Scholarship & Bursary Award Seminar

September 2014
Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Financing Post-Secondary Education
3. Scholarship & Bursary Award Criteria
4. Some Awards Available
5. Application Due Dates
6. Award Deferrals
7. Finding Award Information
8. The Application Package
9. Helpful Suggestions
10. Some Final Thoughts
## Post-Secondary Education

### Estimated Living Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Fees</td>
<td>$4500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books &amp; Supplies</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Transportation</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses</td>
<td>$2500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room &amp; Board</td>
<td>$6000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Costs will vary depending on individual circumstances.

** News article earlier this month suggests Canadian university costs will rise 13% over the next 4 years.
The information to the right is based on Sept. 12/14 post-secondary website information.

Fees are approximate, subject to change and based on a general program of 15 credits.

There may be additional student fees, and will be textbook, transportation and personal expenses.

There are pros and cons to attending any post-secondary institution. Financial costs are only one factor to consider.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-Secondary Institution</th>
<th>Tuition &amp; Fees/per school yr.</th>
<th>Food /On-campus housing</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UFV</td>
<td>$4335</td>
<td>$7276*</td>
<td>$11,611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBC</td>
<td>$9430</td>
<td>$5000</td>
<td>$14,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWU</td>
<td>$21,450*</td>
<td>$7550*</td>
<td>$29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBC</td>
<td>$4890</td>
<td>$8400</td>
<td>$13,290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Awards are available to many students to help cover costs.
Financing Post-Secondary Education

- Personal Savings: Summer/Part-time Jobs
- Passport to Education: Grades 10* – 12
- Scholarship & Bursary Awards:
  - * MEI Friends & Alumni Award
  - * Dogwood District/Authority Award (B.C. Ministry of Education / FISA)
  - * Pathway to Teacher Education (B.C. Ministry of Education)
  - * Provincial Exam Scholarship (B.C. Ministry of Education)
  - * Various Businesses and Organizations
  - * Various Post-Secondary Institutions

- Parents: Scholarship Plans, Gifts, Loans
- Government Loans: Provincial/Federal
Scholarship & Bursary Award
Criteria

Criteria for awarding scholarships & bursaries may include one or more of the following:

- high academic achievement
- extra-curricular activities
- school/community service
- leadership involvement
- good citizenship
- membership in a specific organization (students/parents may need to be members at least one year), attendance at a specific elementary school or home address in a specific location
- financial need
- nomination
- pursuing specific post-secondary studies
- pursuing a specific career and/or
- connections – knowing the donor
Passport to Education

The Passport to Education program recognizes and rewards student achievement, of Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants, in Grades 10 – 12. The Passport awards are used to further students’ post-secondary education and job training.

Passport to Education stamps will be given each September to top students, in the previous year, in each of Grades 10*, 11 and 12. The values of the stamps are:

   Grade 10:  $250    Grade 11:  $250    Grade 12:  $500

The stamps can be redeemed as tuition credit at a designated post-secondary institutions. The tuition credit must be redeemed within five year of the student’s expected graduation date.

Note: This is the last year Passport to Education will be available.
Dogwood District/Authority Awards (DDAA)

This $1000 award ($500 cash and $500 voucher for post-secondary education*) is intended for students who have taken grade 11 & 12 courses and excelled in one of the following areas:

(Information Meeting October 21\textsuperscript{st} /22\textsuperscript{nd})

- **Applied Skills** (Business Ed., Technology Ed., Home Ec.)
- **Community Service**
- **Fine Arts** (Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
- **Physical Activity** (not limited to Physical Education)
- **Second Languages**
- **Trades & Technology**
The criteria for DDAA include:

- superior achievement (80% or higher) in specialty area courses
- a project, portfolio, record log and/or video (the “wow” factor)
- a letter written by the student
- a letter of recommendation by a teacher in the specialty area
- a letter of recommendation by the counsellor / principal

* The scholarship voucher must be redeemed, at a designated post-secondary institution or apprenticeship program, within five years from September 30th of the student’s graduating year.
To qualify for a $1000 Provincial Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship students must be Canadian Citizens or Landed Immigrants, must meet basic graduation requirements and:

- achieve at least a “B” (73% or higher) final mark (provincial exam and school mark combined) in English 12 or Communications 12
- pass all five provincial graduation program exams
- be one of the top 5000 students in the province based on their percentage scores

The scholarship voucher must be redeemed, at a designated post-secondary institution or apprenticeship program, within five years from September 30th of their graduating year.
Personal Education Number

• Your B.C. Ministry of Education PEN (Personal Education Number) may be required for some application forms.

• Your PEN is a 9-digit number issued by the B.C. Ministry of Education when you enter the B.C. school system and it should be on all of your past report cards (Please get your PEN from your report card - getting your PEN from the General Office should be a last resort)

• You will need your PEN to set up your B.C. Ministry of Education exam account and to complete the online PSI Selections Form - www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/trx_updates

(Completing the PSI Selections Form authorizes the B.C. Ministry of Education to automatically send your final transcript in July to requested schools. Authorized BC and Ontario schools will also receive interim transcripts in May.)
Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship

http://bit.ly/1o0zpwx

This $5000 scholarship (voucher to a B.C. Faculty of Education program) is awarded to 20 outstanding high school graduates.

Criteria include:

- a B average in all Grade 11 and 12 courses required for graduation, with no more than one Grade 12 mark at a C+ level
- evidence of commitment to and aptitude for a teaching career

The application package must include:

- Two references – one from a community person and one from someone at your school
- A resume
- A written response that outlines why you want to be a teacher
- Any additional items (portfolios, videos or other materials) that you would like considered with your application

Application packages must be submitted by March 31st.
Designated Post-Secondary Schools

Check out:

[www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/apply/designated.php](http://www.aved.gov.bc.ca/studentaidbc/apply/designated.php) to see if you can use your Passport to Education at the post-secondary school you are interested in attending.

(Designated schools may be public or independent, in Canada or outside of Canada.)
Abbotsford Community Foundation Awards

www.abbotsfordcf.org

Abbotsford Community Foundation Awards (ACF) are available to students who are:

- graduating from Abbotsford School District #34 secondary schools and/or MEI, and
- furthering their education by attending accredited courses/programs or a vocational/technical school within one and a half years of high school graduation.
Criteria for ACF awards may include one or more of the following:

- high academic achievement
- school/community service
- leadership involvement
- excellent citizenship
- financial need (need to demonstrate financial need)
- pursuing specific post-secondary studies and/or membership in a specific organization, attendance at a specific elementary school or home address in a specific location
- connections – knowing the donor
A complete ACF application package will include:

- completing an online application form (Social Insurance Number required)
- completing a Financial Planning worksheet
- getting a reference letter from an adult, non-relative preferable outside of school
- a transcript (first semester marks important)

Students will likely receive information about these awards in the first week of February, with applications tentatively due the beginning of March. The award must be claimed within 18 months of graduation.
MEI Friends & Alumni Awards

- **The A440 Award** ($1000): is available to a student who is involved in the music program at MEI and who is pursuing post-secondary education in Business.

- **EP Industries Trades Award** ($2000): is available to a student enrolled in Construction and/or SSA who has a “B” or higher in related courses, a positive attitude, an excellent work ethic and who is planning to pursue a Trades related education / career.

- **Evergreen Alumni Award** ($750): is available to a good academic student who has participated in at least one Arts related activity, a school athletic activity, school and community related service and who is planning to attend a post-secondary institution.
MEI Friends & Alumni Awards (con’t)

- **Judii Rempel Memorial Award** ($3000): is given for being a member of a Mennonite Church and for pursuing post-secondary studies in Humanities, Religious Studies or Sociology.

- **Mary Esau Memorial Bursary** ($2500 renewable for up to $10,000 in total): is available to a good academic student with an excellent work ethic who demonstrates financial need and who is pursuing post-secondary education/career in Nursing (preferred) or Education.

- **Neil & Rita Klassen Award** ($1000): is available to a student who demonstrates strengths in community involvement, volunteer/charitable work, missions interest (local or abroad), leadership skills and/or a strong work ethic.
FINDING AWARD INFORMATION

Check the Internet regularly:

- MEI Student Services 2015 Grads Facebook Group
- http://www.keytoscholarships.com/
- http://www.studentawards.com/
- http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/
- http://www.campusstarter.com/
- http://international.collegeboard.org/ (US)
- http://www.fastweb.com/ (US)
SAMPLE APPLICATION DEADLINES

Application dates vary:

- **Loran Scholars program** (sponsored)  
  October 22, 2014  
  (http://loranscholar.ca/apply/)

- **TD Canada Trust Scholarships**  
  November 28, 2014  
  (www.tdcanadatrust.com/scholarship)

- **MEI Friends & Alumni Awards**  
  February 27, 2015  
  (A440 Award, EP Industries Trades, Evergreen Alumni, Judii Rempel Memorial, Mary Esau Memorial and Neil & Rita Klassen Award)

- **SFU Entrance Scholarship**  
  February 28, 2015

- **Abbotsford Community Foundation Awards**  
  Early March 2015

- **UFV Entrance Scholarship**  
  Early April 1, 2015

- **Dogwood District Authority/Award**  
  Early April 2015

Unless it says otherwise, assume that the application package must arrive at the donor organization by the due date.
**AWARD DEFERRALS: WHAT IF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION IS AT LEAST ONE YEAR AWAY?**

- Complete award application packages even if post-secondary education is at least one year away, unless it very clearly says *must* be attending school in September 2015.

- Some awards are valid for at least one or more years after graduation.

- If you are successful in receiving an award from a university, write a letter asking if it can be deferred, stating the reasons why.
  
  eg. need to work, attending a Bible School
Finding Award Information (con’t)

- Post-secondary education websites
- Organization & government websites
- Various search engines
- Scholarship Workbook by Pat Lee (Mouat)
- Check the GRAD bulletin board in Student Service
- Look through books & newspapers
Completed Scholarship & Bursary application packages may include one or more of the following:

- An Application form:
  - “type” or use black pen (if pen is allowed)
  - don’t leave any space blank - if you think a question doesn’t apply to you write, “not applicable”
  - if you aren’t sure how to answer a question, contact the organization offering the scholarship
  - may request letter grades
  - may request a list of volunteer/work experiences
  - may request a list of extra-curricular activities
  - may request a list of leadership contributions
  - may request your Social Insurance Number
An “official” interim Transcript: (A final Transcript, from the B.C. Ministry of Education, will be mailed to your home, at the end of July.)

- consists of your grade 10-12 courses and marks
- is created by the MEI General Office, after they receive a Transcript Request Form (available on the MEI Student Services webpage or in Student Services) and when the transcript can’t be requested through completing the online B.C. Ministry of Educations Post-Secondary Institutions (PSI) Selections Form at: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/trx_updates.

(MEI generated transcripts will usually be available within 2 business days. There is no charge for the first five transcripts; however, there is a $5.00 fee for each additional transcript.)
A Personal Letter:

You may be asked to describe yourself, including one or more of the following:

- your volunteer and/or work experiences
- your school and/or community experiences
- your leadership activities
- your personal and/or career goals.
Letters of Reference:

- if you can choose your reference, choose someone who knows you well (your strengths, abilities, goals etc.)

  eg. a teacher / coach who has had you for a few years or whose class you did well in (References must not be peers, immediate family members or relatives. Please see me for possible exceptions.)

- sometimes the reference letter has to be written by a school counsellor or administrator

- give people as much time as possible to write a reference letter, minimum one week, preferably at least two weeks

- provide a copy of your application, MEI Student Profile and/or resume to the person writing your reference letter

- provide a stamped envelope

- consider sending a “thank you” note to people who write letters of reference for you
An Essay:

- on a given topic -
  eg. future goals & dreams, something you’re passionate about, significant or meaningful contribution you have made to the community

- personal & original, interesting introduction, be creative

- reflect how experiences have impacted your life, what you’ve learned through life experiences and involvement with others, and how you are or can use what you’ve learned, skills you’ve developed in life (reflect on yourself within the greater whole)
A Resume: (1 - 2 pages maximum)

- must be word processed
- begin with most recent involvements first and work “backwards”, unless the directions say otherwise

An Interview: (eg. Mission Community Foundation Awards)

- questions may be related to current contributions, community awareness, life experiences, future goals etc.
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS

- Take **INITIATIVE** *(Don’t leave it to mom or dad!)*

- **INITIATE** and organize a new program / show leadership *(eg. “Old to New”, “Tutoring”, “S.O.U.L”)*

- Do your best to be a positive person with a good attitude, effort and behaviour

- Be confident, emphasize strengths – “brag about yourself in a humble sort of way”

- Develop good relationships with teachers / youth pastors / employers / adults etc. who can write reference letters for you – *consider sending a “thank you” note to people who help you with the application process*
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS (con’t)

- **BE ORGANIZED**

- Read through the application as soon as possible and carefully follow the directions on the application forms *(make sure you qualify for the award/meet the criteria)*

- Make a couple of photocopies of the scholarship application before you fill it out

- Do the best you can in your courses while still living a *BALANCED* life

- Get involved in extra-curricular activities at school and in the community/church
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS (con’t)

- Volunteer your time serving and helping others in school and in the community / church

- Complete your application at least two weeks before the application deadline – request Transcripts early

- When you ask someone to write a reference letter give them at least one to two weeks notice. Also, give them a copy of the scholarship/bursary criteria and a copy of your MEI Student Profile and/or Resume.

- Let your parents videotape you in school concerts, plays, community soccer games etc.
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS (con’t)

- Open a scholarship/bursary file on your computer and regularly enter information

- Start now already making a list of all paid/volunteer work experiences, accomplishments, contests entered, awards received etc. and dates/years involved

- You or your parents may want to become members of organizations that offer scholarships & bursaries

- Get a Social Insurance Number
  (Students must have a SIN to apply the ACF Awards)
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS (con’t)

- Use flawless English in a very neat, clear format
  (A rough draft first is recommended.)

- Ask a parent, teacher, friend, counsellor etc. to proofread your application for content and/or for grammar

- Make sure the completed application package, project etc. is your own work

- Keep a copy of all application packages you submit on file at home
HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS (con’t)

- Check the **GRADE 12** bulletin board and award related websites regularly – due dates vary. **Unless it says otherwise, assume that application packages must arrive at the destination by the due date.**

- Don’t procrastinate - working towards and applying for awards involves time ~ time working hard, time getting involved and time taking the initiative to search for, read and complete application packages

- If you win an award send a “Thank You” letter/note to the donor as soon as possible
Writing Thank You Letters to Donors

UVIC tips for writing “Thank You” Letters:

• http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/safa/safa-thankyou.pdf

Abbotsford Community Foundation sample “Thank You” Letter:

• http://abbotsfordcf.org/Docs/samplethankyouletter.pdf

MEI Grad Transitions Transition Plan (page 8):

MEI Student Services 2015
Grads Facebook Group

Award and post-secondary related information may be found on the MEI Student Services 2015 Grads Facebook group page at:

http://on.fb.me/1t7bP6H
A Final Thought

Winning one or more awards is not guaranteed, however, getting involved in enriching activities and serving others can help to make your high school experience more memorable and meaningful, and make a difference in the lives of others.
Attachments

http://bit.ly/1oWiSdi

a. Reference Letter Request Form
b. MEI Student Profile
c. Transcript Request Form
d. SEARCHING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS: Award-Winning Scholarship Strategies

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