

How To Apply For Scholarships For Post Graduate School

Some Masters programs (thesis based) and most PhDs get funding and scholarship for their studies. This way, students have some or all of their tuition paid up for them. Some scholarships even cover living expenses. Note that there is usually no funding for business courses like MBA.

Due to the nature of thesis based master's degree, it is usually more rigorous and highly competitive, and the Canadian government encourages thesis. This funding usually consists of funds for tuition, teaching assistantship, research assistantship and graduate studies funding.

The accumulation of these funds runs into thousands of dollars paid to you by semester, and you are paid for the teaching or research assistantship biweekly.

Usually, these scholarships and funding are administered by the Canadian government, provincial governments, private foundations, and not-for-profit organizations and Canadian schools.

If you're going to pursue a scholarship or funding to help finance your education, you need to start researching opportunities early, as there are usually more than enough people seeking these funding packages.

A lot of times, the chances of getting a study visa is usually higher if you receive funding (but this is not 100%). There may be other reasons that may warrant a visa denial even with full funding.

How to Qualify For Funding/Scholarship

Some programs grant funding to every accepted applicants. In this case, you do not have to apply for funding separately.

In other cases, funding is given to 'qualified' applicants and in this case, you need a CGPA of nothing less than a 65-75 percent in the last 2 years of your undergraduate studies. This is equivalent to a 3.5 on a 5.0 scale. You also need great references and an amazing statement of purpose because competition is fierce!

For Phd applications, it is recommend to include scholarly publications in your application and certificates of membership of academic bodies.

There are three types of scholarship/funding:

- ✓ Fully funded (100% fee waiver + monthly stipend from teaching or research assistantship)
- ✓ Tuition fee waiver (100% fee waiver + NO stipend)
- ✓ Partial tuition waiver scholarships 25-75%. This 25-75% of a scholarship is offered by the university and the rest of 25% can be covered by department. It means you will get 75% from university + 25% from the department which is equal to 100% tuition fee waiver.

I have mentioned graduate fellowship, teaching and research assistantship and I would like to explain what these mean below:

Graduate Fellowships —Fellowships are generally merit-based internal or external awards to support a student’s tuition in a full-time course of study. Fellowships may also include a cost-of-living stipend and health insurance, and they sometimes cover expenses related to a graduate student's professional development, such as fees for academic conferences.

Teaching Assistantships (TA) – Graduate students are offered jobs as teaching assistants and in this position, they assist faculty members with various duties, which might include assisting with lecture preparation, lab assistantship, marking assignments and tests, etc.

Research Assistantships (RA) — Graduate research assistants are given employment to support professors and researchers involved in ongoing research projects, usually in exchange for a stipend. RAs are hired by faculty members (normally your supervisor) to assist with a research project that will be directly related to your own research. RAs are paid for with funds from the faculty member’s external contracts or research grants.

The employment consists of on-campus work where you may be asked to help with the research being conducted, such as scholarly review of journals, conducting experiments, recording data, conducting interviews, etc.

Entrance Scholarships — Additional entrance scholarships are awarded by the Dean of

Graduate Studies and graduate programs. No application is required but this is offered by merit to deserving students.

How To Find Scholarship Opportunities

I would advise everyone to seek funding and scholarship opportunities.

Find below some scholarship opportunities that may be available to you as an international student.

Banting Postdoctoral Fellowships: This provides awards to some of the best postdoctoral applicants with the focus of contributing to the country's social, economic and research based growth. The objective of the fellowship is to attract and retain top post- doctoral talent at both national and international level.

The value of the scholarship is \$70,000 per year for a period of two years.

Information regarding the scholarship can be accessed from: <https://banting.fellowships-bourses.gc.ca/en/home-accueil.html>

Ontario Graduate Scholarship: The Ontario Graduate Scholarship is funded by the provincial government available to all students – including international students – in all disciplines of academic study. The award is valued at \$10,000 for two consecutive study terms and \$15,000 for three consecutive study terms.

To qualify, students must:

- ✓ Be enrolled in graduate studies at the master's or doctoral level.
- ✓ Be enrolled in a full-time program for two or more semesters (21 to 52 weeks in total) for the academic year you're submitting your application for.

Privately Funded Scholarships: There are many businesses and private donors who set up scholarships for students. Often, these awards are targeted towards particular areas of study, so check with your faculty organization to see if there are any available at your school.

University/College Scholarships: Most universities and colleges offer their own scholarships to students. Many of these are entrance scholarships, meaning students don't need to apply in order to be considered for the award. Always be sure to check your school's website to see what kind of financial aid they offer.

This is where your grades in last-two academic years come in. The closer it is to 100% the better. You can expect something if you hold 65% and above. If you are not clear with the conditions, you can ask your supervisor after he has accepted you i.e. research-based programs

Some key awards include:

[Humber College](#) International Entrance Scholarships worth between \$1,000 and \$1,500.

[University of Manitoba](#) Graduate Fellowships ranging from \$14,000 to \$18,000 (depending on Master's or PhD-level).

[University of Calgary](#) Graduate Awards of \$1,000 to \$40,000 across various fields of study.

UBC [Graduate Global Leadership Fellowships](#) to citizens of developing countries valued at \$18,200 per year for a total of four years in doctoral studies at the [University of British Columbia](#).

[Dalhousie University](#) Scholarships of up to \$40,000 offered to international students pursuing the university.

University of Alberta has a wide array of awards, scholarships and prizes to assist in funding your graduate studies.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/awards-and-funding/scholarships>

University of Waterloo Canada Graduate Admission Link:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/before-you-apply/types-admission>

Graduate Scholarship Link:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/funding-your-education>

Additional Information for International Students (Graduate):

<https://uwaterloo.ca/graduate-studies-postdoctoral-affairs/future-students/international-students>

University of Calgary Canada Graduate Admission Link:

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/how-apply>

Graduate Scholarship Link:

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/financing-grad-school>

Additional Information for International Students (Graduate):

<https://grad.ucalgary.ca/future-students/international-students>

York University Canada Graduate Admissions:

<https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/prospective-students/international-students/>

York University Scholarships (Graduate):

<https://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/student-finances/funding-awards/>

Carleton University Canada

Graduate Scholarships Link (Research and Teaching Assistantship. Some supervisors might offer monthly stipend based on the amount of funding they have).

<https://graduate.carleton.ca/financial-assistance/admissions-funding/>

Graduate Admission link:

https://graduate.carleton.ca/?utm_source=globalNav&utm_medium=globalNavCMS&utm_campaign=globalNav

Humber College International Entrance Scholarships - Humber offers renewable full and partial tuition scholarships to NEW international students beginning classes in September and January of each year.

<http://international.humber.ca/student-services/managing-your-finances/scholarships-awards.html>

York University International Student Scholarship Program - International students who have an excellent academic record and admitted to York University are eligible for scholarships worth \$60,000 – \$100,000 for a four-year degree program.

<https://futurestudents.yorku.ca/funding#intl>

University of British Columbia Scholarships for International Students - UBC recognizes the academic achievement of outstanding students from around the world by devoting

more than \$8 million Canadian annually to awards, scholarships and other forms of financial assistance for international undergraduate students.

<https://you.ubc.ca/financial-planning/scholarships-awards-international-students/international-scholars/>

Carleton University Entrance Scholarships for International Students - Carleton offers partial scholarships worth \$4,000 – \$16,000 to exemplary students who meet the admission average criteria of 80% and above.

<https://carleton.ca/awards/scholarships/entrance-scholarships-for-new-students/scholarships/>

Western University International Admission Scholarships. Various Canadian scholarships offered to international students undertaking study at the University of Western Ontario.

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/student_finances/scholarships_awards/international_student_scholarship_information.html

Simon Fraser University Financial Aid and Awards. A range of scholarships and other funding opportunities for domestic and international students currently studying or planning to study at Simon Fraser University.

<https://www.sfu.ca/students/financialaid.html>

Fairleigh Dickinson Scholarships for International Students. Scholarships for international students of all levels, undertaking study in Canada at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Vancouver

<https://www.fdu.edu/admissions/international/>

Cheat-sheet About Canadian Funding and Scholarship

Getting funding and scholarship is VERY competitive! Hence you need to apply certain winning strategies in order to achieve them. In this regard, please note the following:

1) Anybody can get funding even with a second or third class degree as long as you submit an excellent application. Your goal is to convince your graduate committee and your potential supervisor that you are more than equal to the task. If you have low CGPA then work on other variables (research papers, references, work experience/ internships, and Massive Open Online Courses - MOOCs) to compensate your low CGPA.

2) For funded programs, some schools required you to secure a supervisor first before they admit you into the school. Some schools do not, they admit the best applicants to their funded programs and assign you a supervisor to work with

If you need to get a supervisor, you need to start very early by sending them emails because you need to secure one before you send in your application

3) Pay less attention to the affordability of the school when searching for a supervisor since you are going to be funded to an extent anyways. So go for the best schools

4) Your funding can be full or partial, it's still better than nothing, take it. Once you are in the system you can secure more scholarships

5) To search for supervisors, simply create a list of potential supervisors, and you can find this information on the school website. Craft and send an emotionally effective letter of introduction to them. Let them see how your research interests align with theirs and why you are eager to work with them. Attach your transcript or any other necessary document.

6) Understand the requirements. Canadian scholarships have some unique requirements that if not duly met would definitely disqualify you the opportunity of winning that particular award. Read the eligibility requirements through very carefully. If you're not sure what one of the requirements means, or if it applies to you, contact the scholarship administrator.

7) Don't forget about the smaller awards. Obviously winning \$25,000 is much more appealing than winning \$5,000. However, don't forget about the lower priced

scholarships that are quite easy to get and do not require a sophisticated application process.

Any award with a high-value prize is going to be extremely competitive, making it a lot less likely to win than the smaller awards. You'll have a lot higher chance of winning, meaning that the effort you put into winning them will be rewarded.

8) Most of these entrance scholarships have deadlines, so make sure you apply early. Browse the university's website to see what they have.

9) Even if you submit a scholarship award letter as proof of funds, the IRCC VO still wants you to submit your Statement of account (doesn't have to be buoyant, it depends if you claim to be a working class for many years, you should have average of \$500 in your personal/salary bank account) and details of a sponsor, if you don't have personal assets.

10) The Terms and Conditions will have insights into what the judges will be looking for. Sometimes there's even a marking grid (e.g. 10% on statement of purpose, 40% on volunteer work, 50% on references...something like that) and often there are specific statements about what they are looking for. Tailor your application to meet exactly those specific items! The judge will love reading an application that feeds exactly into their marking rubric!

11) Believe you'll get the scholarship. This is really important! It is very tough to get what you don't believe in. Therefore, apply for every scholarship with the inherent belief that you would get the scholarship. It doesn't only motivate you to go an extra mile, it also unlocks the possibility of you being awarded the scholarship.

MORE RESOURCE LINKS:

The links below give you more information about getting scholarships in Canada

1) Study in Canada: Steps to be taken for guaranteed admission & Scholarships for MSc or PhD degree(s): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ8rFrGNWe0>

2) Getting Scholarship and Funding for M.Sc and PhD Research: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XFVXyPd16d8&t=1238s>

3) Tips on Getting a Supervisor for M.Sc or PhD research in Canada:

The 'No Hassles' Naija To Canada Japa System

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vvGbCvVc2I>

4) 2020 Vanier Scholar Shares Her Story - Journey from Nigeria to Canada, Masters and PhD Experience: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRcOZaXm7IA&t=16s>

I wish you the best,

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