

Scholarships & Awards Newsletter



North Surrey Secondary School has a strong scholarship tradition. Each year, thousands of dollars are awarded to our students through various scholarships and awards.

The information provided in this newsletter is intended to give our students a broad picture of the financial opportunities available to them.

WHERE TO START

1. Follow us on **Instagram** @NorthSurreyCareerCentre for the latest scholarship updates, post-secondary open houses and information sessions.
2. Grade 12 students are encouraged to attend monthly lunch hour Scholarship meetings (usually taking place on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, pls see full calendar of dates in the Career Centre), where up to date information and tips on how to apply for scholarships is provided. Meetings take place at lunch, in the Theatre.
3. Monthly scholarship slides will be posted to Grade 12 students via Microsoft Teams as well as on the NSS website (under the Career tab).
4. Additionally, students are encouraged to check out these websites:
 - ◆ Ministry of Education Transcript Service - www.studenttranscripts.gov.bc.ca
 - ◆ Education Planner - www.educationplannerbc.ca
 - ◆ StudentAidBC - www.studentaidbc.ca
 - ◆ Post-Secondary BC - www.postsecondarybc.ca
 - ◆ WorkBC - www.workbc.ca
 - ◆ Canadian Scholarship, Grants and Cash Awards - yconic.com
 - ◆ Student Scholarships - www.studentscholarships.org
 - ◆ International Scholarship Database - www.internationalscholarships.com
 - ◆ Scholarships Canada - www.scholarshipscanada.com
 - ◆ ScholarTree - www.scholartree.ca

Follow us on Instagram @NorthSurreyCareerCentre

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This is a suggested strategy for preparing scholarship applications:

1. Begin the application process early in the school year

The steps in acquiring an application form, completing the form, gathering letters of reference and recommendations, and returning all relevant documents, can take a considerable length of time.

2. Make a list of available and applicable scholarships

Chart the scholarships for which you intend to apply, making special note of the deadlines for each. This exercise will help you establish your own personal timeline.

3. Apply for as many scholarships as possible!

4. Apply for a Canadian Social Insurance Number (SIN)

Scholarships cannot be awarded to students

who do not have a SIN. To find out how to get a SIN, go to: www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sc/sin/index.shtml

5. Prepare a generic letter of application early in the school year. Include the following information:

- a. **An outline** of your interests, hobbies, and activities.
- b. **A summary** of positions and offices you have held in school, in youth organizations, in the community, and any relevant volunteer experience.
- c. **A short statement** of the goals which you are hoping to achieve while attending a post secondary institution.
- d. **A list of awards**, scholarships and certificates you may have received throughout your high school years.

**Current post secondary information is online and subject to change.
Refer to the specific websites for each school you wish to attend!**

HOW TO ORDER A TRANSCRIPT

You can **view, order & electronically send** your Transcripts to the Post-Secondary Institution(s) of your choice directly from the Ministry of Education website:

www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca

If an **Interim Transcript** is required for a **Scholarship** application or for **select Post-Secondary programs**, you can request it directly from **Ms. Baig** in the **Career Centre** (before & after school, at lunch and during spare block). The cost is \$1 for one copy and \$2 for three.

* **Please note** the Ministry of Education no longer mails official transcripts home once students graduate. Transcripts can be downloaded and printed directly from the Ministry's website.

LETTERS OF REFERENCE

Letters from principals, teachers, counsellors, coaches, employers and other supervisors are very important for scholarship applications. Please allow **at least two weeks** for your referee to complete a sufficient letter. You should provide your referee with a thorough list of all of your volunteer experiences, awards, extra-curricular activities and leadership experiences.

Please provide your referee with a copy of your resume and/or student profile. The Career Centre has a "Student Profile" template you can use for your reference request.

If possible, you should also provide your referee with a copy of the scholarship for which you are applying, and in particular, a copy of the criteria upon which the award is based.

THE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Some scholarships require the applicant to write an essay or answer questions in an essay format. Always read the criteria closely - stick to the length, format, and subject matter specified in the instructions. Make sure you specifically answer the essay questions. If goals are requested, include both short and long-term goals. Your long-term goals may change over the next few years, but that is usually taken into consideration.

Make sure your application is proofread by an adult.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AWARDS AT NORTH SURREY SECONDARY

1. District/Authority Scholarships (\$1,250)

The Ministry of Education provides **District/Authority Scholarships** which are designed to acknowledge **excellence in fields other than academics** by assisting students to further education in the business, vocational, technical or fine and performing arts.

Awards are given to those who have excelled in their grade 12 year, in the following areas:
Indigenous Languages and Culture / Fine Arts (Visual Art, Dance, Drama, Music) / Applied Skills (Business Ed., Tech Ed., Home Economics) / Physical Activity (including Dance) / Second Languages (French and Spanish offered at NSS only) / Community Service (Volunteer Activity) / Technical and Trades Training (Carpentry, Automotive, Cafeteria, etc.).

Applications are available in early Spring from the Career Centre.

The application deadline is **April 8th** in the Career Centre. For more information *Google* "District/ Authority Scholarships" or come to the Career Centre.

2. Partners36 Awards (\$250 - \$2,000)

These are Surrey School District awards made possible through the contributions of individuals, corporations and community service organizations. Applications will be made available in early Spring. The application deadline is **April 8th** in the Career Centre. For more information, visit:

www.surreyschools.ca >About Us > Department Directory > Business Development > Community Information > Post Secondary /Scholarships

3. NSSS In-School Scholarships (\$200 - \$1,500)

A number of local **In-school scholarships** and awards are available to qualified applicants. Applications will be made available in early Spring by the Career Centre.

Follow us on Instagram @NorthSurreyCareerCentre for updates and current information.

The application deadline is April 8th, before 4:00 pm.

OTHER TYPES OF FINANCIAL AWARDS

1. University / College Entrance Scholarship: (\$500 up to full ride)

Students apply directly to various post-secondary institutions. Most Universities, Colleges and private post-secondary institutions throughout North America provide Entrance Scholarships to qualified Grade 12 students. Generally, applications should be prepared early in the year as the deadline for receipt of applications is often **February, March** or **April** (and as early as **December** for UBC!). Students should carefully note deadlines and prepare their applications well in advance.

2. Affiliation-based Awards such as: Athletic Scholarships and Bursaries; Career-based Awards; Citizenship / Leadership Awards; Military Scholarships; Parent's employment & Unions; Medical Conditions & Personal Circumstances; Involvement in the Arts; Specific programs and many more.

Important information you need to know

Application and registration deadlines for Universities, Colleges and Scholarships vary from institution to institution and from year to year. It is very important to check online to find out the specific deadlines. Some post-secondary institutions have early admissions (such as UBC) and these close as early as December. Some universities and college programs (such as nursing) have very specific deadlines. Other programs have ongoing applications, until the program is full.

Always check online and with the Registrar's Office of your particular school of interest to find out the most accurate and up to date information.
