



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM 2019/20

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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.

What is a postmark deadline?

Applications do not have to be received in the BCAC office by April 30th, but they MUST be postmarked (in the mail and date stamped by the post office) on or before April 30th. If the deadline falls on a weekend or statutory holiday, the postmark deadline will be the next business day.

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

Appraisal letters have a postmark deadline of April 30th. These are confidential assessments and can be mailed or emailed by the appraisers independently of the application for the deadline. In rare instances where the appraiser has given their letter directly to the student they should be in a sealed envelope signed across the seal by the appraiser.

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

We understand that certain countries do not provide transcripts until completion of studies (many schools in Germany for instance). Please state this in your application and the requirement will be waived.

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 update the BCAC office with a copy of your acceptance when you receive it.

I have applied to more than one eligible program 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 plans change, update the BCAC office via email immediately to update your application (with the new syllabus and school information). 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 for studies commencing the following autumn. Revised guidelines and application forms are posted each year in February for 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 April program deadline is for semesters of study between the following summer of the current year and subsequent summer.

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).

Can I apply electronically or by email?

No. Currently applications can only be accepted by mail or delivered to the front security desk. We do accept appraisals directly from the appraiser and updates to applications (change of address, program etc.) via email.

Where do I submit my final report?

There is no final report required for the scholarship program. However, we do appreciate hearing from you about the progress of your studies.

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.

Are there any changes to the guidelines this year?

Yes. Guidelines and application forms are updated annually though there are no significant changes to the requirements this year. Please read the current documents for all the updated information about the Scholarship Awards Program and submit your application on current year forms.

I submitted a portfolio, what happens to it?

Due to the volume of applications, we are unable to return materials. For this reason we do not accept original work (even when a self-addressed stamped envelope is submitted). Please ensure you retain your own copy of materials submitted. Portfolio materials follow an in-house destruction schedule.

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.

How do I know if you have received my application?

Due to volume it may take up to 4 weeks after the deadline to acknowledge receipt of your application. Once your application has been entered into our system you will receive an email advising you of receipt, of your individual application number, and of any outstanding items. Make sure you check you spam filters and add 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 printout of your grades to date for the application deadline. When you have received your final grades you may update your application.

When do I find out the results?

Results are sent out in August 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 address details for you. Ensure you have added bcartscouncil@gov.bc.ca to your safe senders list.

How are the funds dispersed?

Funds are sent directly to the student to cover tuition and other student expenses. The Ministry of Finance will issue T4As to award recipients by the end of February.

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 at this time.

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

Yes. Applicants are able to 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 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 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 application can be updated at any time. Please send your updated address or any other file updates via email directly to the BC Arts Council.

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.