

Frequently Asked Questions: Scholarship Applications

Who can help me find more scholarship information?

There is a lot of help available. Here are some sources that you may tap for assistance.

If you are in high school, make an appointment with your guidance counsellor, or reach out to the financial aid department of the schools that you are considering. You may even contact the faculty or department at the institution where you wish to go. Do not be shy about asking for help. All of these sources will be happy to support you

Does applying for the BBPA scholarship earlier than the deadline help me?

The 2020 application process ends on July 15, 2020. The important thing is getting your full application in before the deadline. Scholarship administrators have to review every submission, but they may not do so in order of receipt. Focus on a complete, comprehensive application, rather than an early one. The decisions about who gets scholarships are not based on time of arrival but instead on the scholarship award criteria. An early application will enable prompt review and ensure that your application gets full consideration, but only if it is complete.

How much effort should I put into this application process?

You should put full effort into it. Provide all the required information to make your case and strengthen your chances of being selected to receive a scholarship.

Do I have to write an essay for every scholarship I apply to?

No, not at all. In fact, most scholarships do not have an essay component at all. Read the instructions carefully, as different scholarships have different application criteria.

Do scholarship administrators care about spelling and grammar in my application?

Yes, correct spelling and grammar are important. Your ideas are easier to convey and understand when written clearly, and you want to show the administrator that you took the time to produce a quality piece of writing. Copious spelling and grammar errors send the opposite message. It is very important that you consider the way you present yourself, starting with your application. This issue goes well beyond an application process and is a statement about your professionalism.

Is there a limit to the number of awards I can apply for?

The application form does not ask that you target your candidacy to a specific scholarship. This is because the judges will assess your application and your interests, against scholarships with donor determined criteria. Where you fulfil specified donor criteria you will be evaluated for those scholarships plus you will be considered for all other scholarships which do not have specific donor criteria. In summary, you will be considered for as many scholarships as you're a fit for.

How do I get a scholarship?

Apply — it's that simple! Many students assume that that will not qualify, and so they do not apply. Once you have figured out the scholarships you qualify for, start applying and ensure that your application is

sent in before the deadline to ensure that your chances of acceptance remain high. If approved, the BBPA will contact you about your award.

Are the chances of winning higher if I work hard and apply to lots of awards?

We look for and reward hard work. That will certainly improve your chances. We do not recommend multiple submissions for scholarships. That slows down the process and conveys unprofessional behaviour on the part of the applicant.

How do I contact a scholarship administrator?

You can email us at scholarships@bbpa.org

Should I apply for awards directly or go through my guidance counsellor's office?

Apply directly. If you have any questions that you cannot resolve, you can contact us via email with your questions.

When do most scholarships become available?

BBPA National Scholarships are offered at the end of each school year. The application process is typically from May to July. We notify students immediately upon application review and award scholarships as Fall semester begins. Scholarship applications will remain closed until the school year ends.

Who should I ask for a reference letter?

Only ask someone who knows you well and for an extended period. Teachers, guidance counsellors, coaches, and religious figures are all good choices. Some scholarships require references from particular people, so check the requirements carefully. You may be asked to provide a professional reference and a personal one. Use your judgment on who to ask for each.

Do scholarship applications always require a reference letter?

Yes. Applications typically require a character, professional or personal reference.

Are old reference letters okay or do they need to be recent?

Ideally, references should be dated about the time of your application. Your skills and experience change and we require the most view of the factors if which we base applications. Think of the letter as an extra vote of support for your application. References more than a few months old are not suitable.

How can I send other documents if I have already submitted my application?

As a standard professional practice, follow the guidelines of any application process. These processes enable prompt and consistent evaluation of all applications. It is always best to answer all questions and submit all relevant documents and information before sending in your application. Documents sent to us outside our portal, or via email will not be used and your application will be disqualified. Please contact us if you have further questions about this.

How much time should I put into my applications?

This is totally up to you, but the more the better. You get out what you put in. Give yourself a week or two before the deadline to get everything ready.

My school only sends transcript directly to the asking body. How can they send my transcript on my behalf?

We understand that some academic directors will not grant students access to the official transcript but can only send directly to the school or asking body. That is why you have the option within your application, to add your academic directors name and email. A message will be sent to him/her with a secure link on how they can upload your transcript. They do not need to mail the hard copy over to us.

I am a post-graduate student. Am I still eligible to apply?

Yes. If the program in which you are enrolled meets the scholarship criteria, and your own conditions fit the criteria as well, then you may be eligible. Please note that people completing programs may not apply for scholarships as 'replacement' or 'recovery' of funds. The application criteria require forward participation in a program for you to be eligible.

I am an international student with a student visa. Am I still eligible to apply?

You are eligible to apply. The conditions of your participation in a Canadian educational institution must meet some reasonable standard of ownership on your part. However, such applications will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Priority will be given to citizens and residents of the country.

I have another question about scholarship applications that isn't addressed here.

Please email us at scholarships@bbpa.org copying office@bbpa.org with your questions.