

## Knowledge First Financial® Student Awards | Frequently Asked Questions

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### What are the Knowledge First Financial Student Awards?

Knowledge First Financial Student Awards are available exclusively to students who have or are benefitting from a RESP from Knowledge First Foundation (Flex First Plan; Family Single Student Plan) or from Heritage Educational Foundation (Heritage Plans); or Heritage International Scholarship Trust Foundation (Heritage International Scholarship Trust Plan). We offer graduate, undergraduate and skilled trade financial awards for students who will be entering or enrolled in a full-time program in the academic year 2021/22.

### What qualifications are required to apply?

In addition to having a RESP from any of Knowledge First Foundation, Heritage Educational Foundation or Heritage International Scholarship Trust Foundation, students must be able to demonstrate through their application a strong record of academic achievement balanced with well-rounded extra-curricular activities as demonstrated by involvement in athletics, volunteer/paid work experience or other types of community involvement in addition to financial need.

- **Graduate Awards:** Must be **entering or enrolled in a full-time graduate program** in the academic year 2021/2022, leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate.
- **Undergraduate Awards:** Must be **entering or enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program** in the academic year 2021/2022, leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate.
- **Skilled Trade Awards:** Must be **entering or enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program** in the academic year 2021/2022, leading to a trade certification requirement program or apprenticeship program.

### What documents do I need to submit with my application?

After completing the online application, you will be able to upload the following documents. They will all need to be received before the deadline (May 31, 2021 11:59PM ET) for your application to be submitted and accepted:

Undergraduate and Skilled Trade Award Applicants:

1. **Personal Statement** (300-350 words)
2. **Transcript** (Unofficial transcripts are accepted, but you may be asked to submit an official transcript to receive an award)

Graduate Award Applicants:

1. **Personal Statement** (300-350 words)
2. **Resume**
3. **Transcript** (Unofficial transcripts are accepted, but you may be asked to submit an official transcript to receive an award)

4. **Two Reference Letter(s)** (350-word limit academic reference; two letters of reference academic, non-academic)

You may be required to submit additional documents if you are selected as an award recipient or finalist (e.g. proof of enrolment).

#### **How are Student Award recipients selected?**

Applications will be evaluated by a judging panel comprised of experienced professionals from the education and business sectors, under the guidance of ScholarshipsCanada.com and Knowledge First Financial Inc. Each component of the application – personal statement, academic achievement, resume, or curriculum vitae, references, and financial need – will be carefully considered. As a guiding principle, there will be focus on recognizing historically underrepresented group such as Black peoples, Indigenous peoples, People of Colour (BIPOC) and women in STEM and skilled trades training.

#### **How do I apply and when is the deadline?**

Students who wish to apply for a Knowledge First Financial Student Awards can submit their application online at [knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com](https://knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com). Completed applications must be submitted by May 31, 2021 11:59PM ET.

#### **Is there a cost to apply?**

To apply online, students must create a free student account with [knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com](https://knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com). Applicants are responsible for incidental costs such as postage. Potential recipients may be asked to provide original documents and are responsible for any associated costs (e.g. official transcript).

#### **What if I am unable to apply online?**

Online applications are the preferred method for submitting and students are encouraged to contact ScholarshipsCanada.com at [application@scholarshipscanada.com](mailto:application@scholarshipscanada.com) for assistance. In the event you cannot submit an online application, applications can be sent by mail or email. Mailed applications must be sent to 67 Mowat Ave. Suite 533, Toronto, ON M6K 3E3. Emailed applications must be sent to [application@scholarshipscanada.com](mailto:application@scholarshipscanada.com) and received no later than the end date for submissions. Mail and email submissions must include the subject line “Knowledge First Financial Student Awards.” Incomplete applications will not be considered for awards. For further details on the email/mail submission process, please contact [application@scholarshipscanada.com](mailto:application@scholarshipscanada.com).

#### **I am attending a graduate program outside of Canada. Can I still apply?**

For a complete list of eligible schools, please consult the Employment and Social Development [List of Designated Educational Institutions](#) or one that is [recognized by Knowledge First](#).

#### **Am I able to receive the award in alternate currencies?**

The Knowledge First Financial Student Awards are awarded in Canadian dollars. An exception will be made for scholarship recipients who are beneficiaries of a Heritage International Scholarship Trust Plan;

in this case, the scholarship will be awarded in an equivalent in US dollars, based on the exchange rate at the time the award is made.

**What constitutes proof of enrolment?**

Proof of enrolment is a document sent from your school on official letter head stating that you are enrolled in your program on a full-time basis. If your school does not provide this type of documentation, an alternative would be to provide proof that you have paid a deposit to hold your seat in the program. If your school does not require a deposit, please include your offer letter and proof that you have accepted entrance into your postgraduate program.

**What should I include in my personal statement?**

Focus on the experiences that inspired the decision to pursue your field of study and what your career goals are. Provide examples that will help the judging panel learn more about you and your accomplishments, beyond your academic achievements and resume/CV. Also, this is your opportunity to discuss your financial needs as it pertains the educational costs in your chosen program.

**What constitutes an official transcript?**

An official transcript is one that is stamped and put into a sealed envelope by your school. You may upload a copy of this document with your application. If you are selected as a potential winner, you may be required to provide this document.

**What are your requirements for the references?**

You must have known your references for at least one year. One of your references must be academic. The other reference letter must be non-academic; someone who knows your accomplishments in the area of athletics/sports, volunteer/paid work experience, or other types of community engagement activities. Please do not include personal references from family members and/or friends.

Please make sure to remind your references to provide contact information as they may be contacted by the selection committee.

**When will recipients be selected?**

Decisions regarding potential student awards recipients will be made in June 2021 and potential student awards recipients will be notified before the end of July 2021.

**If I am selected as a recipient but decide to delay the start of the studies, am I able to defer my student award to a later date?**

Student awards cannot be deferred but any student in this situation can withdraw their application or decline the award. These students can re-apply for future Knowledge First Financial Student Awards provided the other application criteria are met.