

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

Eligibility

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 [Determining BC Residency page](#). Please contact the BC Arts Council Scholarship program officer to discuss eligibility prior to application should you not fully meet these requirements or have any questions.

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

Yes. Please update the Scholarship program officer once you have confirmation of whether or not you've been accepted into the program

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 BC Arts Council 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.

What is considered full-time studies?

Full-time registration is determined by your institution. If you are uncertain of your status, check with the registrar's office at your institution.

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

No. Unfortunately, scholarship awards cannot be applied retroactively.

I am going into the last term of my program. Can I still apply?

Yes. You can still apply when you have only one full-time term to complete at the end of your studies. The maximum award for one full-time term of study is \$3,000.

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

Yes. Guidelines and application requirements are updated each year so be sure to read through the current guidelines before applying again.

Guidelines and Application Process

Are there any changes to the guidelines this year?

Yes. Guidelines and application forms are updated annually.

How does the reference letter process work?

The reference letter has a deadline of May 15th. These are confidential assessments and should be requested, by you, through the online application system. Your reference will automatically be sent an email from BC.ArtsCouncil.NoReply@gov.bc.ca and be prompted to create an online account (minimal information required). The reference can then fill out the reference form or upload their own letter and submit this through the system before May 15th. Applicants are able to check the status of the reference form submission in their online application.

The program states that the one letter of reference needs to be from either a current or recent instructor, or someone from the community. How should I select my reference?

Please select a reference who is familiar with your artistic practice and current work. This could include for example, a publisher, mentor, editor, or curator. Character references such as neighbours or family members are not appropriate.

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

An 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. Applicants are 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.

What is cultural appropriation ?

For the BC Arts Council, cultural appropriation is defined as **the use of material and immaterial cultures and goods that reinforce systemic barriers and inequitable conditions that have prevented certain communities from exercising cultural authority and drawing economic benefit through their own cultural heritage.**

If you are working with individuals or artistic materials and themes from communities outside your own lived experience, you will want to describe your relationship with the people from this community and any research you have done. You could describe your awareness around power dynamics, privilege and the history of the particular culture. The assessment panel will want to understand that you are respectful in your collaboration with the community(ies). This will include following appropriate protocols, and that you are including credit to any source material that you are using.

I do not have a résumé prepared. Is it required?

A résumé is required for Degree / Diploma applicants who are in their 3rd year and above. A résumé is basically a document that outlines your education, skills, work experience and accomplishments. There are lots of online resources that will help you format your resume if you are creating one for the first time. For the purposes of this Scholarship application, please make sure your résumé is uploaded as a pdf document, maximum of 2 pages.

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

The Contemporary Applied Arts field of practice is for applicants studying in visual design and functional craft degree and diploma programs with an independent artistic focus. Do note that architecture is not an eligible program.

Contemporary practice in craft ranges from the conceptual to the material and functional. Craft artists are asked to indicate if their application should be assessed by either the Visual Arts panel or the Contemporary Applied Arts panel depending on which one may be best suited to evaluate their work.

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

The assessment field of practice you select on your application will determine which panel will assess your application. Each panel is comprised of individuals with expertise in the respective field of practice.

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 panel can best assess your application:

- Will your work, including your support material and your intentions as an artist, be best assessed by a panel 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?

Portfolio**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 selection of portfolio materials for individual applications.

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

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

I've submitted a link to my portfolio, how long do you need it?

Links to materials must remain live until September to ensure they are available during the assessment period.

Scholarship Award Notification**How do I know if you have received my application?**

Once you have submitted your application you will receive an automated email acknowledging receipt. Make sure you check your spam filters and add BC.ArtsCouncil.NoReply@gov.bc.ca to your safe senders list.

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. Please keep your system profile up to date with your most current contact information and ensure you have added BC.ArtsCouncil.NoReply@gov.bc.ca to your safe senders list.

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 BC Arts Council office with your change in plans so that your award may be redistributed to another deserving applicant.

How are the funds disbursed?

Funds are sent in one or two instalment(s) directly to the student. The Ministry of Finance will issue T4A tax forms to award recipients by the end of February in the year following application submission.

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

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

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 you over the phone.

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, Culture and Sport:

See [Ministry Contacts](#).

We would also appreciate it if you could share news about your Scholarship with us via social media, tagging our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

- <https://www.facebook.com/BritishColumbiaArtsCouncil>
- <https://twitter.com/BCArtsCouncil>

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 (April 30) 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 BC Arts Council office with any questions about eligibility. Unfortunately, once the deadline has passed there are no other opportunities to apply that year.