



## PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR THE NEXT SEMESTER

It is a busy time of year as students ramp up to get through their final semesters of the year. Whether you are finishing high school or are already in post-secondary, this is the time of year to be thinking about finances for the fall school semester.

There are a multitude of scholarships and bursaries that are available to students and many students don't realize the opportunities that may be available to them.

Scholarships and Bursaries differ in that Scholarships are awards for achievement in academic or other talents like sports, drama and music. Bursaries are grants that are based on a provable financial need and often also have an achievement academic benchmark to meet. Many bursaries also require demonstration of extracurricular or volunteer work.

There are a great deal of scholarships and bursaries that are in an individual's community connections that they may have access to i.e., local churches, associations, sporting groups, volunteer organizations and employers of parents and grandparents. Some are specific to the institution you're or will be attending; some are more specific in the field of study. Often the scholarship will be specific to the year of study, some are geared to new students, but many others are in place for committed students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year or further or those dedicated to graduate programs or international study.

It does take some time and research to find the right scholarship. Often times, it is a requirement to complete an application and many involve a letter or an essay detailing why you should be chosen. Transcripts will need to be ordered and references may be required. In addition, there may be time later if they want you to accept the scholarship at a local function and of course a thank you letter is expected. Often, once you have written the first amazing essay you can use the basis of it and tailor it to the next application. All of this is well worth it for funds that you will be able to use to help facilitate your education. One \$1000 scholarship would take you 67 hours to earn at minimum wage of \$15 assuming no deductions. These scholarships and bursaries combined with your employment income and savings will go a long way to funding your education.

Besides the financial benefit it brings, a personal sense of pride is created as you know you worked hard for that reward.

As there are the many listings for scholarships, I have taken the liberty of highlighting a few options to get you started:

- *Alexander Rutherford High School Achievement Scholarship* (value up to \$2500) Apply as you finish high school
- *Jason Lang Scholarship* (Value \$1000) eligible to apply in the second year for programs at least 2 years in length. This scholarship can be applied for annually to a maximum of 3 scholarships.

Helpful Links:

- <https://studentaid.alberta.ca/scholarships/alberta-scholarships/>
- <https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>
- <https://alis.alberta.ca/explore-education-and-training/pay-for-your-education/scholarships-and-bursaries/>
- <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/finances/awards>

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