

# Scholarship Search - Tips and Tricks

1. Apply to as many suitable scholarships and bursaries as possible. It's almost like entering contests, the more you apply to the greater the odds of getting an award.
2. When compiling your resume, do not leave any experiences out. No matter how insignificant it may seem on its own, each experience, when combined with everything else you have done will have an impact.
3. After accepting a placement at a specific college or university, check with their financial assistance section on their website. Many institutions have automatic consideration for entrance scholarships, but there are other awards and bursaries that you can apply to that are not automatic consideration.
4. Contrary to popular belief, not all bursaries are tied to financial need.
5. Essays are recyclable. You will be required to write essays to accompany your applications for scholarships. The questions they ask are similar. Once you have written a few essays they can be altered and submitted to various other applications.
6. A lot of scholarships and bursaries will require you to submit a current transcript. They do not accept photocopies of transcripts. You can order transcripts in the guidance office. Ask for a minimum of 5 at a time, but if you anticipate applying to more awards than that, get as many as you feel you will need.

7. Reference letters from teachers and other people that know you well are important. Ask teachers that you have developed a relationship with. They will need to state how long and how well they know you, what they feel your strengths are, and how qualified they feel you are to be successful at the post secondary level. Any other information they may have regarding your personal situation and needs can also be included. These letters should be generic, meaning they do not stipulate any specific scholarship. The only exception would be if the award has a large monetary value. In that case the letter should be directed at that specific scholarship or bursary. All reference letters must be on official letterhead if it is coming from a teacher and must have original signatures. Ask for more than one if you feel you will require more.
8. Submit your applications by Express Post so that you can track its delivery. Send the application no later than 5 business days before the application deadline. If your application is not received by the due date, you will not be considered, no matter how well qualified you are for the award.
9. Search out obscure awards. They are the least likely to have suitable candidates which will increase your chances of being awarded the scholarship. Places to look are professional organizations, clubs, legions, and charity organizations. There are scholarships that go unclaimed each year because there were no suitable candidates or no applicants at all.
10. Remember to be humble in your request for assistance. You must convey to them your abilities, experience and your needs. Let them know that you would be grateful and be honest in your self assessment and requirements.