

MOUNTAIN SECONDARY FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM

The monetary value of many scholarships, awards and bursaries is not sufficient to cover all the costs of post-secondary education. Students and their parents should not rely solely on financial assistance to cover post-secondary costs. Most of the monetary awards administered through Mountain are meant to supplement the contributions made by the students themselves and their parents toward the costs of the first year of university or college.

A. TYPES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

1. Scholarships Monetary awards given for academic excellence. Other criteria such as leadership, community involvement and athletics may also be considered.
2. Awards Monetary awards made in recognition of achievement and significant individual contributions to the school and/or community.
3. Bursaries Grants made to students who demonstrate need. A financial statement must be included with a bursary application.
4. Loans Money borrowed by a student demonstrating financial need; usually must be repaid. Student loan application forms are available at Financial Aid Offices at www.studentaidbc.ca. A full Financial statement must be included. In fact, few high school graduates are eligible for government assistance. Students who do qualify are expected to work during the two-month period before beginning post-secondary studies. Unless the student has been out of high school for four years or in the labour force for two years, parents are also expected to contribute to the costs of post-secondary education. Exceptions are made for students who are living in a single-parent family.

NOTE: With the exception of government-sponsored scholarships and a few university scholarships, a transcript and letter(s) of reference must accompany all financial aid applications.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

1. GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIPS

To earn a **Provincial Scholarship**, students must write a minimum of three provincial exams, (English 12 plus 3 others) scoring a minimum of 475/800 on each of these exams with a total of 1700 points. This means you need to score approximately 86% or better on the exams.

To earn a **District Scholarship**, a student must have demonstrated outstanding achievement in one of the following areas: TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS or ATHLETICS. Recipients of these scholarships usually have an average of 80% or better in 5 courses in any one of these specialty areas.

2. POST-SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

(Administered by Post-Secondary Institutions)

INFORMATION IS MADE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY. THE APPLICATION DEADLINE IS EARLY SPRING

To be eligible, students should have achieved high A's in most grade 11 and, particularly grade 12 courses. Frequently, they must also have made significant contribution to their school and/or community. Letters of reference, a transcript and a personal essay are required. Specific details are available in February.

Note: that UBC, SFU and UVIC offer some scholarships for which not application is necessary.

3. Passport to Education

The Passport to Education Program recognizes and rewards student achievement in a broad range of academic and non-academic courses according to guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education. Two thirds is based on academic achievement and one third on service, citizenship and effort.

Grade 10 \$250

Grade 11 \$250

Grade 12 \$500

4. SCHOLARSHIPS SPONSORED BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Information and application deadlines are ongoing. Students and their parents must be actively involved in availing themselves of information concerning eligibility, criteria, application processes and deadlines.

These awards are sponsored by businesses, unions, fraternal lodges, etc. In some cases, a parent or grandparent must be a member or an employee of the sponsoring organization. Check with parents to see if their employers, unions, clubs, etc. offer scholarships or bursaries. Some scholarships and awards are administered through American-based operations and may require the writing of College Board test such as the Scholastic Aptitude Test. (SAT)

5. LOCALLY SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS AND BURSARIES

The District, Local and Mountain scholarships are applied for in February of your grade 12 year. Awards are determined in April after the Semester 2 report marks are received. Recipients are notified and receive their awards at the Graduation Ceremonies in June.

NOTE: If you are awarded a scholarship, please write a **Thank-You** letter to the sponsoring organization to express your appreciation for their assistance in helping you pursue your post-secondary studies.

NOTE: Make sure you have a Social Insurance Number in preparation for your Financial Aid Application.

