

# MATTINSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

## GUIDELINES

### 2016-2017

#### 1- OBJECTIVE

To encourage Canadian students with permanent disabilities to pursue university studies with the ultimate objective of obtaining a first undergraduate degree. Member institutions may only submit one nomination. A list of member universities is available [here](#).

#### 2- NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

- Up to four (4) scholarships, distributed as follows:
  - 1 in the category of *Physical Disability*;
  - 1 in the category of *Sensory Disability*;
  - 2 in any of the following categories: *Physical Disability*, *Sensory Disability*, *Mental Health Disability* and *Learning Disability*

\*Please see appendix A for definitions of each disability listed above.

#### 3- VALUE AND DURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

- \$2,000 CAD for a bachelor degree program, tenable for one academic year.

#### 4- TYPE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

- Applicable towards full-time studies for nominees who will have second or third year standing in a first bachelor degree program in September 2016.

#### 5- REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

##### a) **Nominee**

Eligible nominees must:

- be Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada;
- be diagnosed with a permanent disability which is documented and is the primary disability for which they are applying.

N.B. "A permanent disability is a permanent functional limitation resulting from physical, sensory or mental health impairment or a learning disability which affects the ability of the student to perform the activities necessary to participate fully in postsecondary learning".

##### b) **Academic**

Eligible nominees must have:

- a minimum cumulative average of 80% (or equivalent) over the last three semesters of available marks \*;
- non-academic courses such as career or personal development related courses will not be considered.



\*Universities Canada's policy on calculation of average has been developed in consultation with university and college admissions and financial aid officers from across the country. There is enormous diversity amongst the applicants for this scholarship program. The applicants come from different geographical regions and have reached various levels of studies. Furthermore, and of great significance, is the fact that the grading systems differ among educational institutions. It is Universities Canada's policy to calculate the academic average of applicants so that it reflects an academically well-rounded individual, while recognizing the differences in the programs of studies. For this purpose, the most recent, followed by the highest available grades in the following categories will be considered: Language, Social Sciences, Mathematics and Sciences. Six courses are chosen for each applicant, with no more than two in each category. If there are not enough available courses, the calculation of academic average may be based on five or four courses.

**c) Nomination form and Supporting Documents**

Eligible nominees must provide:

- a duly completed nomination form;
- an official transcript of the last three terms of available marks, that is, marks for the period of September 2014 to December 2015. If you were not enrolled in school during this time, please provide marks for the last three available terms;

**NB:** A transcript will be considered acceptable only if it meets the following criteria:

- 1- It is presented on the official paper of the institution;
- 2- It bears the appropriate signature(s) and/or seal of the institution;
- 3- Photocopies or electronic transcripts will not be accepted.

Home school grades will only be accepted if they have been validated through a recognized independent evaluation process.

- two signed reference letters with the references' original signatures (one from a teacher and one from a person familiar with their volunteer/community involvement and/or extracurricular activities). The reference letters must come from two separate individuals and must be typewritten on letterhead, signed and include the reference's contact information;
- a 250-word essay describing their volunteer/community involvement and/or extracurricular activities and their future goals;
- the Universities Canada form listing list of activities related to your volunteer/community involvement and/or extracurricular activities (page 2 of the nomination form);
- nominee email address (on first page of nomination);
- the nomination form completed and signed by a representative of the nominee's university disabilities' center.

**PLEASE NOTE: If any of the above requirements are not met, your nomination will be considered incomplete.**

## 6- FIELD OF STUDY / PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- No restrictions on the program of study or discipline;
- Program must be of a minimum three year duration.

## 7- ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

- Canadian educational institutions which have recognized provincial degree-granting powers, or their affiliates.

## 8- CONDITIONS / RESTRICTIONS

- a) Depending on the curriculum, an Applied Bachelor Program may be considered as a university level program

## 9- SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- a) Selection of winners is made by a committee of experts chosen by Universities Canada
- b) Evaluation criteria:
  - Academic performance;
  - Volunteer/community involvement and/or extracurricular activities;
  - Quality and relevance of the reference letters;
- c) Selection Committee's decision is irrevocable.

## 10- RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Return the signed *Scholarship Acceptance Form* provided by Universities Canada;
- Send proof of registration from the educational institution you will be attending;
- Use the scholarship in the academic year for which it is awarded;
- Keep Universities Canada informed of any changes to your contact information including email.

## 11- PAYMENT

- Universities Canada will forward payment of the scholarship to the student;
- Payment will be made in two instalments - one for each regular academic semester.

## 12- SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Universities Canada administers the scholarship program. Universities Canada's mandate is to facilitate the development of public policy on higher education and to encourage cooperation among universities and governments, industry, communities, and institutions in other countries. Universities Canada is associated with leading firms in nearly every sector of the economy through its provision of scholarship services and management of more than 130 different scholarships programs on behalf of corporations, government agencies and private foundations throughout North America. For additional information, please visit [www.univcan.ca](http://www.univcan.ca).

## 13- NOMINATION PROCEDURES

### Paper Nomination:

- Postmarked paper nomination must be sent to Universities Canada no later than **MAY 16, 2016**. All supporting documentation must follow by mail, as outlined in the Candidate's Checklist on page 5 of the nomination form.

**IMPORTANT:** You are responsible for ensuring that the post office postmarks your envelope by the due date. It is recommended that you send your application by registered mail or courier, to ensure the package can be tracked. Your application will be acknowledged in a letter once it

has been received and processed by Universities Canada. To ensure that all supporting documents have been received and accepted, visit [www.univcan.ca/scholarships](http://www.univcan.ca/scholarships) to review your scholarship application information. To access your account, you will require your Account Number, which will be provided in your acknowledgement letter.

Further information and an application form may be requested directly from Universities Canada at the address noted below:

| Please mail your documents to:  | Contact Us:  |
|---|--|
| Higher Education Scholarships<br>Universities Canada<br>Ref: <b>Mattinson Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities</b><br>1710-350 Albert Street<br>Ottawa ON K1R 1B1 | Tel.: (613) 563-1236<br>Toll free: 1-844-567-1237<br>Fax: (613) 563-9745<br>E-mail: <a href="mailto:awards@univcan.ca">awards@univcan.ca</a> |

#### 14- CONTINUATION

Universities Canada retains the right to change and/or end the sponsorship of the scholarship plan without notice.

**Physical Disability:** There are many types and degrees of physical disabilities, and while people who use mobility aids like wheelchairs, scooters, crutches or canes are most recognizable, it is important to consider that not all people with physical disabilities require a mobility device. People who have arthritis, heart or lung conditions or amputations may also have difficulty with stamina, moving, standing, sitting or the ability to reach or grasp.

**Sensory Disability:** These include vision loss, deafness and hearing loss, and speech disabilities.

**Mental Health Disability:** A disability which refers to a number of mental health disorders, such as major depressive disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia. The impact of a disorder in the academic setting will be, for the most part, unique to the individual. Mental illness is a disturbance in thoughts and emotions that may decrease a person's capacity to cope with the challenges of everyday life. Mental illness can take many forms, just as physical illness does. Mental illnesses include schizophrenia, mood disorders (such as depression and bipolar disorder), anxiety disorders, personality disorders, and eating disorders.

**Learning Disability:** A neurologically-based, specific impairment in information processing in the presence of *at least* average cognitive ability, which results in unexpected academic under-achievement, or academic achievement that is maintained only by unusually high levels of effort and support. It affects the acquisition, organization, retention, understanding or use of verbal or non-verbal information, which in turn affects performance in reading, writing or math, and in some cases, social and organizational skills.

**Sources:**

[www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)

<http://www.mcass.gov.on.ca/en/mcass/publications/accessibility/campaignOffices/understanding.a.spx>