

Knowledge First Financial Graduate Scholarship Awards | Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Knowledge First Financial Graduate Scholarship Awards?

The Knowledge First Financial Graduate Scholarship Awards are available to students who are entering first year of a full-time graduate program, leading to a certificate, degree or diploma. Knowledge First offers these awards as a tangible way of supporting students who wish to pursue their education at the graduate level.

I am a beneficiary of a Heritage Plans. Am I eligible to apply for a graduate scholarship?

Beneficiaries of the Heritage Plans and Heritage Education Savings Plans (distributed by Heritage Education Funds International) are eligible to apply for a graduate scholarship. These applicants will be considered for one of five scholarships designated for Knowledge First Financial beneficiaries (the Arnold Edinborough Award for \$25,000 or one of four (\$) scholarships valued at \$10,000 each).

What qualifications are required to apply?

Winners will be selected based on strong record of academic achievement balanced with well-rounded extra-curricular activities as demonstrated by involvement in athletics, volunteer/paid work experience or other types of community involvement.

What documents do I need to submit with my application?

After completing the online application, you will be able to upload all 5 of the following documents. They will all need to be received before the deadline (May 27, 2019 11:59PM) in order for your application to be submitted and accepted:

1. **Personal Statement** (350-400 words)
2. **Resume** (No page limit)
3. **Transcript** (Unofficial transcripts are accepted, but you may be asked to submit an official transcript in order to receive an award)
4. **Reference Letter #1** (350-word limit academic reference; additional words may be disregarded)
5. **Reference Letter #2** (350-word limit non-academic reference; additional words may be disregarded)

You may be required to submit additional documents if you are selected as an award recipient or finalist (e.g. proof of enrolment).

How are scholarship recipients selected?

Applications will be evaluated by a judging panel comprised of experienced professionals from the education and business sectors, under the guidance of ScholarshipsCanada.com and Knowledge First Financial. Each component of the application – personal statement, academic achievement, resume or curriculum vitae, and references – will be carefully considered. When making final selections more weight will be given to the personal statement, resume/CV, and reference letters.

How do I apply and when is the deadline?

Students who wish to apply for a Knowledge First Financial Graduate Scholarship Award can submit their application online at knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com. Completed applications must be submitted by May 27, 2019 11:59PM.

Is there a cost to apply?

To apply online, students must create a free student account with knowledge-first-financial.scholarshipscanada.com. Applicants are responsible for incidental costs such as postage. Potential recipients may be asked to provide original documents and are responsible for any associated costs (e.g. official transcript).

What if I am unable to apply online?

Online applications are the preferred method for submitting and students are encouraged to contact ScholarshipsCanada.com at application@scholarshipscanada.com for assistance. In the event you cannot submit an online application, applications can be sent by mail or email. Mailed applications must be sent to 67 Mowat Ave. Suite 533, Toronto, ON M6K 3E3. Emailed applications must be sent to application@scholarshipscanada.com and received no later than the end date for submissions. Mail and email submissions must include the subject line "Knowledge First Graduate Scholarship Awards". Incomplete applications will not be considered for awards. For further details on the email/mail submission process, please contact application@scholarshipscanada.com.

I started my first year of Graduate Studies; can I still apply for the award?

Yes, you can still apply if you **received your offer of acceptance after June 10th, 2018**. It does not matter when you accepted the offer, only when you **received** the offer.

*If you fall into this category, please include your dated offer letter in your application.

I am attending a graduate program outside of Canada. Can I still apply?

For a complete list of eligible schools, please consult the Employment and Social Development [List of Designated Educational Institutions](#) or one that is [recognized by Knowledge First](#).

Am I able to receive the award in alternate currencies?

The Knowledge First Financial graduate scholarships are awarded in Canadian dollars. Graduate scholarship recipients who are beneficiaries of a Heritage Education Savings Plans distributed by Heritage Education Funds International will receive an equivalent in US dollars, based on the exchange rate at the time the award is made.

What constitutes proof of enrolment?

Proof of enrolment is a document sent from your school on official letter head stating that you are enrolled in your graduate program. If your school does not provide this type of documentation, an alternative would be to provide proof that you have paid a deposit to hold your seat in the program. If your school does not require a deposit, please include your offer letter and proof that you have accepted entrance into your postgraduate program.

What should I include in my personal statement?

Focus on the experiences that inspired the decision to pursue your field of study and what your career goals are. Provide examples that will help the judging panel learn more about you and your accomplishments, beyond your academic achievements and resume/CV.

What constitutes an official transcript?

An official transcript is one that is stamped and put into a sealed envelope by your school. You may upload a copy of this document with your application. If you are selected as a potential winner, you may be required to provide this document.

What are your requirements for the references?

You must have known your references for at least one year. One of your references must be academic. The other reference letter must be non-academic; someone who knows your accomplishments in the area of athletics/sports, volunteer/paid work experience, or other types of community engagement activities. Please do not include personal references from family members and or friends. Please make sure to remind your references to provide contact information as he or she may be contacted by the selection committee.

When will recipients be selected?

Decisions regarding potential Scholarship recipients made in June 2019 and potential Scholarship recipients before the end of June 2019.

If I am selected as a recipient but decide to delay the start of the studies, am I able to defer my scholarship to a later date?

Graduate scholarships cannot be differed but any student in this situation can withdraw their application or decline the award. These students can re-apply for future graduate scholarships provided the other application criteria are met.