

BC ARTS COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDS PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Program Impacts and Changes Due to COVID-19



The BC Arts Council recognizes the immense and unprecedented impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having, and will likely continue to have, on the B.C. arts and culture sector. While every effort will be made to minimize revisions after posting, program guidelines may need to be updated to align with the most current provincial and federal orders and directives and public health information.

In light of this evolving situation, please take note of the following general considerations:

- Ensure you are always working with the latest version of the program guidelines, as posted on the BC Arts Council website. The posting date is identified at the bottom of the page, and any changes to the guidelines made after the original posting are highlighted.
- A temporary blackout has been placed on new funding and applications for activities that involve travel and/or in-person gatherings between March 26 and June 30, 2020. This date could be adjusted if the current provincial and federal orders and directives in place are extended.
- Your application will be adjudicated to the best of the adjudication panel's ability based on the published program guidelines and the assumptions addressed within the proposal, recognizing that the responses to COVID-19 may continue to shift rapidly.
- If your application is successful, you may need to adjust your project to respond to further developments in the COVID-19 pandemic that were unknown at the time of application and/or adjudication. Please contact your program officer, who will work with you to find creative and flexible approaches to uphold the original intention of your funded project, including remote or virtual solutions.
- The most up-to-date information will always be posted on our dedicated [COVID 19 FAQ page](#) and individual program pages. Updates will also be announced on our [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#) accounts.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THIS PROGRAM:

2020-03-26 – Submission deadline extended to May 15, 2020

I am studying at a school in B.C. but am originally from somewhere else. Can I apply?

That depends. Residency is not only about where you are living currently but also about where you officially call home. Please refer to the guidelines which outline residency requirements in detail. These include claiming B.C. residency on your taxes for the last calendar year. Please contact the BC Arts Council (BCAC) office to discuss eligibility prior to application should you not fully meet these requirements or have any questions.

I see that the reference letters are due at the same time as the application. How does this work?

Reference letters have a deadline of **May 15th**. These are confidential assessments and should be requested, by the applicant, through the new online system. Once the applicant has sent the request, your reference will be prompted to create an online account (minimal information required). They can then fill out the reference form or upload their own letter and submit this through the system before the **May 15th** deadline.

I am studying internationally and my school doesn't issue grades. What do I do?

We understand that certain post-secondary systems do not provide transcripts until completion of studies. For programs where grades are not provided, upload a document with the rationale in lieu of your transcripts.

I am not yet officially accepted into the program I hope to attend in the fall. Can I still apply?

Yes. You may still apply to the Scholarship Awards Program if you have not yet received your acceptance. Please apply with the assumption that you will receive acceptance and forward a copy of your Letter of Acceptance via email to the BCAC office when you receive it.

I have applied to more than one eligible program of study and do not know which I will be attending yet. How should I proceed?

Apply to the Scholarship Awards Program assuming you will get into your first-choice program. Should your plans change, contact the BCAC office via email immediately to update your application with the information about your new program of study. Please note that awards are not automatically transferable from one program to another.

Scholarship guidelines and application forms posted are from last year or the deadline has already passed. What do I do?

The Scholarship Awards Program only has one deadline each year (**May 15**) for awards that support studies commencing the following autumn. Revised guidelines and application forms are posted each year six weeks prior to the upcoming deadline at which time you can contact the BCAC office with any questions about eligibility. Unfortunately, once the deadline has passed there are no other opportunities to apply that year.

I am finishing up my studies. Can I apply for tuition already covered?

No. Unfortunately, scholarship awards cannot be applied retroactively. The **May** program deadline is for semesters of study between the upcoming summer of the current year through the subsequent spring semester.

I am going into the last semester of my program. Can I still apply even though I will not be attending for two semesters?

Yes. You can still apply when you have only one full-time fall semester to complete at the end of your studies. Any award would be proportional (i.e. cut in half).

Where do I submit my final report?

There is no final report required for the Scholarship Awards Program. However, we do appreciate hearing from you about the progress of your studies. You may email the program officer at any point with updates on your studies – or your future career and arts practice!

I want to send a thank you note. Where should I send it?

Thank you notes can be directed to the Board of the BC Arts Council and/or the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

BC Arts Council:

Email: BCACsecretariat@gov.bc.ca

Mailing Address: PO Box 9819, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9W3

In-Person: 1st Floor, 800 Johnson Street, Victoria, B.C. V8W 1N3

Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture:

See [Ministry Contacts](#).

Are there any changes to the guidelines this year?

Yes. Guidelines and application forms are updated annually. Please read the current documents for all the updated information about the Scholarship Awards Program. All applications must be submitted through our new online application system. Please consult the current guidelines for further information about accessing and using this system.

Now that I have submitted a portfolio, what happens to it?

Portfolio materials uploaded in the application follow an in-house destruction schedule. Links to materials must remain live until September to ensure they are available during the adjudication window. We are unable to accept original work.

I am submitting images for my portfolio. If I submit multiple views of the same object how is that counted?

Each .jpg file is counted as one image, therefore each view of a single object counts towards the maximum allowable images.

What is considered full-time studies?

Full-time registration is determined by each institution. Students must be enrolled full-time to be eligible for this program. If you are uncertain of your status, check with the registrar's office at your institution.

I am not sure what an artistic statement is. Can you tell me more about this?

The artistic statement outlines what motivates you as an artist and can include your artistic intentions, context for your practice, the nature of the work, your creative process, philosophy, vision, and passion. All applicants are also encouraged to contemplate (when applicable) a variety of factors around cultural appropriation, representation, and equitable and ethical collaboration processes, and to clearly position their work within its cultural context within their application.

How do I know if you have received my application?

Once you have submitted your application through our online system you will receive an email acknowledging receipt. Make sure you check your spam filters and add noreply@smartsimple.com and bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca to your safe senders list.

I don't have my final grades yet; how do I meet the transcript requirements?

Please include a copy of your grades to date for the application deadline. When you have received your final grades, you may update your application by forwarding your transcript to the BCAC office via email.

When do I find out the results?

Results are sent out in August via email to both successful and unsuccessful applicants. Unfortunately, results cannot be released in advance. If you have not heard by September, please contact the BCAC office to ensure we have the correct contact details for you. Ensure you have added noreply@smartsimple.com and bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca to your safe senders list.

How are the funds disbursed?

Funds are sent in two instalments directly to the student. The Ministry of Finance will issue T4As to award recipients by the end of February in the year following application submission.

My plans changed and I decided not to go to school this year. Can the award be applied to my studies next year?

No. Unfortunately, awards cannot be applied to a different academic year. Please update the BCAC office with your change in plans so that your award may be redistributed to another deserving applicant.

I am studying abroad. Can I receive the funds in another currency?

No. Unfortunately, cheques can only be issued in Canadian funds. We are also not able to directly deposit funds into your account.

I have received an award in the past. Can I apply again?

Yes. Applicants can receive a maximum of up to 4 junior awards and 6 senior awards. If you have not achieved this maximum and meet the other requirements, you may apply again.

The program states that one of the letters of reference or appraisals needs to be from a current or most recent instructor but I haven't been in school for a while. How should I proceed?

In this instance, please select another appropriate reference or appraiser who is familiar with your practice and current work. This could include a publisher, mentor, editor, curator, etc. Character references such as those provided by neighbours or family members are not appropriate.

I am a craft artist. How do I choose between Visual Arts and Contemporary Applied Arts?

The Contemporary Applied Arts discipline is for applicants studying in visual design and functional craft degree and diploma programs with an independent artistic focus. This is in response to the growing opportunities in the creative economy and the expertise required to adjudicate both these and all visual arts practices. Do note that architecture is unfortunately not eligible to this program.

Craft artists may choose to come to the Visual Arts jury or the Contemporary Applied Arts jury depending on the expertise and discourse best suited to evaluate their work. Contemporary practice in craft ranges from the conceptual to the material and functional. Contemplate where your application may be best considered.

I am unclear if I fit into the Media Arts or Visual Arts category. How do I choose?

The artistic discipline you select on your application will determine which jury adjudicates your application. Each jury is comprised of individuals with expertise in the respective discipline.

The term media arts applies to all forms of time-related or interactive art works that are created by the recording of sounds and/or visual images, or use new technologies. These art works are creative expressions and encompass the fields of film, audio, video and computer, digital, and electronic art. You

will need to ask yourself the following questions to decide which discipline's jury can best adjudicate your application:

- Will your work, including your support material and your intentions as an artist, be best adjudicated by a jury of visual artists or of media artists?
- Do you see yourself as a visual artist who uses media arts tools and techniques in some of your work?
- Where does your practice base itself: for example, are you a media artist coming from a visual arts discourse or from a time-based arts discourse?

I've moved and want to make sure you have my current contact information. How can I update you?

Your registration in the online system (BCAC.smartsimple.ca) can be updated at any time. Please log in, click on 'Personal Profile' and update your information.

My portfolio is not great but it's all I've got. How important is this part of the application?

Your portfolio is the most important part of your application and will weigh most heavily in the competition. It is worth taking the time to put together a properly documented and well considered portfolio. Due to fairness, staff cannot advise on the suitability of a portfolio in advance of the competition.

I went to school a long time ago. Do I still need to submit transcripts?

For applicants who last studied over 10 years ago, transcripts will not be required.

Can I get feedback on the results of my application?

Yes. Feel free to contact the BCAC program officer for feedback on your application. Feedback will only be provided to the applicant over the phone.