



BC Excellence Scholarship
Application Instructions
2025/26

Example—Do not submit

Required documentation

Here are the detailed instructions for the 4 types of documentation you will need to have ready to complete your application.

1. Nomination form signed by your school

- Complete and save a copy of the nomination form
- Ask your principal or school head to sign the form and return it to you (make sure it has an ink or electronic signature); each school may only nominate one student
- Save or scan the signed copy and have it ready to upload as part of your application

2. Written statement

- Complete and save a copy of your written statement, following these written statement instructions
- Review the marking guidelines to understand how the statement will be assessed
- Be ready to copy and paste your written statement into the application form

3. Resume (in mandatory online format)

- This is not a standard resume format; complete and save a document following these detailed resume instructions
- Review the marking guidelines to understand how the resume will be assessed
- Be ready to copy and paste the information from your resume into the application form

4. Two reference letters

- Save these reference letter instructions
- Share the instructions with your two referees and have them return signed letters to you (make sure each has an ink or electronic signature)
- Scan or save digital copies of both letters
- Be ready to upload both letters as part of your online application
- Some referees may prefer to submit a letter directly to the ministry; in this case, you must upload to the application a brief, informal note from you in its place that states your referee will email their reference directly to scholarships@gov.bc.ca by the deadline



Example—do not submit

NOMINATION FORM

BC Excellence Scholarship Application (2025/26)

Students must be nominated by their secondary school to apply for the BC Excellence scholarship. Each school may nominate only one student.

Students who have been nominated by their school must attach a digital copy of this form (4 MB max), signed by their principal or school head, to their online application. Unsigned nominations will not be considered.

Applications are due on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

NOMINATING SCHOOL	
Full name of school:	
School code (find it at https://bcschoolcontacts.gov.bc.ca)	
School address:	
City/town:	Postal code:
School phone:	Principal/head email:
Full name of applicant (as it would appear on the high school transcript):	
Preferred name of applicant:	
Verification of nomination: I nominate the above-named student for the BC Excellence scholarship. I understand our secondary school may nominate only one student. I confirm the above-named student is on track to meet scholarship requirements, including graduation, by August 31, and is recorded as a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident in the school's Student Information System.	
Principal/head name:	
Principal/head signature:	

Find details about the BC Excellence scholarship, including requirements, online:
www.gov.bc.ca/bcexcellencescholarship



Example—do not submit

WRITTEN STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

BC Excellence Scholarship Application (2025/26)

Instructions for students

Statement question: Describe one experience that helped you decide on your intended career or area of post-secondary study.

In addition to explicitly answering the statement question, you must also describe in your answer how you have demonstrated one or more of the Core Competencies (or sub-competencies) from the B.C. Curriculum through this experience.

Instructions:

- Prepare your answer offline
- Write a well-developed, multi-paragraph response
- Use plain formatting (e.g., no bold or underline)
- Do not exceed 500 words
- Save your work
- Copy/paste your statement into the online application where prompted

Find details about the core (and sub) competencies:

www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies

- Communication (Communicating and Collaborating)
- Thinking (Creative Thinking and Critical and Reflective Thinking)
- Personal and Social (Positive Personal and Cultural Identity; Personal Awareness and Responsibility; Social Awareness and Responsibility)

Information about the BC Excellence scholarship is available online:

www.gov.bc.ca/bcexcellencescholarship

Questions? Please contact the Provincial Scholarships Program Team: scholarships@gov.bc.ca



RESUME INSTRUCTIONS

BC Excellence Scholarship Application (2025/26)

Instructions for students

Within Section 3 of the online application, you will be asked to submit the following.

1. A brief, overarching statement describing what career or area of post-secondary study you are pursuing (300 characters max).
2. Details of up to seven life and/or volunteer and/or work experiences you believe are relevant to your intended career path or area of post-secondary study.

- ✓ Start and end dates
- ✓ Total hours
- ✓ Which grades you were in during the experience (submit examples from grades 10–12 only)
- ✓ Where you gained the experience, such as the name of the organization (200 characters max)
- ✓ Your role and/or job title (200 characters max)
- ✓ Your responsibilities/duties and how you demonstrated service and leadership (500 characters max)
- ✓ How you demonstrated [Core Competencies \(or sub-competencies\)](#) during the experience (500 characters max)
- ✓ How the experience will prepare you for your intended career or area of post-secondary study (500 characters max)

Tips:

- Start with your most relevant experience
 - Consider experiences that have provided you with transferrable skills or that relate directly to your intended career or area of post-secondary study
 - Consider that life experiences can range from minding younger siblings to helping the family business to participating in cultural activities; volunteer and work experiences may be similarly broad in scope
 - Submit experiences from grades 10–12 only (Note: if an experience started before Grade 10 and/or will continue past Grade 12, report only the grades 10–12 portion)
 - There are character limits to the open textboxes; you may use point form in your responses
3. You'll also have a final space where you can report anything else from grades 10–12 that you think is relevant to this scholarship (e.g., other accomplishments or experiences). Do not link to external content; it will not be reviewed (1,500 characters max).

Information about the BC Excellence scholarship is available online:

www.gov.bc.ca/bcexcellencescholarship

Questions? Please contact the Provincial Scholarships Program Team: scholarships@gov.bc.ca



REFERENCE LETTER INSTRUCTIONS BC Excellence Scholarship Application (2025/26)

Instructions for students

You must submit two reference letters as part of your application for the BC Excellence scholarship. The individuals who write your reference letters should know you well, but they cannot be an immediate family member or another student.

1. School reference: please provide one reference letter from a school staff member, such as a teacher, counsellor, school principal, or vice-principal.
2. Community reference: please provide one reference letter from a community member, such as a community leader, coach, instructor, volunteer supervisor, or employer.

Reminder: you must secure these letters in time to submit them with your application by the deadline of 3:00 pm PST on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

Please share the instructions below with your referees.

Instructions for referees (due to the student *before* Tuesday, February 17, 2026)

You have been asked to write a reference letter on behalf of a student applying for the 2026 BC Excellence scholarship. Students must submit reference letters as part of their application. Reference letters are reviewed by the Ministry of Education and Child Care scholarships committee for the purpose of assessing submissions and determining recipients.

Please prepare your letter (on your organization's letterhead if available) and describe the following about the applicant:

- their role in serving your community or school group;
- their demonstrated leadership abilities or service; and,
- their aptitude for and commitment to their chosen career or post-secondary study path.

Please also provide the following information about yourself:

- your role (e.g., within the organization);
- your relationship with the applicant; and,
- your contact information.

Please send the student a signed copy of your letter *before* Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (4 MB maximum file size).

Information about the BC Excellence scholarship is available online:

www.gov.bc.ca/bcexcellencescholarship

Questions? Please contact the Provincial Scholarships Program Team: scholarships@gov.bc.ca

Example

Marking Guidelines BC Excellence Scholarship

The BC Excellence scholarship is awarded to 55 high school graduates who have demonstrated service and leadership, both at school and in their communities, and who show aptitude for and commitment to their chosen career or area of post-secondary study.

Written Statement

<p>Statement question: Describe one experience that helped you decide on your intended career or area of post-secondary study.</p> <p>In addition to explicitly answering the statement question, a student must also describe in their answer how they demonstrated one or more of the Core Competencies (or sub-competencies) from the B.C. curriculum through this experience.</p> <p>The statement should be a well-developed, multi-paragraph response (500 words maximum).</p>				<p>REFERENCE</p> <p>Core Competencies (and sub-competencies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Communicating and Collaborating) • Thinking (Creative Thinking and Critical and Reflective Thinking) • Personal and Social (Positive Personal and Cultural Identity; Personal Awareness and Responsibility; Social Awareness and Responsibility) 	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 1	Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 2	Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 3	Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 4	Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 5	Statements that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship between experiences and intended career or area of post-secondary study is missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a limited synthesis of relationship between experiences and intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a basic synthesis of the relationship between experiences and the intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a straightforward synthesis of the relationship between experiences and the intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a thorough synthesis of the relationship between experiences and the intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a comprehensive synthesis of the relationship between experiences and the intended career or area of post-secondary study.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples to support position are missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples to support position are minimal or irrelevant. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports position through undeveloped or generalized examples of experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an affinity for intended career or area of post-secondary study through adequate perspective(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates an affinity for intended career or area of post-secondary study through thoughtful perspective(s). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates a strong commitment to an intended career or area of post-secondary study through insightful perspective(s).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples to demonstrate competencies are missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies through description of experiences is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies through description of experiences is minimally acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies is adequate, with clear description of experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies is strong with thorough description of experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies is outstanding with comprehensive description of experiences.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errors in writing are frequent and rudimentary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Errors in writing may be distracting and impede meaning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing conveys intermittent meaning or purpose, but errors may impede the fluency of the paper. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing is organized and straightforward, although ideas may be listed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits a sound writing style and solid use of language; ideas are logically and clearly articulated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibits effective writing style and a sophisticated use of language; ideas are skillfully and effectively articulated.

Resume

<p>Demonstration of the following criteria will be assessed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Service and leadership in school and community ✓ Core Competencies (and sub-competencies) ✓ Commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study <p>To support their assessment, markers will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the core principles of the award (service and leadership) and how well the student has drawn connections between experiences and intended path; • the many experiences that may help prepare a student for post-secondary education, including paid and unpaid work; credit and not-for-credit courses; and, day-to-day activities (such as helping family or participating in cultural events); and, • factors, such as geographic location, that may affect what opportunities are available to a student. 				<p>REFERENCE</p> <p>Core Competencies (and sub-competencies)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication (Communicating and Collaborating) • Thinking (Creative Thinking and Critical and Reflective Thinking) • Personal and Social (Positive Personal and Cultural Identity; Personal Awareness and Responsibility; Social Awareness and Responsibility) 	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Does not meet criteria	Approaching meeting criteria	Minimally meets criteria	Fully meets criteria	Exceeds criteria	Outstanding on all criteria
Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 1	Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 2	Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 3	Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 4	Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 5	Resumes that demonstrate the following are more likely to earn a 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of service and leadership missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to demonstrate service and leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of service and leadership is limited. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates good service and leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong service and leadership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates outstanding service and leadership.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competencies missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to demonstrate competencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences show limited demonstration of competencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates adequate strengths in some competencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strengths in multiple competencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates outstanding strengths in multiple competencies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study missing or significantly underdeveloped. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to demonstrate commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences show limited demonstration of commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates strong commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates outstanding commitment to and aptitude for intended career or area of post-secondary study.