First Steps

1. Talk to your school **guidance counsellor**; they know a lot about scholarships.
2. Apply for **OSAP**.
3. Check public **scholarship databases**.
4. Check the awards databases of the schools you have applied to.
5. Ask community organizations and organizations you work with or volunteer for.
6. Apply before the deadline. These will vary between different scholarships.

High School Resources

Talk to your school guidance counsellor. They will know about any scholarships your high school offers, as well as general scholarship resources.

Halton District School Board Scholarship Resources Portal
https://sites.google.com/hdsb.ca/scholarships/home?authuser=0

Halton Catholic District School Board Scholarship Information
https://secondary.hcdsb.org
(check your specific school)

Community Resources

Oakville Community Foundation Scholarships Database
www.theocf.org/initiative/community-education-awards-hub/

Do Something (scholarships based on community service)
www.dosomething.org

Canada Learning Bond

Up to $2000 in RESP contributions from the Federal government. No parental contributions to the RESP are needed and the funds can be applied retroactively.

Scholarship Databases

Create a free profile and find scholarships tailored to you. Get notified of new scholarships and approaching deadlines.

Scholarships Canada
www.scholarshipscanada.com

Scholar Tree
https://scholartree.ca/scholarships

Student Scholarships
https://studentscholarships.org

Yconic
https://yconic.com

Ontario Universities Info
www.ontariouniversitiesinfo.ca

Universities Colleges Canada
http://scholarship-grants.org

Students Guide for Securing Financial Aid

https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/payforpostsecondary/

OSAP
Grants & Student Loans

About OSAP www.ontario.ca/page/learn-about-osap

How to Apply www.ontario.ca/page/how-apply-osap

Aid Estimator
https://osap.gov.on.ca/AidEstimator2021Web/enterapp/enter.xhtml?lang=en

Apply early to give time for your application to be processed. Final Deadline: 60 days before the end of the school term for which you are applying.

University/College Resources

Talk to the school's **Financial Awards Office** about the financial assistance that the school offers.

Most schools have their own private scholarship databases.

1. Google "<school name> awards database".
2. You will likely need to login with the student ID you were given when you applied.

Many schools also award scholarships automatically, without requiring an application. If you receive any of these scholarships the school will notify you by email or in your acceptance package.

Estimating Your Expenses

1. Check schools' websites for tuition and residence fees.
2. Don't forget to factor in transportation, food, and lifestyle expenses.
3. Keep in mind, tuition may increase over the 4+ years that you are in school.

Expense Calculator
https://www.rbcroyalbank.com/student/budget-calculator/
(schools often have their own custom expense calculators on their websites)

Writing Applications

1. Make a note of any deadlines.
2. Check if the scholarship has multiple parts and how each part should be submitted (website, emailed, or mailed in).
3. Do the easy parts, like filling out your personal information, first.
4. Ask for reference letters early.
5. Plan to spend at least a week on any essays.
6. Show off! You're awesome, so make sure the scholarship committee knows that.
7. Ask a friend, parent, or teacher to proofread your application before submitting.
8. Submit before the deadline. Mail may take several days to arrive and websites may crash.

Asking for Reference Letters

Who to ask?
* Teachers/guidance counsellors you know well or who you have taken several classes with.
* Your sports coach, your boss, or the leader of the group you volunteer with.
* Try not to use a family member or friend as a reference.

When to ask?
* It is polite to give your reference at least two weeks notice so they have time to write a strong reference letter.

An application may ask you to waive your right to view the reference letter (you won't be able to see the letter). If you do not agree to this your application may be considered weaker.