

SCHOLARSHIPS



SCHOLARSHIPS: TOP TIPS

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University can be a really expensive experience, but scholarships can really ease that financial burden, saving you a few thousand dollars. For your best chances at earning scholarships, here are a few tips ...

1. **Before you start** on applications, **make yourself a huge list**, of all the different things you've done. I begun this by going through the application forms for a bunch of different scholarships to get a feel for the kind of things they're looking for. I discovered they most commonly look for **academic achievements, community contributions, leadership, and sports or arts experience**. So I split my list into these different sections and under each, wrote down absolutely everything I could think of that I'd done. My best advice here would be don't do it in one sitting - write things you can think of and come back to it because you won't be able to remember everything at once. If you feel the need to, you could do what I did and have several attempts at writing a few different lists. That way, each time I did it, different things popped into mind.

2. **Read through the application several times before applying** (where possible) and plan your responses. You want to squeeze as much info in there as possible and planning will help you do so. May take a little time but it'll be worth it.

3. **Just apply!** You'll hear this one a lot, but it's true. You don't know how many people may be applying for a certain scholarship, and how good your chances may be. I heard so many people last year saying the process was too long and they just couldn't be bothered. Yes, if you miss out, you've wasted a bit of time. But, if you invest a few hours into applying, you may walk away with several thousand dollars.

4. **Don't be shy to sell yourself** - it can feel weird but have the confidence to highlight you and everything you've done. Let them know why they should be choosing you as the recipient over anyone else. And similar to this, **back yourself**. I remember doubting myself and wondered if I would even be considered. But don't ever let that stop you.

5. Finally, where you need a reference, **give the person plenty of time**. Teachers will be crazy writing a ton of references, so the more time you allow, the better.