the information. Some essays must be handwritten, and others typed. Be neat. Be tidy. Be thorough. If you are uncertain about some details or instructions, a phone call to the contact individual may be required for clarification. Check out whom is responsible for compiling and/or mailing of documents and application forms. Be prepared. Ask for references and documents early. **DO NOT** leave requests for information to the last second or you may find yourself out of luck in obtaining the information. See references.
- \* **References** - most scholarships require one or more letters of reference or recommendations from the principal or others. Letters of reference from staff members or the principal require:

*Students to compete a "student profile" form. If possible, include a copy of the award you are applying for, and in particular, a copy of the criteria upon which the award is based. Provide as much information as possible and make the request as early as possible. Indicate to the referee, the reason for the reference and the due date.*

*At least **TWO WEEKS** of advance notice must be given before the reference is required.*

- \* **Service** - more scholarships/awards/bursaries are now including service in their criteria. Service may include volunteer activities in school or in the community. **Quite often we do not give ourselves credit for what we have accomplished or contributed.**
- \* **Other reminders** - be neat, follow instructions, research, attend scholarship and information meetings, check list of important dates, check material posted in the Library, Counselling / Career Center. Make certain that you **SIGN** the application form where required. Ask parents, coaches, and volunteer agencies with whom you are associated if there are any scholarships, awards, or bursaries available to apply for. You must do the research. You are responsible for obtaining application information, forms and completing the necessary documentation.

**NOTE:**

Not all applications are available in the Counselling Center. Most application forms from post-secondary institutions are available through the institute's web-site.

### **WRITING A LETTER OR ESSAY IN SUPPORT OF A SCHOLARSHIP**

If specific information is required, pay careful attention that all details are covered. The criteria have been decided upon and the committee screening applications will be looking for that information.

Keep the tone of the letter or essay business-like. Letters should be written in standard business letter format. If an essay is required, use the skills that you have learned in school and allow for proof-reading and several re-writes. The committee will be looking for content, but they will be influenced by style.

If there are no specific requirements for an essay or letter, you should consider the following:

- \* reflect how specific subjects have influenced you
- include an outline of your interests, hobbies and activities
- \* a summary of positions and offices held by you in school, youth organizations and/or the community
- \* a short statement of your purpose in seeking to attend a specific post-secondary institution
- \* information concerning awards, scholarships and prizes won by you in any field
- \* details of employment in the last two years, during vacations or after school
- \* details of any volunteer work you have done

If the instructions do not specify that the letter or essay be handwritten, type the document. If you are handwriting the final copy, make certain that it is neat and legible. Use 8 ½ x 11-inch white paper, single sided.

**Have a Social Insurance Number.** Several of the major scholarships require one. Do not include this information unless specifically requested.

Don't assume that the committee will read between the lines. If you have done something noteworthy, include it. Most scholarships will have many worthy candidates. The better job you do of selling yourself, the better your chances are of receiving a scholarship or award.

### **OBTAINING A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR A SCHOLARSHIP**

Unless it is specified, try to get a mix of supporting letters, i.e. a teacher, a boss, someone from the community. Make certain that people you choose will speak positively about you. It is difficult to write a letter for someone about whom you have reservations. The tone will likely be evident in the letter. Ask the person if they have any reservations about writing a letter of recommendation or support on your behalf.

If you are applying for several scholarships, ask the person writing the letter to use either a "To Whom It May Concern" introduction or ask them to put it on a word processor so that they can redo the letter several times without having to re-write it every time.

Provide the person with a summary of details about yourself using a student profile sheet. Even if they don't use all the information, it will help them to make general statements about you. Also, provide the criteria of the scholarship.

Specify information that you would like to see included in the letter. For example:

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| a. your character                 | b. your accomplishments                               |
| c. unique characteristics         | d. service, clubs etc.                                |
| e. awards and prizes              | f. academic standing if it is relevant to that person |
| g. academic qualities if relevant | h. interests as they relate to the letter writer      |

Again, it is helpful to provide as much information as possible and courteous to request as early as possible any documentation or reference letters you may require.

### **TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS / AWARDS**

**NOTE:** The names, the monetary value and the quantity of scholarships and awards given change yearly. We endeavoured to keep this information current. It is ultimately up to individual students to do the research on specific information regarding each scholarship or award that they are applying for.

#### **BC Achievement Scholarships**

BC Achievement Scholarships recognize 8000 top BC graduates in the province. The \$1,250 scholarship voucher must be used towards post-secondary tuition.

**The Ministry will determine recipients** based on students' achievement in Grades 10, 11 and 12 courses that satisfy graduation program requirements. Grad Transitions is not included. A cumulative average percentage will be calculated and form the basis for awarding the BC Achievement Scholarship.

*Recipients must:*

- Meet basic eligibility requirements
- Attain a "B" (73% or above) or better average in their Language Arts 12 course:
  - English 12
  - Communication 12
  - Francais langue premiere 12 or
  - English 12 First Peoples

A student can receive only one BC Achievement Scholarship in their lifetime. Students cannot receive both a BC Achievement Scholarship and a Graduation Program Examination Scholarship.

#### **Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships**

This scholarship has been phased out. The final allocation will be to high school graduates in the 2015/2016 school year

A student may be awarded both a Provincial Scholarship and a District Scholarship.

### **BC Excellence Scholarships**

55 scholarships are available to recognize well-rounded B.C. graduates. Students must be nominated by their secondary school in order to apply and only one student from each school may be nominated. The applicant must demonstrate service and leadership, both at school and in the community at large, show aptitude and commitment to their chosen career paths. This scholarship is a \$5000 voucher to be used for post-secondary tuition.

### **District Scholarships**

Each year, the Ministry of Education allocates up to 5500 scholarships across BC to grade 12 graduates. A District Scholarship consists of a \$1,250 scholarship voucher to use toward post-secondary studies.

District scholarship vouchers may only be redeemed by enrolling in a full-time program at a [ministry-approved post-secondary institution](#) or apprenticeship program.

These scholarships are given to students in technical courses for their achievement and dedication. At Semiahmoo Secondary you would be nominated by your classroom teacher in areas such as technology, art, foods or fashion, business, culinary class, leadership, PE/Athletics and Clubs.

### **Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship**

The Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship is awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates who have demonstrated a commitment and aptitude for a career in teaching. Each recipient will receive a \$5000 scholarship voucher to use towards tuition in their teaching program at a designated BC post-secondary institution.

A student cannot win both a Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship and a BC Excellence Scholarship.

### **Student Awards**

The Ministry of Education's [Awards](#) page offers more information on scholarships, bursaries and awards for Grade 12 students entering post-secondary institutions. Many come from private donors, foundations, industries, associations, organizations and government agencies.

[www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/student](http://www.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/student)

[BC Awards Online](#) is a valuable resource for Grade 12 students in their search for awards. This comprehensive online database, of more than 500 scholarships, bursaries and awards available to B.C. students, is continually updated and new awards are added throughout the year. The database is searchable by school district, career area, keyword or deadline date and includes links to application forms so that students can print application forms directly from the site. You will also find information on Canadian scholarships, grants and student awards on the [Student Awards](#) website.

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards>

**Secondary School Apprenticeship Award**

The Secondary School Apprenticeship award is a prize for sustained effort as an apprentice, which includes graduating and continuing in the apprenticeship. The monetary award is meant to assist the apprentice to continue with their training in his or her chosen area. The manner in which the award is used is determined by the student. All students with 4 SSA courses reported to the Ministry of Education within 3 months after graduation are automatically considered for the award.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for a Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship, a student must:

- be registered with the ITA as a Youth Apprentice or Youth Trainee prior to graduation
- have graduated with a grade 12 Dogwood Diploma or Adult Dogwood
- have successfully completed SSA11A, SSA11B, SSA12A and SSA12B within three months after graduation
- have maintained a C+ average or better on all Grade 12 courses
- apprenticeship hours must be completed by December 31 of the school year that the student turns 19.

Scholarships are awarded to students who meet the eligibility and awarding requirements.

**Applying**

To apply for a Secondary School Apprenticeship Scholarship, the student must:

- fill out the application form – available online at [www.aved.gov.bc.ca/industrytraining/](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/industrytraining/)

You must apply within six months of graduation.

**Entrance Scholarships**

Universities and colleges all have Entrance Scholarships and Bursaries. Students should access the web sites for further information or seek information in the Career Center

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLYING FOR ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. See specific university websites for entrance scholarship applications.
2. Read over the instructions and the requirements.

**Determine if you have the correct prerequisites, i.e. grade point average, community service, etc.**

3. Complete the student profile. Make photocopies if applying for more than one scholarship.

Submit the Principal's nomination form and reference letter to Ms. Pelech in the Career Center, along with your STUDENT PROFILE FORM, and any other items such as essays, resumes, and application forms, **at least three weeks** prior to the deadline date. That means, students must begin the process at even an earlier time.

4. Submit/request teachers/community members (whichever applies to your scholarship) to complete the Referee's Report Form or Letter of Reference. Provide these individuals with a copy of your STUDENT PROFILE FORM for each scholarship. Completed forms or letters should be returned to Ms. Pelech.
5. Make yourself a checklist and a timeframe to work within. Remember, Spring Break or Easter may be within the time frame for deadlines.

**WRITING REFERENCE LETTERS TAKE TIME AND INFORMATION. PLEASE ASSIST THE PRINCIPAL, COUNSELLORS AND STAFF BY COMPLETING YOUR FORMS AND BY ALLOWING AT LEAST THREE WEEKS LEAD TIME FOR MAJOR ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS.**

### **FINANCIAL AID**

BURSARY - a bursary is a non-repayable grant made to students in need of financial assistance, who have maintained satisfactory academic records. Evidence of need may be required. BURSARIES are administered by the universities, private organizations, institutions and vocational/technical institutions.

Candidates should explore those options available to them because of a parent's or guardian's affiliation with a particular group or organization.

Candidates should check their eligibility for "undergraduate" bursaries as well as for "entrance" bursaries. Check the financial aid office of the post-secondary institution you are considering. If you do not inquire, they do not usually search you.

### **THE BRITISH COLUMBIA STUDENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

This program was established to help you meet the financial costs of your post-secondary education. The basic purpose of the program is to supplement, not replace, your own financial resources and the resources of your immediate family.

See the following site for information <http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/ila/>

If you are not certain as to which institute you will be accepted, complete and submit only one application. Your award can be transferred if you decide to change institutions.

**HOW CAN I AFFORD POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION?**

Most frequently asked questions:

- How much will my education cost?
- Who or what agencies provide funding for students?
- How do I access funding sources?
- How do I make the best use of money I have?

**COSTS**

(Assume a single student, graduating from secondary school, living frugally)

Direct educational costs (tuition, student fees, books and supplies)	\$ 4,100 - \$ 6,000
Living Costs (rent, food, utilities, transportation, miscellaneous) (at home, in residence, off-campus)	\$ 8,000 - \$10,000
Total cost (tuition + living) for one year	\$12,000 - \$16,000
Total cost (tuition + living) for four years	\$48,000 - \$64,000

**RESOURCES**

(Assume some contribution from savings, family, PT/FT employment)

A majority of students are funded from multiple sources. Virtually all funding sources assume that the student and/or family will contribute to the costs of a post-secondary education. In addition to personal/family resources which may include an educational saving plan, students can investigate the following sources.

Community	-Scholarships/bursaries offered by organizations, clubs, etc.
Secondary School	-Scholarships/bursaries donated to school.
Government (\$1000 min.)	-Passports to Education (\$1000 max). Scholarship exams
Post-Secondary Institutions	-Entrance and Affiliation scholarships