

W.L. Mackenzie C.I.



Scholarship Information Booklet 2018 - 2019

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Types of Financial Support for Students:

1. University/College Scholarships

These awards are usually given for academic excellence. They may be a one time award or may be renewed based on continued high academic performance:

- Most Ontario universities, but not all, consider entering students automatically for many of the scholarships that they award based on marks only. This means that no application is required.
- Many Ontario universities also offer entering students “prestigious” awards/ scholarships that require an application. In many cases the school is asked to nominate one or two students for the award. To be considered for a school nomination for these kinds of university awards you must complete the “Application for School Nominated Awards” and prepare a covering letter. (See page 7.)

2. General Scholarships

Each year, a variety of institutions, organizations and individuals want to assist graduating high school students continue their education at college or university. While academic achievement is an important factor in that it guarantees your acceptance, it is **not** the only criteria. Many of these scholarships are based on demonstrated leadership, and community involvement. Others are based on a student’s financial need.

- This type of scholarship requires an application process where students are often asked to produce letters of reference, a personal statement, a “resume” of extra-curricular and community involvement etc.

3. William Lyon Mackenzie C.I. Prizes and Awards

Each year, graduating Mackenzie students are presented with awards at Commencement. (See pages 5 and 6.) These awards may take the form of money, a book and/or a plaque. Some award recipients are decided upon by the school’s Scholarship Committee and some are decided upon by individual departments.

- To be considered for these prizes and awards you must complete the “Application for Commencement Awards” and prepare a covering letter. (See page 7.) **Deadline: May 22, 2019.**

4. Student Loans/Bursaries

The Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) provides Ontario students with financial assistance based on need. A student may apply to this program in the spring, after the student has accepted an offer from a university or college. Please note that most students receive a loan that must be paid back.



Finding and Applying for Scholarships/Awards:

Applying for scholarships and awards is a very worthwhile activity. Be aware, however, that it is also quite time consuming. It is very important that you keep yourself organized. The following tips will help you in this process:

Step 1: RESEARCH

Begin by learning about the scholarship(s) that you are eligible to apply for:

- Use the university/college calendar or website to search for scholarships;
- Use the Internet Resource List for scholarship links (page 3 of booklet);
- Attend the university/college visits held at Mackenzie and ask questions about financial assistance;
- Some businesses offer scholarships to the children of employees. Inquire at home if such opportunities exist.

Step 2: COLLECTING/CREATING REQUIRED MATERIALS

Once you have determined the scholarship(s) that you will apply for, you will need to organize the next steps required:

- Write the due dates for each scholarship in your agenda and/or prepare a special “Scholarships Calendar”;
- Update your resume;
- If applying for a scholarship that requires a school nomination or a Commencement Award at Mackenzie, you must complete the Application for School Nominated Awards/Commencement Awards (pages 7 and 8 of booklet);
- Make arrangements to gather the required reference letters. Fill out the Reference Letter Checklist first (page 11 of booklet);
- Prepare all supplementary materials that may be required like personal statements, essays or questionnaires.

Step 3: SUBMITTING APPLICATION

The final step in this process is to assemble your application package(s) and send it:

- Your application should be perfect, clean, not folded or crumpled, neat and easy to read. Word process and proof read your writing;
- Keep a copy of all supplementary materials that you have created as you can often make minor adjustments for the next application.
 - Be sure that your application is on time. Read each scholarship carefully. Some indicate the due date as “post marked” while others want the application in the office by a given date.



Useful Scholarship Websites



U.R.L.	Content Information
http://scholarshipscanada.com/	The site is a data base to various scholarship web sites that will help you find money for your education.
https://yconic.com	Students and parents register information and the site prepares a list of scholarships that match your qualifications. (Formerly known as Studentaward.)
http://www.ontario.ca/osap	Ontario Student Assistance Program: OSAP (see page 16)
www.electronicinfo.ca/scholarships	On eINFO you can search for scholarships by university, dollar range, grade range and other useful criteria.
www.loranscholar.ca	The Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation grants the Loran Award which is one of the most prestigious awards in Canada. Open to all students who demonstrate leadership and commitment to positive school life.
www.gwmsc.ca	Garfield Weston Merit Scholarship fund grants scholarships to students entering College after high school.
www.futureaces.org	Future Aces Foundation grants scholarships based on financial need and community involvement.

Entrance Scholarships Requiring School Nomination: 2018-19

Scholarship Name and Link	School Deadline for Self-Nomination	Scholarship Deadline
<p>Loran Award (three nominees)</p> <p>http://www.loranscholar.ca/</p>	09 October, 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 October for sponsored • 24 October for direct pool
<p>Uof T Book Award (one nominee)</p> <p>http://future.utoronto.ca/content/national-scholarship-program</p>	18 October, 2018	25 October, 2018
<p>Queens Chancellor's Award (2 nominees)</p> <p>https://www.queensu.ca/studentawards/admission-awards/major-admission-awards</p>	15 November, 2018	01 December, 2018
<p>Schulich Leader Scholarships (1 nominee)</p> <p>http://www.schulichleaders.com/</p>	11 January, 2019	30 January, 2019
<p>Western President's Scholarship (4 nominees)</p> <p>http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/scholarships_awards/national_scholarship_program.html</p>	18 January, 2019	14 February, 2019

W.L. Mackenzie C.I. Commencement Awards



To be considered for these awards, students must complete and submit the Self-Nomination package by **May 22, 2019**.

Character Education Graduation Award

This award is given to two graduating students possessing and demonstrating outstanding character attributes.

College Excellence Award

Awarded to a high achiever and contributor to school life, who will continue education at a college.

Jim McQueen Excellence in Education Award

The Jim McQueen Excellence in Education Award (formerly the OSSTF District 12 STU Award) recognizes a student in the Toronto District School Board for his/her exceptional involvement and service to their school and /or community life.

Liberal Arts Alumni Award

Awarded to a graduating student who has made an outstanding contribution to the Liberal Arts, has achieved a better than average academic standing and has been recognized by staff and students for his/her accomplishments beyond the classroom in the Liberal Arts.

Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award

This award is given to recognize Ontario volunteers for outstanding contributions to their communities and who have a direct impact on the people the organizations serve.

MaCS School Leadership Award

This award recognizes a high academic graduate of the MaCS program who has contributed to the life of the school in an exceptional manner in each year of his/her high school career.

Mackenzie Community Building Award

This prize is awarded to graduating students for their promotion of community initiatives and outstanding effort in reaching out to others in the school and/or the community.

Mackenzie Innovation Award

This prize is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in the school and/or the community.

Mae Waese Award

This award is granted to two students who have risen above challenges during their secondary school experience.

Principal's Medal for Student Leadership

This medal is given in recognition of outstanding contribution to school life.

Social Justice Award

Awarded to a student who has advocated for an inclusive and welcoming school and community environment.



W.L. Mackenzie Collegiate Institute

Application for School Nomination, Graduating /Last Year 2018-19



Student's Name _____

Grade 11 average (academic subjects, U/M level only) _____

Instructions:

1. Complete this application form. (Keep a copy for yourself.)
2. Write a proper cover letter that supports and highlights the activities and experiences you have listed on the application form.
3. Submit the cover letter and application form to Student Services. We cannot consider you for any scholarship nominations until you have returned the complete package.

Email Address _____

List your in-school extra curricular activities in the chart provided:

Activity	Position (Please indicate if it was a position of leadership.)	Year(s) of Participation	Number of Hours	Teacher Supervisor's Name and Signature

List your out-of-school community activities in the chart provided:

Activity (What and Where)	Dates of Participation	Number of Hours	Type of Experience Please specify one of the following: Volunteer (V) Paid Employee (E) Leader (L) Ran your own business (B)	Contact Person's Name and Phone Number

I would like to be considered for the following award/scholarship: _____

Briefly describe your educational and/or career goals:

List the Ontario Universities you are applying to in order of preference:

#1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Falsifying information on this form will result in the removal of your application form.



**W.L. Mackenzie Collegiate
Institute**



Application for Commencement Awards, Graduating /Last Year 2018-19

Student's Name _____ Email Address _____

Instructions:

1. Complete this application form by checking off the award(s) you would like to be considered for and briefly outline in point form why you deserve this award. **Each student can self-nominate for a maximum of three awards.**
2. Write a proper cover letter that supports and highlights the activities and experiences you have listed on the application form.
3. Submit the cover letter and application form to Ms. Elso-Ponzo in Student Services by **May 22, 2019.**

☐ **Character Education Award**

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□ **Mae Waese Award**

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a. **Principal's Medal for Student Leadership**

This medal is given in recognition of outstanding contribution to school life.

b. **Social Justice Award**

Awarded to a student who has advocated for an inclusive and welcoming school and community environment

Reference Letter Checklist For Scholarship Applications



Before requesting a reference letter from a teacher or member of the community, use this checklist as a guide to prepare notes that will help that person to write an excellent letter.

Give your writer at least two weeks advance notice!

Student's Name:

Reference Letter Due Date:

Scholarship Details: (Attach a photocopy of the scholarship.)

- Name of Scholarship
- Selection criteria details
- Application deadline

Academic Career:

- Academic averages/ Honour Roll
- Academic awards/competitions
- Grade 12 grades to date

Extra Curricular Activities at Mackenzie:

- Clubs/Teams – start with the most recent and work backwards
- Positions of leadership
- Awards

Volunteer Experience out of school:

- Activities – details
- Positions of responsibility/ awards/ hours

Work Experience:

- Part time experience / hours
- Financial need – if necessary and teacher/counsellor can attest to this

Career/Life Plans:

- If appropriate to the type of scholarship you are applying for

Scholarship Advice: Ten Tips from a Top Student

11-08-2008 by Gilbert Lam



Having spent an entire school year applying for scholarships to fund my post-secondary education, I ought to be well-informed about the application process. It almost became a hobby of mine last year and I'm happy to share some things about the whole scholarship hunt.

1. Apply to as many scholarships as you can. Even if you don't think you're going to get it, apply. You'll never know if you're going to win unless you try, and the time that you put into an application is usually worth the payoff in the end. As long as you fit the criteria, you should be applying. You should also be searching deep—there are lots of places to find possible scholarships i.e. your school counselor and tons of websites.

2. Start applying early. You may have heard this before, so it's obviously the best thing you can do to get your foot in the door. The first scholarship application is by far the hardest thing you're going to do during this hunt. It may help to make a list describing all the relevant things you've done (activities, achievements, certifications) so that you have a visual of you on paper. After all, that's what the scholarship committees see too. Most scholarships look for good grades, active involvement in the community and in general, a passionate, well-rounded person. The more times you practice conveying this on paper, the more improvement you will see from one application to the next.

Also, allot yourself plenty of time to write these applications. The more time you spend on an application, the better it will be. Anybody can just whip up a few sentences and mail it off. It takes time to fill them out to the best of your ability.

3. Be detailed and specific when describing yourself. The scholarship committees don't know who you are. You can't assume that they'll know about something you've done unless you write it down on your application. For example, there's a big difference if you write, "Member of the Track and Field team for 2 years", compared to "Finished 2nd place in the Provincial Championships for Long Jump and Team Sprint for 2 years. Also helped coach junior members and ran practice warm-ups." The latter explanation gives the committee more to think about and describes positive attributes—i.e. involvement in the school through your sports team, but also that you have persistence in training hard to place 2nd provincially, that you're a team player because you help other members, that you have leadership skills because you can run warm-ups and have others listen to you, and that you're a very valued role model. You're not just a "member"—a lot of people are simply members of lots of different clubs in their schools and randomly show up for meetings. If you've done more than that, write it down.

4. Yes, be detailed, but be succinct too. Think of it: the scholarship committee sits down one Thursday afternoon to read through 2000 applications. You don't want to bore them if you're just repeating the same things over and over again. Try to vary your writing and try to be creative with your answers.

5. Show them that you care about what you do. If this is a scholarship that values community involvement, show them that you are truly passionate about, for example, improving the environment. You might want to explain exactly what about the environment can be improved, what action you took to help the situation, and describe what happened as a result of your actions.

6. Think of ways you can be different and stand out to the committee. Using statistics work well with this. For instance, I used a lot of numbers in my applications as it shows concrete proof of what I've done. There are a lot of "student council presidents" out there, so I had to describe why I was different. I wrote on my applications how much student attendance at dances/spirit events improved during my tenure in this leadership role. I also described what kinds of things I initiated, i.e. a canned food drive that's going to be continued again the following year. That's another thing that shows commitment: continuity. Scholarship committees want to see that whatever you're doing is going to continue after your high school life—if not with you, then who are you passing it down to?

7. A lot of applications just have a line for each of your activities—just enough for the organization's name and your role. Try cramming as much as you can into this space albeit difficult. I used a lot of dashes, semicolons and brackets just so I could efficiently use the space I was given.

8. Have other people read your applications. Lots of people. I remember asking all my siblings and parents to read the important applications many times that they became sick of me asking. If it doesn't make sense to other people, it won't make sense to the scholarship committee. Ask them what they think of your activity—are you getting your messages conveyed?

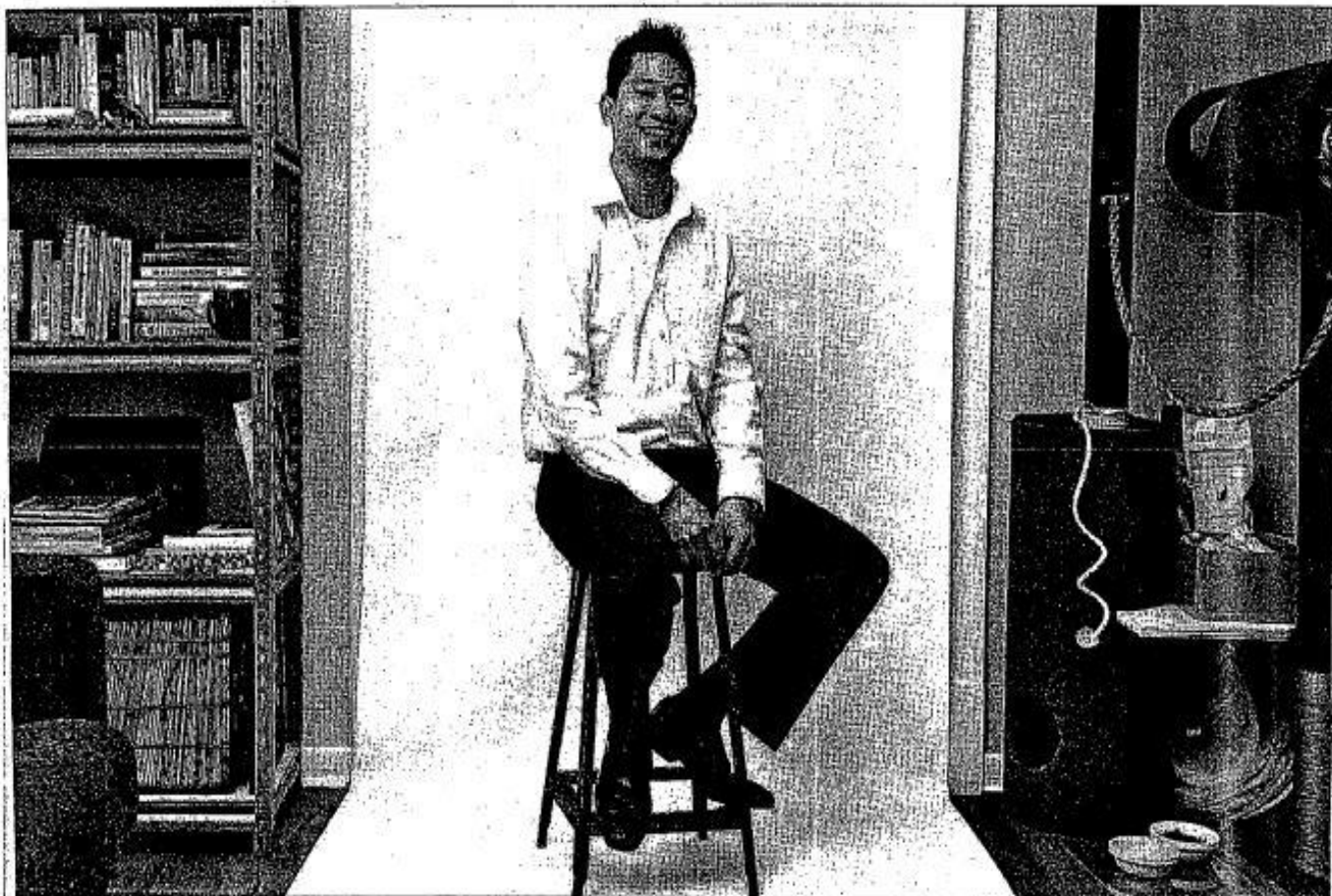
9. Mail your applications in on time. I can't stress this enough. A lot of applications have strict deadlines, some even specific to the exact time. If you don't get in your application in on time, they likely won't read it. And if they do, you've already made a bad first impression—what does that show about your character and time management skills? Also, know when your local post office closes! I remember when my applications needed to be postdated by a certain date, I had to run to the post office and have them stamp the date on it a few minutes before it closed!

10. If at first you don't succeed, try and try again. The chances are that your first scholarship application isn't as good as your others so you may not have good news when you receive the results. Don't get down about it. Students just like you, across the country, are applying to the same scholarships you are, so you've got to keep applying to remain in the hunt. Only you can force yourself to sit down and write a worthy application.

I wish you all the best in the scholarship hunt—the scholarships are waiting to be found by you!

HIGHER EDUCATION

The \$20,000 windfall



CARLOS OSORIO/TORONTO STAR

"I didn't think my grades were that great or that my community involvement was that outstanding," says Dan Chan, a recent MBA graduate.

RUBINA AHMED-HAQ
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Dan Chan, with a B-plus average and only a few volunteering credentials, wasn't optimistic when he applied for a \$20,000 scholarship at Ryerson University. But he took the time to fill out a submission, highlighting his achievements, and received one of the awards for the 2010 year.

Nobody was more surprised than the recent MBA graduate, now working as a land development coordinator at Aykler Real Estate in Toronto. "I didn't think my grades were that great or that my commu-

With a little effort and some luck, this B-plus student snagged a hefty university scholarship

nity involvement was that outstanding," says the Toronto native, who won a Ted Rogers School of Management Graduate Entrance Award.

If you're an undergraduate at a Canadian university, you can expect to pay more than \$65,000 for tuition, housing and food over the course of a four-year degree. The cost of higher education is such a worry for parents and students that Premier Dalton McGuinty is bet-

ting his re-election on a 30 per cent cut in university and college tuition for students from middle-class families.

No matter who wins the Ontario election on Oct. 6, for cash-strapped students there might be some relief now, through bursaries, grants and scholarships. The trick is to root them out and apply.

Chris Wilkins, founder of ScholarshipsCanada.com, says it's a myth that you need financial help, tons of

community involvement and high grades to be successful.

He says only 30 per cent of bursaries are awarded on the basis of financial need, only 12 per cent require community service and only 20 per cent require high marks. The deadlines run all year as well.

There are scholarships for students from all different backgrounds. Some call on Aboriginal youth, alumni from Scouts Canada, single moms, married students and students with English as their second language.

SCHOLARSHIP continued on B2

Struggling students find it pays to apply

SCHOLARSHIP from B1

The donors vary greatly, as well. There are bursaries, scholarships and grants offered by TD Bank Group, Bell Canada, real estate organizations, jewellery stores, Ipsos Reid and even Boston Pizza.

The University of Toronto, for example, awards more than 13,700 need-based bursaries a year, with a total value of \$54 million. At McGill University in Montreal, students can apply to receive some of the \$64 million in university and government grants handed out annually.

There are also independent websites like Studentawards.com and ScholarshipsCanada.com that advertise scholarships, bursaries and contests.

Wilkins says a lot of that money stays on the sidelines. "The ones that are lower in value — \$500 or a \$1,000 — tend to be the ones that are under-applied."

Carleton University undergraduate Tierra Hohn has spent the last few months applying for more than 100 bursaries and her perseverance is paying off.

Instead of watching TV, her spare time is spent looking for bursaries or scholarships. "If you have an hour to spare then go online and look for a scholarship. Take the time to write an essay or whatever it calls for, it doesn't take that long," Hohn says.

The public affairs and policy man-



SARAH DEA/TORONTO STAR

Instead of watching TV in her free time, student Tierra Hohn goes online and looks for scholarships.

agement student has been rewarded with \$2,000 and she anticipates more money to come. It's a huge relief for Hohn, as her first-year tuition is \$6,982 and the cost of residence starts at \$8,411 with a meal plan, for a total of \$15,393.

David Sidebottom, manager of Financial Aid Services at the University of Toronto, says it's not too late to apply — a lot of bursaries are awarded later in the fall or in the winter term. He says this gives students enough time to get settled and figure out their costs. It also helps them provide a more realistic picture of their expenses when applying for grant or bursary money.

Sidebottom works hard to make sure all the funds are distributed every year. At the U of T, the process has been streamlined, so you can

apply to all university-offered bursaries and grants through one application.

Chan believes there are a lot of people who don't look at scholarships because they think their marks aren't good enough. Chan's scholarship covered his \$17,000 tuition costs with \$3,000 left over. It removed an enormous financial burden and meant he didn't need to take a part-time job.

Both Chan and Hohn say the level of work that goes into applying varies. Some require you to answer a few questions, while others are more involved and creative.

For example, one application is encouraging students to submit short videos of themselves destroying the "old-fashioned" ways of studying. Winning submissions

will be awarded \$500. Another is waiting to hear your homework excuse for a hefty award of \$5,000.

At Carleton, Hohn was also given a \$1,000 entrance scholarship for having an 80 per cent average. (The higher the marks, the higher the reward, with students receiving \$4,000 if they have a 95 per cent average.) You're automatically considered for these scholarships when you enrol and they're renewable if your marks remain high. Most universities in Canada offer similar entrance scholarships.

Referring to his own scholarship, Chan knows he got it with a little bit of effort and a lot of luck. "With the risk of sounding self-deprecating, I don't think I would have got it if more people applied."

Rubina Ahmed-Haq is a Toronto writer.



www.ontario.ca/osap

What is OSAP?

OSAP, or the Ontario Student Assistance Program, is a financial aid program funded by both the provincial and federal governments that helps students pay for postsecondary education. OSAP includes:

- grants, which is money that a student gets to keep; and
- loans, which is money that a student will eventually have to repay back to the government.

Loans are interest-free and payment-free while students are in school.

How are students assessed for OSAP?

When determining how much OSAP a student can receive, the government considers many different factors. These include:

- the student's costs (e.g., tuition, fees, books, whether they are living away from home, travel costs, etc.); and
- the financial resources that students have available to contribute towards their own education (e.g., family income, savings, etc.).

Students can estimate how much OSAP they may be eligible to receive by using the OSAP calculator available at www.ontario.ca/osap.