

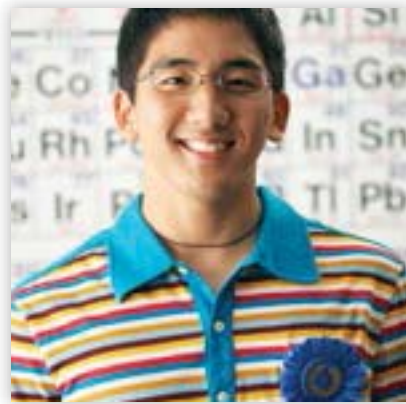
# Chapter 6

## Provincial Scholarships Program



### IN THIS CHAPTER

Provincial Scholarships Program	106
Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships	106
NEW: BC Excellence Scholarships	110
NEW: BC Achievement Scholarships	112
District/Authority Scholarships	113
Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarships	114
Redeeming a Scholarship Voucher	116
Replacing a Lost Scholarship Voucher	117
Passport to Education – Redemption Procedures	117





## Provincial Scholarships Program

The Provincial Scholarships Program is intended to recognize student achievement and encourage students to pursue post-secondary education. The program includes the BC Excellence Scholarship, the BC Achievement Scholarship, the District/Authority Scholarship, the Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship and the Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship (to be phased out 2015/16 school year).



Secondary School Apprenticeship (SSA) students are eligible for the SSA Award. The SSA Program Guide has additional information about criteria and procedures related to this award. Information is available at: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/apprenticeship\\_trades.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/careers/apprenticeship_trades.htm)

### BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the Provincial Scholarships Program, students:

- ✓ Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) at the time of registration in the school year for which the scholarship is awarded;
- ✓ Must be a BC resident. Citizenship information is taken from TRAX. Incomplete or incorrect data in the citizenship field could affect a student's eligibility for a scholarship;
- ✓ Must be or have been:
  - Enrolled in a British Columbia public school (including Distributed Learning schools), or
  - Enrolled in a Group 1, 2, or 4 British Columbia Independent School, or
  - Enrolled in a Continuing Education Centre, or
  - Registered with a public, independent, francophone, or distributed learning school in BC as a homeschooled child;

in the school year for which the scholarship is awarded.

In addition, recipients must meet the selection criteria for each scholarship.



## Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships

NOTE: The Ministry of Education is phasing out the Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship. The final allocation of this scholarship will be upon the graduation of Grade 12 students in the 2015/16 school year. The amount of the scholarship has been increased to \$1250. These final recipients, as well as students who have already received the Graduation Program Examination Scholarship, will continue to be able to redeem their scholarship vouchers towards tuition at their designated post-secondary institution until the expiry dates stated on the vouchers.



The Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship recognizes academic achievement in provincial examinations. These scholarships are capped at 5000 (\$1250) and 20 (\$2500) awards to the top students based on their exam percentage scores.

## QUALIFYING FOR A GRADUATION PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS SCHOLARSHIP



A student will receive a \$1250 scholarship if the student:

- ⑤ Meets basic eligibility requirements.
- ⑤ Fulfills the BC graduation requirements of either the 2004 Graduation Program or the Adult Graduation Program.
- ⑤ Meets all the following requirements:

- ▶ Writes and passes one exam in each of five (5) provincial exam categories from grades 10 – 12.
- ▶ Achieves at least a “B” (73% or above) final mark (provincial exam and school mark combined) in one of the Language Arts 12 (Communications 12, English 12, Français langue première 12, or English 12 First Peoples) courses.
- ▶ Must have a final course mark (course and exam combined) for the provincial exam to be counted towards scholarship.
- ▶ Ranks among the top 5000 Grade 12 students in BC (based on their percentage score) on all five provincial exams.

## TOP 20 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

A student will receive a \$2500 scholarship if the student:

- ⑤ Meets all qualifications for the Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship.
- ⑤ Ranks among the top 20 students in BC (based on their percentage score).



LANGUAGE ARTS 10 (ONLY ONE OF THESE EXAMS QUALIFIES):	
EN 10	EFP 10
FRALP 10	
SCIENCE 10 (ONLY ONE OF THESE EXAMS QUALIFIES):	
SC 10	SCF 10
MATH 10 (ONLY ONE OF THESE EXAMS QUALIFIES):	
AWM 10	AWMF 10
FMP 10	FMPF 10
SOCIAL STUDIES 11 (ONLY ONE OF THESE EXAMS QUALIFIES):	
SS 11	SCH 11
CIV 11	CIVF 11
FNS12	FNSF 12
LANGUAGE ARTS 12 (ONLY ONE OF THESE EXAMS QUALIFIES):	
COM 12	EN 12
EFP 12	
FRALP 12	FRAL 12

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students can receive only one Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship in their lifetimes. A student can receive both a Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship and a District/Authority Scholarship in the same year.

Aegrotat Standing is not an exam mark and therefore will render the student ineligible for a Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship.

## REWRITING REQUIRED PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Students may qualify for a Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship only in the year in which they graduate. Students wishing to improve their Grade 12 provincial exam scores for the purpose of scholarship must rewrite their exam by August 31st of the year in which they graduate. Any other provincial exam subjects must follow the one-year re-write rule (page 37).

## GRADUATION PROGRAM EXAMINATIONS SCHOLARSHIP CALCULATIONS POLICY

The Graduation Program Examinations Scholarships are awarded based on required provincial results from grade 10 – 12 from the following categories: Language Arts 10, Sciences 10, Mathematics 10, Social Studies 11, and Languages Arts 12 (see chart above).

The policy in place at the time a student graduates (fulfills graduation requirements) will be used to determine scholarship eligibility.



## IB (INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE) SCORES FOR SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Only those specific IB exam scores that fulfill the Social Studies 11 graduation credit requirement will meet the qualifications towards eligibility. See page 110 for more information on submitting IB scores to the Ministry for scholarship purposes.

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) SCORES FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The following IB courses meet the Social Studies graduation requirement; therefore, students enrolled in these IB courses can use only one of these six IB exam scores to count towards earning a Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship:

IBGGH11: IB Geography (HL) 11 and

IBGGS11: IB Geography (SL) 11

IBHIH11: IB History (HL) 11 and

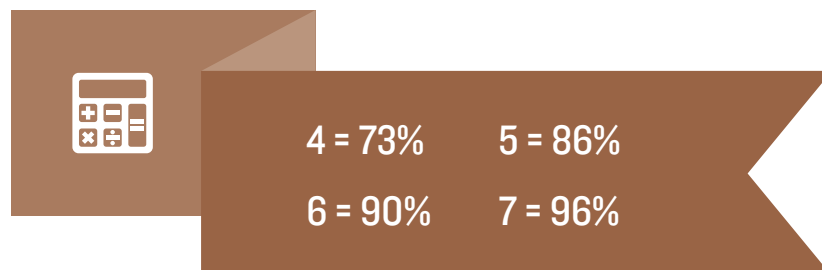
IBHIS11: IB History (SL) 11

IBHNM11: IB Histoire (NM) 11 and

IBHNS11: IB Histoire (NS) 11


The method of calculating for scholarships fits with the IB recognition used by many BC universities.

## IB FINAL RESULTS:



## SUBMISSION PROCESS:

1. Prior to the end of the school year, principals/coordinators should obtain written permission from students taking IB examinations (above) to report their IB score to meet the SS II graduation requirement, for scholarship purposes. These should be kept on file at the school.
2. Principals/coordinators should have their summary of individual student results provided by the IB organization.
3. If students have the appropriate IB score (above) to meet the SS II graduation requirement, principals/coordinators should complete the IB Social Studies Scores for Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship Form at:
 

 [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation-exam-scholarships](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation-exam-scholarships)  
(Schools must use the appropriate course codes above)
4. Schools must fax or email the form to the Provincial Scholarships Program at:  
TEL 250.356.0271 EMAIL [awards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:awards@gov.bc.ca)  
by September 30th for students to be included in the eligibility for scholarships.  
There are no exceptions to this date.
5. The Provincial Scholarships Program will then equate the students' scores to percents and will count them towards the exam score required to earn a scholarship.

---

NOTE: The IB exams are restricted against one another and against provincial exams in the Social Studies II category. See chart on page 109.

---



## NEW: BC Excellence Scholarships

The BC Excellence Scholarship is a \$5000 scholarship awarded to 55 students, recognizing well-rounded graduates demonstrating community service and leadership, both inside and outside of their schools, as well as commitment and aptitude for their chosen career paths. Recipients should exemplify competencies such as communication and digital literacy; critical thinking and problem-solving; collaboration and leadership; personal and social responsibility; global and cultural understanding; and creativity and innovation.

Each public and independent secondary school in BC may nominate one eligible student, who may then make application for this scholarship through his/her school.

School districts and FISA must submit application packages on behalf of their nominees to the Ministry by March 31, 2016. Nominees must meet basic eligibility requirements (see p. 106), and be enrolled in or graduated from a BC Grade 12 graduation program and be eligible for a BC Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) by August 31st of the school year in which they are nominated.



Each school should forward their nominee's application to their School District, or for independent schools, to the Federation of Independent School Associations (FISA) as follows:



**John Slofstra, FISA c/o Pacific Christian School 654 Agnes Street Victoria, BC V8Z 2E6.**

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Nominees' applications will be rated on the following criteria. Nominees must:

- ✓ Meet basic eligibility requirements.
- ✓ Be in their graduating year, with graduation to occur by August 31 or sooner of the year in which they are nominated.
- ✓ Have at least a "B" (73% or above) in their Language Arts 11 final mark and have at least a "B" average in Grade 11 final course marks that fulfill graduation requirements of Science 11, Math 11 and Social Studies 11, with no more than one "C+" (67% or above) final course mark. Marks lower than "C+" are not accepted.
- ✓ Maintain a "B" average in Grades 11 and 12 final course marks required for graduation.
- ✓ Submit a resume.
- ✓ Provide two references, one from their community and one from their school.
- ✓ Provide a written statement (maximum 500 words) describing:
  - what lead them to their community service, volunteer activity, and/or leadership role
  - what they learned from this involvement
  - how these skills/experiences will benefit them in their chosen career path

## NOMINEE'S APPLICATION PACKAGE

Nominees must complete the Ministry's application package and submit it to their school. School districts and FISA must forward the application package to the Ministry by March 31, 2016, for adjudication by the selection committee. Application information is available at: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/)

**A student cannot win both a BC Excellence Scholarship and a Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship.**





## NEW: BC Achievement Scholarships

The BC Achievement Scholarship is a \$1250 scholarship that recognizes broad achievement in courses meeting graduation program requirements. These scholarships are capped at 3000 awards for the 2015/16 school year.

The Ministry will determine recipients based on students' achievement in Grades 10, 11, and 12 courses that satisfy graduation program requirements (including elective courses). Grad Transitions will not be included. A cumulative average percentage will be calculated and form the basis for awarding the BC Achievement Scholarship.

Recipients must meet basic eligibility requirements (p. 106), in addition to attaining a "B" (73% or above) or better average in their Language Arts 12 course (English 12, Communications 12, Français langue première 12, or English 12 First Peoples).

A student can receive only one BC Achievement Scholarship in their lifetime.

**Students cannot receive both a BC Achievement Scholarship and a Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship.**

## REWRITING REQUIRED PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Students wishing to improve their Grade 12 provincial exam scores for the purpose of scholarship must rewrite their exam by August 31st of the year in which they graduate. Any other provincial exam subjects must follow the one-year re-write rule (page 37).

## BC ACHIEVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP CALCULATIONS POLICY

The BC Achievement Scholarships are awarded based on current graduation program requirements.

The policy in place at the time a student graduates (fulfills graduation requirements) will be used to determine scholarship eligibility.







## District/Authority Scholarships

The District/Authority Scholarships reward graduating students for excellence in their chosen field of interest or strength. These scholarships are intended to assist with tuition for post-secondary education.

The Ministry will allocate 5500 scholarships pro-rated to school districts and independent school authorities based on each district's September 30th Grade 12 enrolment. The scholarship will now be a \$1250 voucher that can be used toward post-secondary education tuition.

### QUALIFYING FOR A DISTRICT/AUTHORITY SCHOLARSHIP

To win a scholarship, a student must apply and:

- ✓ Meet the basic eligibility requirements
- ✓ Meet criteria determined by the local scholarship committee, which requires a student to demonstrate outstanding achievement in any of the following areas:
  - **NEW: Indigenous Languages and Culture**, demonstrated at school or in the community
  - **Fine Arts** (e.g., Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, Music)
  - **Applied Skills** (e.g., Business Ed, Technology Ed, Home Economics)
  - **Physical Activity** (e.g., Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, not limited to Physical Education)
  - **International Languages** with Integrated Resource Packages (IRPs) or External Assessments, including AP and IB courses
  - **Community Service** (Volunteer Activity), which includes demonstration of local and global issues and cultural awareness
  - **Technical and Trades Training** (e.g., Carpentry, Automotive, Mechanics, Cook Training)
- ✓ Fulfill the BC Graduation requirements of either the 2004 Graduation Program or the Adult Graduation Program by August 31st of the student's graduating year
- ✓ Have not previously received a District/Authority Award or a District/Authority Scholarship



Committee criteria must ensure that winners have been cumulatively evaluated in the area of achievement chosen for presentation to the committee, and satisfy other criteria which may include factors such as attendance, punctuality, work habits and cooperation.

Ministry guidelines for District/Authority Scholarship criteria and selection process are available at:



[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/district\\_authority\\_scholarships.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/district_authority_scholarships.htm)



## APPLYING FOR A DISTRICT/AUTHORITY SCHOLARSHIP

Students should apply in the year they are graduating directly to their local scholarship committee, established by the local Board of Education. Decisions made by each local scholarship committee are final.

Independent school students must apply to their Independent School Authority, who collectively acts as the scholarship committee for Group 1, 2, and 4 independent schools.

Each local selection committee is responsible for providing the Ministry with the report listing the District/ Authority Scholarship recipients and their respective areas of achievement by mid-September each year.



## Pathway To Teacher Education Scholarships




The Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship (PTES) is a \$5000 annual scholarship that recognizes exceptional Grade 12 students planning to enter the field of K-12 teaching. The PTES will be awarded to 20 graduating students intending to enter a BC faculty of education program. This new scholarship will support outstanding students in pursuing a career path in K-12 teaching. Scholarship winners will be awarded a \$5000 voucher to redeem upon entrance to one of BC's faculty of education programs.



[www.bcteacherregulation.ca/teachereducation/teachereducationoverview.aspx](http://www.bcteacherregulation.ca/teachereducation/teachereducationoverview.aspx)

The application deadline is March 31, the Ministry will not accept applications unless they are received by this date. Before you start your application, make sure that you meet all eligibility requirements. Use the following checklist to be sure that you have all the required documents before beginning. Applications that do not include all required elements will not be considered.







### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

-  Must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (landed immigrant) at the time of writing the provincial exams.
-  Must be a BC resident.
-  Must be enrolled in or graduated from a BC Grade 12 graduation program and be eligible for a British Columbia Certificate of Graduation (Dogwood Diploma) by August 31st of the school year in which you are applying.



## SELECTION CRITERIA

### YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE RATED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA. YOU MUST:

-  Be in your graduating year with graduation to occur by August 31 or sooner of the year in which you are applying.
-  Have at least a B in your Language Arts 11 final mark and have at least a B average in the three Grade 11 final course marks that fulfill the graduation requirements of Science 11, Math 11 and Social Studies 11, with no more than one C+ final course mark. Please note: marks lower than C+ are not accepted.
-  Maintain a B average in all Grade 11 and Grade 12 final course marks required for graduation.
-  Complete a resume.
-  Provide two references, one from your community and one from your school.
-  Show evidence of your commitment to and aptitude for a teaching career by responding to a written-response question.

**Selection of winners will be finalized by August 31<sup>st</sup> and vouchers will be mailed to winners' addresses on record in the first week of September.**

The application package is available on the scholarships website below.



#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Ministry of Education**  
Student Certification Branch

Provincial Awards Program  
PO Box 9886 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC V8W 9T6

Telephone: 250.356.2443  
Fax: 250.356.0271

Email: [awards@gov.bc.ca](mailto:awards@gov.bc.ca)



[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/)





## Redeeming A Scholarship Voucher

Scholarship winners are mailed a congratulatory letter, certificate, and scholarship voucher in the late fall of their high school graduation year. Students must redeem their vouchers within five years from September 30th of their high school graduation year, before the expiry date stated on the voucher.

A student may redeem a scholarship voucher by registering, attending, and paying tuition in a regular program (i.e. a program that leads to a credential) or an apprenticeship program at any post-secondary institution in the world that is accredited and designated (approved for Canada Student Loans by BC). To verify if an institution is designated, students can access the website at:



[www.studentaidbc.ca/apply/designated](http://www.studentaidbc.ca/apply/designated)

Scholarship vouchers may also be used to help pay for tuition for Apprenticeship Programs, Entry Level Trades Programs, and Foundation Industry Training Programs offered by designated post-secondary institutions. These are restricted to programs offered by public post-secondary institutions, and a limited number of other training providers who have been designated by the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to deliver specific programs. To verify if a scholarship can be redeemed for a particular apprenticeship program/school that is not listed in the Designated Schools Lookup database, check the ITA website for additional approved training providers at:



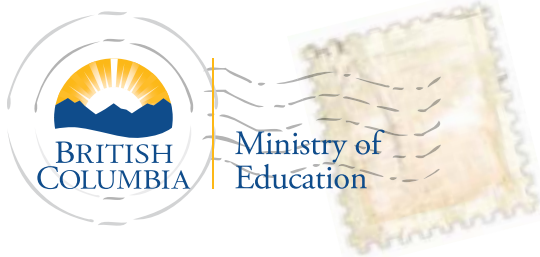
[www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca).

---

**NOTE:** Not all trades training programs offered in BC qualify; therefore, it is important for students to check the database if they wish to redeem their scholarships.

---

To redeem a voucher, a student must have it stamped and signed on the back by an official of the institution or program to confirm that the student is registered and attending, and has paid tuition in a regular program (i.e., a program that leads to a credential). The signed voucher, with the student's Social Insurance Number and current address, should be mailed by the student to the Ministry of Education address stated on the voucher. The Ministry will mail a cheque directly to the student once the voucher has been processed. This takes approximately six to eight weeks.





## Replacing A Lost Scholarship Voucher

If a student has lost or misplaced their scholarship voucher, the student can request a replacement voucher by submitting a form available on the Ministry of Education website at:



[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/replace\\_scholarship\\_voucher.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/replace_scholarship_voucher.htm)

Each request should be fully completed and signed and must be accompanied by a \$25 fee payable by cheque (to Minister of Finance), money order, MasterCard, VISA or AMEX. When the ministry receives the signed request form and fee, the student will be sent a replacement voucher.



## Passport to Education - Redemption Procedures



### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The Passport to Education Program is now phased out. Students who have already received Passport Stamps will continue to be able to redeem their award towards tuition at their designated post-secondary institution until the expiry dates stated on the stamps.

## REDEEMING PASSPORT AWARDS

Passport Awards must be redeemed within five years from September 30th of a student's expected graduating year from secondary school (expiry dates are on the stamps). Passport Awards can be redeemed by registering, attending and paying tuition in a regular program (i.e., a program that leads to a credential) or an Apprenticeship Program at any post-secondary institution in the world that is accredited and designated (approved for Canada Student Loans) by BC. To verify if an institution is designated, students can access the website at:



[www.studentaidbc.ca/apply/designated](http://www.studentaidbc.ca/apply/designated)



A qualifying educational program or course should last at least three consecutive weeks, and requires a student to spend no less than 10 hours per week on courses or work in the program. A one-day course is not an acceptable program. The tuition should be as close as possible or more than the amount of the Award.

Passport to Education Awards may also be used to pay for tuition fees for Apprenticeship Programs, Entry Level Trades Programs and Foundation Industry Training Programs offered by designated post-secondary institutions. These are restricted to programs offered by public post-secondary institutions, and a limited number of other training providers who have been designated by the **Industry Training Authority (ITA)** to deliver specific programs. To verify if a scholarship can be redeemed for a particular apprenticeship program/school that is not listed in the Designated Schools Lookup database, check the ITA website for additional approved training providers at:



[www.itabc.ca](http://www.itabc.ca)

---

**NOTE:** Not all trades training programs offered in BC qualify; therefore, it is important for students to check the database if they wish to redeem their scholarships.

---

### IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A student may redeem his or her Passport to Education Award before the expiry date at any post-secondary institution that is accredited and designated for Canada Student Loans by BC by presenting the Passport booklet when paying tuition fees. The fees will be reduced by the amount of the award. If tuition has already been paid in full, the student may redeem the Passport to Education Award directly by sending the actual award with proof of registration and attendance, proof of tuition fees paid (or a large portion paid), his or her Social Insurance Number and current address to the Ministry of Education. The student will receive a cheque for the amount of the award within six to eight weeks.

### OUTSIDE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

To redeem a Passport to Education Award by attending a post-secondary institution **outside** of British Columbia, a student should first check if the institution is accredited and designated for Canada Student Loans by BC (most major public colleges and universities in the world are approved). If the institution is approved, students may redeem his or her Passport to Education Award by sending the actual award with proof of registration and attendance, proof of tuition fees paid (or a portion paid), his or her Social Insurance Number and current address to the Ministry of Education. The student will receive a cheque for the amount of his or her Passport Award within six to eight weeks.



If a student has already completed his or her program or term in a designated post-secondary institution and their Passport to Education Award has not yet expired, the student can still redeem the award by sending the award with proof of completion or a transcript showing completion, his or her Social Insurance Number and current address to the Ministry of Education. The student will receive a cheque for the amount of his or her Passport to Education Award within six to eight weeks.



## LOST PASSPORT TO EDUCATION AWARD

If Passport to Education Award stamp(s) have been lost or destroyed, a student must contact their secondary school to report the lost award and request a replacement. The school will complete a Request for Declaration of Lost Stamps Form (from the website) and send it to the Ministry with a \$25 administrative fee, payable by cheque, money order, VISA, MasterCard, or AMEX. The Ministry will prepare a formal replacement letter with the Ministry seal and send it to the school for signature to give to the student. This can be redeemed in the same way as the Award booklet with stamps.

For more information on the Passport to Education, visit the Awards website at:



[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards/)

