

OpenCircle Scholarship Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: I am an employee enrolled in trades school with an OpenCircle Member Company. Can I apply for an OpenCircle Scholarship?

A: No – the OpenCircle Scholarship is only available to dependent children of OpenCircle Member employees under age 25.

Q: I have been accepted into an eligible post-secondary institution for next year. Can I apply for an OpenCircle Scholarship this year?

A: To be eligible for an OpenCircle Scholarship, you must be actively attending post-secondary studies during the current scholastic window, so you would not qualify this year. However, we encourage you to apply once you start your studies.

Q: What counts as proof of enrollment?

A: Proof of enrollment is a document from your post-secondary institution that confirms that you are actively enrolled in studies for the current period and shows the school's information identifies you as the student. Examples include a confirmation of enrollment letter, a copy of your class schedule (with your information clearly visible on the class schedule), or unofficial transcripts. ***We do not accept: Invoices, acceptance letters, admission offers, email confirmations from the institution, or trades cards as proof of enrollment.***

Q: Why do you need my Social Insurance Number (SIN)?

A: If you are awarded a scholarship, OpenCircle must report it to the CRA and issue you a T4a for the award. To do this, your SIN is required, so we cannot issue you a scholarship without your SIN. If you are uncomfortable with providing your SIN on the application form, then our team can take it verbally over the phone with you. Just include a request for our team to call you to collect your SIN when you submit your application.

Q: What if I don't have my proof of enrollment?

A: The application cannot be accepted without verification of enrollment from your educational institution. Most schools will provide a letter showing proof of enrollment, and most students have access to their class schedules online.

Q: When do I apply for the scholarship?

A: Application intake begins November 1, 2024. Application submission deadline is February 28, 2025.

Q: How do I apply for the scholarship?

A: You apply by completing the application form found on the OpenCircle website at opencircle.ca. Once completed, please email the required documents to scholarship@opencircle.ca.

Q: My spouse is an OpenCircle employee – can I apply for the scholarship?

A: The scholarship is only available to dependent children of OpenCircle employees.

Q: My post-secondary institution is not in Canada, but I live in Canada. Can I still apply for the scholarship?

A: No – the scholarships are only available to students attending a post-secondary institution in Canada.

Q: How do I know if my school is a designated educational institution?

A: Please refer to the Government of Canada's list of designated schools through Employment and Social Development Canada.

Q: I am in a trades program; can I still apply for the scholarship?

A: Yes, students enrolled in a trades program are eligible to apply for a scholarship if the applicant and school meet the eligibility criteria.

Q: Can I apply for the scholarship if I've received one before?

A: No – if you have already received an OpenCircle scholarship in the past, you cannot receive another.

Q: When will I find out if I am a recipient of the OpenCircle scholarship?

A: Successful applicants will be sent a letter and cheque in late April 2025. If you would like to check on the status of your application, please email our team at scholarship@opencircle.ca.

Q: What do I write in my personal statement?

A: Tell us about your career goals and ambitions as well as what it would mean to you to receive this award.

Q: Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

A: Please email us at scholarship@opencircle.ca with any questions you have.