

ÉCOLE  
KWANTLEN PARK  
SECONDARY



# Scholarship Guide

## And Other Sources of Funding For Post-Secondary

2022-2023



## Table of Contents

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Table of Contents.....  | 2     |
| Education Planner BC.....   | 3     |
| BCeID.....  | 4     |
| Definitions.....  | 5     |
| Types of Scholarships/Awards.....                                     | 6     |
| Extra Curricular Activities.....                                      | 7     |
| BC Ministry of Education Scholarships.....                            | 8     |
| District Partners 36 Scholarships.....<br>Entrance Scholarships, etc. | 9     |
| Student Steps and Responsibilities .....                              | 10    |
| Obtaining a Letter of Reference .....                                 | 11    |
| Writing a Scholarship Essay .....                                     | 12-14 |

# Education Planner

[www.educationplanner.bc.ca](http://www.educationplanner.bc.ca)

The screenshot shows the Education Planner BC website interface. At the top, there is a red banner with a 'Site Alert' icon and text: 'Our Help section and Frequently Asked Questions provide troubleshooting tips and answers to common questions (Known error messages and their solutions / Fee Payment decline and transaction questions). Please use our Contact Us form if needed or send us an email with your question and details.' Below the banner is the website header with the British Columbia logo, the 'EducationPlannerBC' logo, and navigation tabs for 'PLAN', 'SEARCH', 'APPLY', and 'HELP'. A 'Log in' button is also present. The main content area is titled 'APPLY FOR ADMISSION' and includes a sub-header 'APPLY'. The text reads: 'This is the application portal for admission to one or more BC post-secondary institutions. Not sure how to apply? Check out our step by step tutorial here.' A note states: 'Note: To apply to the following institutions click here.' with links for 'BC Institute of Technology' and 'Royal Roads University'. Under 'To get started,' there are three steps: 1. 'Sign Up for your EducationPlannerBC Account' (with a lock icon), 2. 'Login to your EducationPlannerBC Account' (with a person icon), and 3. 'Complete your common, applicant Profile.' (with a person icon). Below this, under 'Then,' there is a three-step process: 1. 'Select Institution', 2. 'Complete Application', and 3. 'Review & Submit'.

## About Education Planner

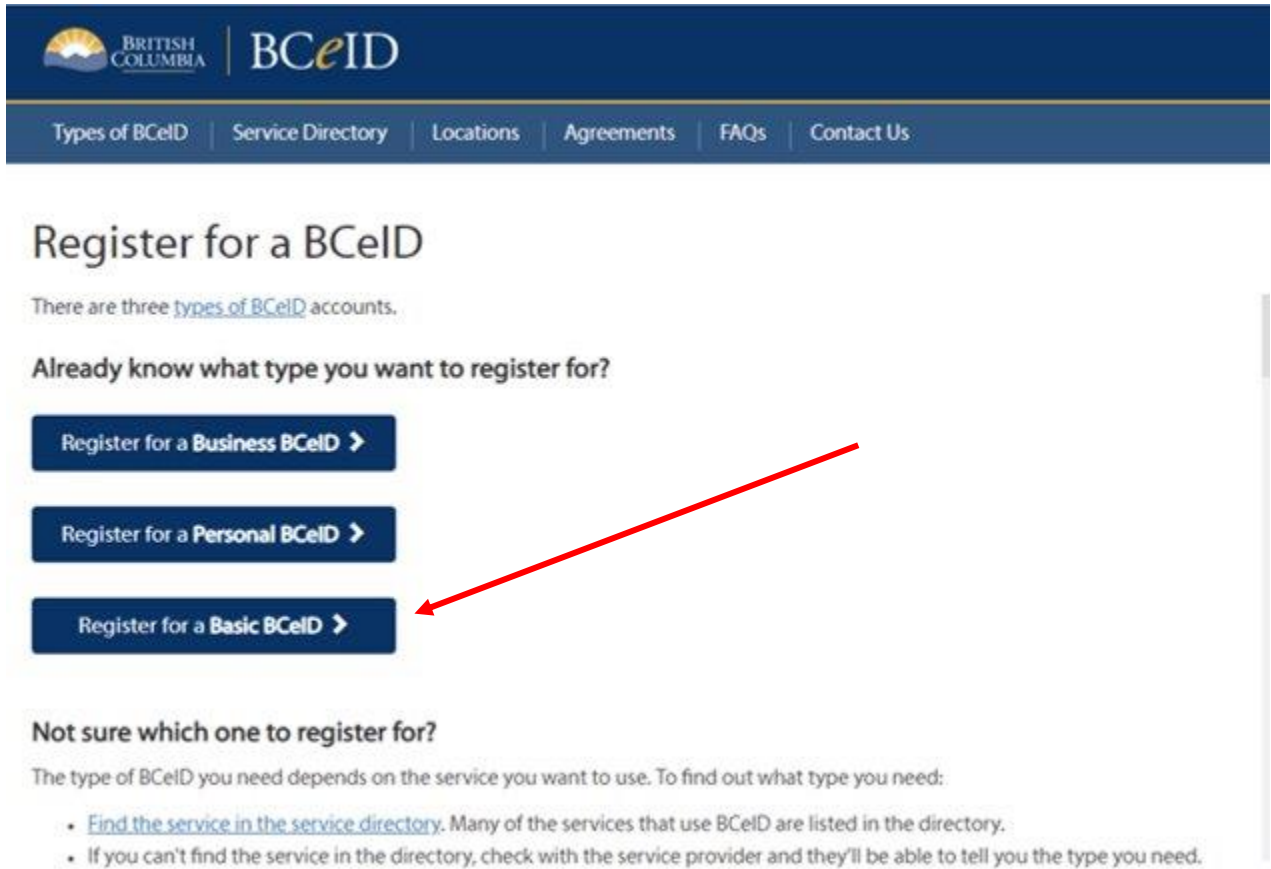
Education Planner is endorsed by the public post-secondary institutions of BC, managed by the BC Council on Admissions and Transfer, and funded by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education.

Students need to create an account on Education Planner BC if they are planning to apply for post-secondary institutions. The majority of BC's post-secondary's use Education Planner as their platform for application.

This website is a great resource for information on undergraduate program availability, application dates, tuition costs, admission requirements, length of programs and much more at many of BC's public post-secondary institutions.

## BCEID and the Student Transcript Service

Students who are applying to post-secondary also need to create an account on the BCEID website.



BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCEID

Types of BCEID | Service Directory | Locations | Agreements | FAQs | Contact Us

### Register for a BCEID

There are three [types of BCEID](#) accounts.

Already know what type you want to register for?

- Register for a **Business BCEID** >
- Register for a **Personal BCEID** >
- Register for a **Basic BCEID** >

Not sure which one to register for?

The type of BCEID you need depends on the service you want to use. To find out what type you need:

- [Find the service in the service directory](#). Many of the services that use BCEID are listed in the directory.
- If you can't find the service in the directory, check with the service provider and they'll be able to tell you the type you need.

1. First students register for a Basic BCEID
2. Then student login and go to the student transcript service, where they will need to create another account
3. Students will need their Personal Education Number (PEN) which can be found on your MYEDBC account.
4. You need to register with your legal name
5. You must activate your account within 24 hours through your email
6. Once you are in, you can access, review and send your transcripts to post-secondary institutions.
7. For more information and a step by step guide to navigating this website, please see <https://kwantlenparkcareercentre.weebly.com/post-sec-resources.html>

## **Definition of Terms Related to Scholarships**

**Affiliated:** the relationship between a person and another person or a group. You may have a relative who works for a company that provides scholarships to employee's relatives. Unions provide funds to the children of its members. Ask your parents!

**Award:** monetary or other (i.e. book) award given to a student for specified criteria such as service to community, leadership, humanitarian service, etc.

**Bursary:** a modest award made on the basis of financial need. Some bursaries may also include consideration of other criteria. Evidence of financial need may be required.

**Entrance Scholarship:** an award available to students directly from a specific institution to new admissions applicants from school or college. Only good at the donor school.

**Grant:** a form of government financial aid that does NOT need to be repaid. Grants are typically given to people who demonstrate financial need or who have completed specified requirements of a program.

**Limited application scholarship:** one for which potential candidates is limited by criteria other than academic. i.e. Must be "Italian and Catholic", or affiliation with a company or union, or having served as a community volunteer.

**Nominated:** chosen by a committee. Sometimes an award is offered to a school and teachers/counsellors are asked to "nominate" or choose a recipient based on specified criteria.

**Reference:** a written testimonial of your qualifications or reasons why you should be considered a suitable candidate. i.e. Letters from coaches, counsellors, employers.

**Scholarship:** a monetary award based on academic merit or excellence in the area to which the award pertains.

**Service:** a requirement by any scholarship donors or post-secondary institutions indicating the level of volunteer work in the community. State name of organization, length of service (dates and amount of time). Assemble this and any other volunteer work in an excel spreadsheet broken down into appropriate headings.

**Sponsor or Advocate:** someone who will give testimonial to your ability or suitability.

**Student Loan:** a loan, offered by the government or a private bank, to help with educational expenses. Student loans must be re-paid.

## Types of Scholarships/Awards

### Scholarships/Awards that need application:

- BC Ministry of Education Scholarships (provincial)
  - BC Achievement
  - BC Excellence
  - District/Authority
  - Pathway to Teacher Education
- District Partners 36 Scholarships
  - open to any student in Surrey who qualifies
- Entrance Scholarships
  - for post-secondary institutions
- Local or Community Based Awards
- Private Scholarships
- Athletic Scholarships and Awards
- Internal Scholarships for Kwantlen Park students only

### Financial Aid

- Canada Student Loan
- BC Student Loan
- Apprenticeship Awards
- Indigenous Students
- Assistance Programs for Students with Disabilities

### Affiliated Scholarships – Explore Your Connections

- Location, where you live
- Citizenship or ethnicity
- Extracurricular Activities
- Area of study
- Special skills and interests
- Club affiliations
- Employers
- Unions
- Cultural Clubs
- Religious affiliations
- Athletic organizations
- Disabilities
- Veteran's groups

## **Extracurricular Activities Can Pay Big Dividends Later On**

To improve your chance of admissions to the post secondary institution of your choice and to receive a larger portion of the scholarship money, you must take action early to round out your resume. This means extracurricular activities and/or volunteering.

Admissions and awards officers are looking for evidence that you will not only succeed, but will bring something of value to the institution of your choice. They are looking for evidence of depth of character and high-energy participation – so, in addition to academic excellence; they look for participation in such things as:

1. Community or school activities
2. Volunteer services
3. Athletics
4. The Arts
5. External academic competitions such as math/essay contests or science fairs

They look for evidence of characteristics such as:

1. Leadership skills
2. Selflessness or citizenship
3. An awareness of current national and world issues
4. Initiative
5. Communication skills
6. Ability to overcome challenges or adversity

If you are not already involved in a range of activities in the school and community, there is no time like the present to begin. Explore possibilities for participation and get involved. Check with the various clubs here at KP and join. Check with your local religious organization or community centre. See the Volunteering Guide in the Career Centre. Follow the Career Centre on Instagram and keep up to date on our website. Try to do something that will make a difference. Scholarships go to well rounded citizens.

Link to KP's Clubs

<https://kwantlenparkcareercentre.weebly.com/>

### **A Word of Caution**

**There is a fine balance between your activities and your studies. The primary criterion for both admission and scholarship support at the post-secondary level is and will remain, academic standing. If extracurricular activities result in lower scores at school, they are counter-productive. Find a balance that works for you.**

## **BC Ministry of Education Scholarships**

Purpose: The BC Ministry of Education Scholarships recognizes student achievement and encourages students to pursue post-secondary education.

### To be eligible for a provincial scholarship

1. Meet basic eligibility requirements  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/basic-eligibility-requirements>
2. Meet the requirements of the BC Graduation Program and be eligible for Dogwood Diploma
3. Be graduating in the same year that the scholarship is awarded
4. Have at least a B (73% or above) in your Language Arts 11 final mark
5. Maintain a B average in final course marks that fulfill graduation requirements

### Types and details of provincial scholarships

#### BC Achievement

- Recognizes top 8000 grads in BC, each receives \$1,250.00
- No application required
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/bc-achievement-scholarships>

#### BC Excellence

- You must be nominated by your school in order to apply; only one student from each school can be nominated
- Winners receive \$5,000.00
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/bc-excellence-scholarships>

#### District/Authority

- 5500 scholarships are distributed across BC
- They recognize graduating students for excellence in their chosen area of interest or strength, for example Fine Arts, PHE, International Languages, etc.
- Apply within school, Scholarship Committee determines winners
- Winners receive \$1,250.00
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/district-authority-scholarships>

#### Pathway to Teacher Education

- Awarded to 20 graduates who have demonstrated a commitment and aptitude for a career path in K-12 teaching.
- Winners receive \$5,000.00
- Must be registered and attend an approved K-12 teacher Education program at one of BC's nine Faculties of Education
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/provincial-scholarships/pathway-to-teacher-education-scholarship>



## **District Partners 36 Scholarships**

These scholarships are only for students of Surrey, District 36. They range in amounts and application requirements. These scholarships will be available February 1, 2023. The Partners 36 Scholarships are nominated scholarships; each Surrey high school can put forth one candidate for each of the scholarships. Students will complete application forms and submit to the Career Centre. For a list of the previous years scholarships, please see the KP website, <https://kwantlenparkcareercentre.weebly.com/scholarships.html>

## **Post-Secondary Entrance Scholarships**

Once you have selected your post-secondary institution, ask for the latest information on scholarships available at the institution. Many awards will have specific criteria, application processes and deadlines. Entrance Scholarships can be for up to \$20,000 or even more over a number of years if the academic level is maintained while at the institution.

## **BC Government Student Aid**

The BC Student Aid program was established to help you meet the financial costs of your post-secondary education. The program provides both repayable loans and non-repayable grants and loan remissions to help meet the costs of your post-secondary education.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships>

Student Loans: <https://studentaidbc.ca/apply/how-to-apply>

## **Canadian Government Resources**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans.html>

## **Databases**

<https://scholartree.ca/>

<https://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

<https://yconic.com/>

<https://studentawards.com/>

See KP Website for our own database, organized by month  
<https://kwantlenparkcareercentre.weebly.com/databases.html>

## **Student Steps & Responsibilities:**

1. **Start Early:** the sooner you start the easier the process will be
2. **Get Organized & Start a Scholarship Profile:**  
Start a computer folder or physical binder and include...
  - a. Personal goal statement outlining your plan for post-sec/career
  - b. Transcript
  - c. List of awards, honors, achievements
  - d. Resume noting work experience, volunteering, school involvement, extra-curriculars, athletics, clubs, other programs or hobbies
  - e. Financial Information (if in financial need)
  - f. References letters
  - g. Scholarship information (deadlines, previous applications and essays)
3. **Research Scholarships:** Determine which institution you want to go to or at least narrow your choice. Remember that the admission application is separate. Find out what scholarships are available to you from that institution and other sources. Utilize databases online, look into applicable affiliations, etc.
4. **Make a list:** of the type of awards/scholarships for which you are eligible and not the deadlines in a calendar.
5. **Application Forms:** are needed for most awards and scholarships.
  - a. Find out where you can obtain the form, when it is due and what needs to accompany it.
  - b. Follow all directions carefully – no one is going to award a scholarship to someone who can't follow directions!
  - c. Be neat, type or print clearly, use blue or black ink only
  - d. Be comprehensive, concise and clear; answer the question asked
  - e. Be specific, DO NOT say "I like to work with people". Say whom you worked with, what you did and how successful you were.
  - f. SELL YOURSELF
  - g. PROOF READ – **you will not be given a second chance**
6. **Letters of Reference:** are asked for often. See pg 11 for more info.
7. **An Essay:** may be required. It might be on a specific topic or a personal topic such as why you think you should receive the award or on your career and personal goals. Stick to the topic and to the length directed. You will not impress anyone by making the essay longer than requested. Not following directions can result in your application being rejected.
8. **Transcript:** You can obtain an unofficial or interim transcript from the Career Centre. If the transcript needs to be "official" you will need to access your transcript on your BCeID account.

9. **Documents:** are often required to accompany your application. Read the directions carefully. List what is needed and check it off as you put the material in the envelope or label your pdf attachments appropriately. Documents you might need to supply are: letters of reference, an essay, writing specific examinations, resume, transcript, etc.
10. **Deadlines:** Make sure you know the deadline and whether you should email, mail or fax the information.

YOU are responsible for collecting the information, obtaining the application form and submitting the application. YOU are the one who will benefit.

## **Obtaining a Letter of Reference for a Scholarship**

Look around you and decide who knows you best and would give you the best reference. Unless it is specified on the scholarship, try to get a mix of people to give you supporting letters for example a teacher, someone you have worked for, and someone from the community. DO NOT have your family or relatives write you a reference letter.

**Ask well in advance** if they would be willing to write you a reference letter. Allow at **least two weeks** for the person to complete the letter. This is still several days before you actually need it! After a week, drop by and remind them.

Fill out a Reference Letter Request form and provide the person with a summary of **details about the scholarship you are applying for** and **some details about yourself**. Even if the person does not use all the material, it will help them make statements about you. You can find these forms in the Career Centre.

If there are specific things that **you want included** in the letter, specify them to the referee. These might include:

- Your character
- Your accomplishments
- Service, organizations, etc.
- Awards/prizes you have won
- Academic standing if it is relevant to that person
- Academic qualities if it is relevant
- Interests as they relate to the letter writer

The more help you give them the quicker they can write your reference letter. Follow up a few days before you need it to see if it is done or as a reminder.

**Write a thank you note and give to your reference upon receiving the letter. It often takes a great deal of time to complete one of these letters.**

## Writing a Letter or Essay in Support of a Scholarship

When you are applying for a scholarship, you may be asked to include a letter or essay. Before you begin to write, make sure you understand the **criteria** for the scholarship. Make your scholarship essay exclusive to you; make it personal. Pay careful attention to every detail.

To get started, take the time to complete the following brain-storming exercise. It will help you formulate a list of experiences you may want to include in your essay or application responses. Write down important points and key words as they occur to you. As you compile your list, think about how your experiences have contributed to your personal growth. Did they help you develop responsibility, teamwork, leadership or problem-solving skills? Highlight those items that were most impactful/meaningful to you or others.

### Brainstorm about the Following:

#### **Community Connections:**

- Membership in community associations, youth groups or religious groups
- Awards / commendations you may have received

#### **Academic Achievement:**

- High marks, awards, placement on honour roll, subjects you excel in
- Any competitions you entered / projects you were particularly proud of

#### **School Involvement:**

- Membership in any school-based clubs, committees, or student council
- Philanthropic activities (YPI, charity fund-raising)

#### **Leadership Activities:**

- Leadership Class / Team Captain / Project Manager / Tutoring / Squadron Leader
- Any role of responsibility, guidance, control, influence or providing direction to others

#### **Participation in the Arts:**

- Involvement in drama, music, band, choir, art, etc.
- Competitions or contests entered, and any awards won

#### **Athletic Involvement:**

- Team memberships, solo athletic activities and any awards or recognition
- Leadership roles: Team Captain, Manager, organizing of or helping with events

#### **Work Experience:**

- Co-op placements or work experience and what you learned
- Paid work experience from summer or part-time jobs

**Skills Training:**

- First Aid / Life Guard / Computer / Languages / Food Safe / Other Skills Development Workshops
- Mini Med School, RCMP Youth Academy, Model United Nations, YELL

**Life Experiences:**

- Travel / Hobbies / Transitioning to a new country or school
- Scholarship essay topics can vary dramatically; however, most of them require a recounting of personal experience(s).

Use the brainstorming exercise you completed to help you answer the following questions. Focus on your more meaningful activities, those commitments that you have been involved in for longer periods of time or activities that have shaped your character or inspired you. Show how you demonstrate the qualities that award donors are looking for: **teamwork, perseverance, leadership, problem-solving skills, and service to the community.** Tell the reader what you learned as a result of your experiences rather than what the experiences were (reflective vs. descriptive).

### Common Essay Topics

**Community Involvement:**

What are your most important extra-curricular or community activities? What made you join or decide to get involved? How much time did you dedicate to this activity? Pick a particular experience you've had as a result of being involved and describe how it has benefitted others or shaped your development.

**Achievement:**

What do you consider to be your most significant achievement in terms of its value to your school or community? Describe how it contributed to your own personal growth or benefitted others.

**Leadership:**

Describe an activity or project where you played a leadership role. What was the goal you set out to achieve? What specific steps did you take? What was the outcome and how did you engage others to help achieve the goal? How did this experience shape you as a leader?

**Problem Solving:**

Describe a change or initiative that you were responsible for implementing as a result of identifying a need. Why and how did you initiate the change? What benefits resulted?

**Overcoming Obstacles:**

Explain how you responded to a challenge or problem that you encountered in your life. What made it difficult for you? What did you do? What did you learn? Did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty? How so?

**Financial Need (if applicable):**

From a financial standpoint, what impact would this scholarship have on your education? State any personal or family circumstances affecting your need for financial aid. How do you plan to finance your post-secondary education?

**Academic/Life Goals:**

What are your career aspirations? How will post-secondary education or training help you achieve your goals? Why have you chosen to apply to the particular program you have selected?

\*Remember, if you have done something worthwhile, say so. Keep in mind many worthy candidates are applying; therefore, selling yourself is necessary.

A few more tips:

- Use 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper – one side only
- Type unless handwriting is required
- If you are requested to hand write the letter, make sure it is legible and neat
- Write in Standard English and make certain you have a distinct voice to avoid sounding bland and neutral.
- Before you submit your writing, have two competent individuals read for organization, grammatical correctness, style and content. After all, you want to give the screening committee an excellent impression of you. There should **NEVER** be spelling errors!!!

Good Luck!