



Financial Aid and Awards INFORMATION FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS

WELCOME!

Whether you are entering your first year of university or graduating with a degree, we realize financial matters are important to you. Concordia University of Edmonton (CUE) is committed to helping you develop a financial plan so you can realize your academic goals. Each year our Financial Aid and Awards Office works with students and their families to help make their CUE education more affordable. We can assist you in navigating through the financial aid process and work with you to identify grants, loans and scholarship opportunities.

WHAT IS A SCHOLARSHIP?

A scholarship is a non-repayable monetary award based on academic merit and/or non-academic criteria such as community service and leadership.

WHAT IS A BURSARY?

A bursary is a non-repayable monetary award based on financial need.

WHAT IS A STUDENT LOAN?

A student loan is government funding designed to help students pay for university tuition, books, and living expenses. This financial assistance comes in the form of loans and grants to post-secondary students who demonstrate financial need. Loans are repayable forms of assistance. Grants are non-repayable forms of assistance.

WHAT IS A STUDENT LINE OF CREDIT?

A line of credit is a loan set up with your banking institution to help cover the cost of tuition, books and living expenses. Contact your banking institution for full details.

WHAT IS SPONSORSHIP?

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)'s Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) provides financial assistance to First Nations and eligible Inuit students who are enrolled in eligible post-secondary programs. First Nation students that are affiliated with a band can apply directly to their band for sponsorship. Post-secondary students who are not eligible for sponsorship due to having regained status as a result of Bill C-31 can apply to Freehorse Family Wellness Society.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIPS

University Entrance Scholarship (no application required)

A scholarship awarded to high school students entering their first year of post-secondary study in Arts, Management, or Science with a 75% or higher awards average. Scholarships vary in value according to the applicant's award average (\$1,000 to \$5,000). This scholarship is renewable for four years, or until the completion of your first degree. Automatic consideration is given to those who apply for admission by April 1st.

University Transfer Scholarship (no application required)

Students who transfer to CUE with a minimum 24 university-level transferable credits may be eligible for a one-time \$1,500 scholarship. Students must present a minimum 3.5 or higher admission GPA and be working toward the completion of their first baccalaureate degree program. Automatic consideration for those who apply for admission by June 1st.

In-Course Scholarship (no application required)

High achieving students who did not receive a University Entrance Scholarship when they began their studies at CUE are automatically considered for a \$1,500 In-Course Scholarship at the end of their first year of study. Recipients must be working toward the completion of their first baccalaureate degree in an Arts, Management, or Science degree program; be registered in a minimum of 12 credits each semester in the qualifying year; and earn a minimum overall GPA of 3.5 or higher. Recipients cannot simultaneously hold a University Entrance Scholarship.

CUE Scholarships (online application)

This annual competitive includes numerous donor funded scholarships for students who demonstrate scholastic achievement, volunteer/community service, leadership qualities, and/or financial need. Some awards are program-specific. The online application, available through Online Services for Students/Requests, opens in November and closes January 15th. A reference letter is required to complete the application. Cash awards are presented annually in winter term.

Concordia Bursary Program (online application)

Full-time undergraduate students experiencing financial difficulties while attending CUE may apply for a bursary to supplement their existing funds using the online bursary application through Online Services for Students/Requests. The fall term deadline is October 15th and the winter term deadline is February 1st. Students may apply only once in an academic year.

Athletic Awards

CUE offers athletic scholarships to student athletes who compete on a designated Concordia Thunder Athletic team. In addition to the normal academic requirements, recipients must actively participate in all team functions, display a commendable work ethic, be positive team leaders, and exemplify appropriate behavior at all times. CUE also holds competitions for the Tom Austin Athletic Sportsmanship Award, Edmonton Oil Kings Jr. Hockey Club Award, and the Maple Leaf Athletic Club Scholarship.

Métis Scholar Award (online application)

A \$2,500 bursary to help alleviate the cost of tuition and learning resources and to encourage the post-secondary achievement of full-time Métis undergraduate students while attending CUE. Recipients must be enrolled full-time in any year of an undergraduate degree program at CUE and display academic merit. Preference will be given to those who are not receiving the Indigenous Careers Award and who demonstrate financial need.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS THROUGH ALBERTA STUDENT AID

The Alberta Government through Alberta Student Aid, and in partnership with post-secondary institutions and other community organizations, offers a suite of scholarships and awards to encourage and reward the excellence of Alberta students. Visit www.studentaid.alberta.ca for full details and criteria for each award.

Alexander Rutherford Scholarship for High School Achievement

Recognizes and rewards academic achievement at the senior high school level and encourages Alberta students to pursue post-secondary studies. We encourage you to talk to your high school counselor for details! The online application opens in August on the Alberta Student Aid website.

Alberta Athletic Award

Recognizes and rewards athletic excellence at the post-secondary institutions in Alberta. Paper applications will be provided by coaches in fall term.

Indigenous Careers Award

The Indigenous Careers Award is an award designed to increase access and participation of Alberta Indigenous post-secondary students and encourage them to continue and complete their studies. The award is made possible through Government of Alberta funding. Value: \$4000 (\$2000/semester).

Jason Lang Scholarship

An annual \$1,000 award to students who display outstanding academic achievement. Recipients must have completed a minimum of 80% of a full-course load and achieved a minimum Session GPA of 3.2 in their qualifying year. Recipients must also be Alberta residents and continuing full-time in the second or subsequent year of their undergraduate program at a recognized post-secondary institution in Alberta. CUE's Financial Aid and Awards office will identify eligible students after the end of winter session and invite them to apply.

Languages in Teacher Education Scholarship

An annual \$2,500 award to a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Education (After Degree) program who displays superior academic achievement. The recipient must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident and a resident of Alberta, registered full time, and have taken language courses, other than English, or have a language background such upon graduation s/he would be able to teach that language. Students must submit the application form and supporting documentation directly to Alberta Student Aid.

Louise McKinney Scholarship

An annual \$2,500 award to students who display superior academic achievement. The recipients must have completed a minimum of 80% of a full-course load and achieved a minimum Session GPA of 3.7 in their qualifying year. Recipients must also be Alberta residents and continuing full time in the second or subsequent year of their undergraduate program at a recognized post-secondary institution in Alberta. CUE's Financial Aid and Awards office will identify eligible students after the end of winter session and invite them to apply based on our quota for the year.

Lois Hole Humanities and Social Sciences Scholarship

An \$5,000 award offered annually to a continuing undergraduate student in the Faculty of Arts who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership skills and active community service. In honor of Lois Hole, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta from February 2000 to January 2005, the scholarship recognizes student leadership and community service which exemplify the principles the late Lieutenant Governor believed and lived. Recipients must also be Alberta residents and continuing full-time in the second or subsequent year of their undergraduate program.

Laurence Decore Awards for Student Leadership

Four annual \$1,000 awards to undergraduate students who have demonstrated commitment and leadership in student government, student societies, clubs or organizations, student organizations at the provincial or national level, or non-profit community organizations. Recipients must have been enrolled full-time in the current academic year and be a resident of Alberta. Application forms are submitted to the Financial Aid and Awards office.

Dr. Gary McPherson Leadership Scholarship

Two annual \$2,000 awards to students (undergraduate or graduate) who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, especially in the area of disability, and/or initiative to improve the conditions and lives of all people, while attending post-secondary studies in Alberta. The recipient must have been enrolled full-time in the current academic year and be living in Alberta. This award is open to non-Albertans who are living in the province to attend university.

GOVERNMENT STUDENT LOANS & GRANTS

Government Student Loans and Grants help eligible students with the cost of a post-secondary education. If you are receiving Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada/Band funds, you can still apply for Government Student Loans should you require additional funding. You will, however, need to declare these funds as a resource on your application. If you declare your Indigenous status on your original application, you are exempt from the federal student contribution and your eligibility for federal student aid may increase.

If you are a resident of Alberta, you can apply for government funding online at studentaid.alberta.ca. If you live outside of Alberta, look into applying for government funding through your home province or territory.

CUE's financial aid advisors are here to help you navigate the application process, maintenance and repayment of your student loans. Contact us at finaid@concordia.ab.ca or visit us in HA120.

OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Concordia University of Edmonton students may be eligible to apply for award opportunities offered through external organizations. These awards are competitive as they may be offered to post-secondary students attending universities across Alberta or Canada and are not administered by Concordia University of Edmonton. Applications or requests for more information must be submitted directly to the organization administering the award.

External Awards for Indigenous Students

- Aboriginal Education Partnership Program - Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc.
- Aboriginal Student Business Award (CPA)
- Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards – Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
- Alberta Blue Cross 50th Anniversary Scholarship for Aboriginal Students
- Alex Tutschek FCPA FCA Award for Indigenous Student Post-Secondary Achievement (CPA foundation)
- Alex Tutschek FCPA FCA Award for Mature Indigenous Students
- Alliance Pipeline Aboriginal Student Awards
- AltaLink Indigenous Scholarship Program
- Art L'Hirondelle Scholarship
- ATCO Indigenous Education Awards
- Belcourt Brosseau Metis Awards
- Canada Post Aboriginal Education Incentive Awards

External Awards for Indigenous Students (continued)

- Cenovus Energy Aboriginal Scholarship
- ConocoPhillips Indigenous Awards Program
- Crowe MacKay No Limits Award
- Delia Gray Memorial Scholarship
- Forest Products Association of Canada Skills Awards for Aboriginal Youth
- Husky Energy's Scholarship Program for Indigenous Students
- Indspire Post-Secondary Education Awards
- KPMG's Indigenous Student Awards
- National Union of Public and General Employees Scholarship for Indigenous Students
- Pearl Calahasen Scholarship
- Repsol Canada Indigenous Award
- Sam Bull Memorial Scholarship
- Senator James Gladstone Memorial Scholarship
- The Gary Pruden Scholarship
- The Honourable Pearl Calahasen Scholarship
- TransCanada Indigenous Legacy Scholarship
- TransAlta's Aboriginal Bursary Program

Websites

www.indspire.ca — Indspire is a national Indigenous-led registered charity that invests in the education of Indigenous people for the long term benefit of these individuals, their families and communities, and Canada.

www.sac-isc.gc.ca — Government of Canada Indigenous Bursary Search Tool

www.rupertsland.org — Rupertsland Institute Higher Learning Completion Program — Financial support for post-secondary tuition, books/supplies and a living allowance for the final two semesters.

HOW TO REACH US

We are dedicated to your success! Our financial aid advisors are here to help. We encourage you to talk to us about any questions or concerns you may have.

In-Person: (Monday–Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm)

We are conveniently located on the main floor of the Hole Academic Centre in Student & Enrolment Services, HA 120, just down the hall from the Bookstore.

By Email: finaid@concordia.ab.ca

By Phone: 780.479.9220 or toll-free 1.866.479.5200

Staff

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