

Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Program

*for Nova Scotia Students
Studying at Nova Scotia Universities*

On March 31, 2008, the Province of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Universities signed a three year (April 2008 - March 2011) Memorandum of Understanding on funding and tuition fees. As a result, tuition will be frozen over the term of the MOU, to the benefit of all students studying at Nova Scotia universities. In addition, the Province has established a Nova Scotia University Student Bursary Program for Nova Scotia students studying at Nova Scotia universities, and, in 2010-11, for Canadian students from outside Nova Scotia studying at Nova Scotia universities.

For students from Nova Scotia, the Bursary will provide a per-student benefit of \$761 in 2008-09; \$1,022 in 2009-10 and \$1,283 in 2010-11, based on a full-course load over two semesters. Also, in 2010-11, Canadian students from outside Nova Scotia will benefit from a Bursary of \$261.

1. Who qualifies for the Bursary?

You must be a Nova Scotia student studying at a Nova Scotia university. You can be a full-time or part-time student, in an undergraduate or graduate program, taking all of your classes on campus, via distance education, or in a co-op program. The following questions and answers provide more details about students in specific situations.

2. How much lower will my tuition be in September 2008?

It is not possible to list all the billing scenarios that exist among the eleven universities in Nova Scotia. The following examples are common billing scenarios.

At universities where tuition is charged on a per course basis, the Bursary will be \$76.10 per three-credit hour (one semester) course. At universities where tuition fees are based on full-time / part-time status, the Bursary will be \$761 for a full-time student and \$380.50 for a part-time student.

3. What is the definition of a “Nova Scotia student”?

You are considered to be a Nova Scotia student if you have a student loan from the Province of Nova Scotia. Only Nova Scotia residents can receive student loans from the Province of Nova Scotia.

If you do not have a student loan, and you entered university immediately after completing high school, you are considered a resident of the province where you last attended high school. If you last attended a high school in Nova Scotia, you are considered a Nova Scotia student (this does not apply to students on international study permits).

If you did not enter university immediately after completing high school, you are considered a resident of the province where you lived when you applied for admission to the university you are attending. This does not apply to students on international study permits or to students receiving student loan funding from a province other than Nova Scotia; neither of these student groups would be considered Nova Scotia residents and they would therefore not be eligible for the Nova Scotia University Student Bursary.

4. I didn't get the Bursary but I think I qualify.

First of all, speak with the appropriate officials at your university. Their records may show you as not being a Nova Scotia student. If you and your university cannot agree on your eligibility for the Bursary, contact the **Student Financial Assistance Office at the Department of Education** (424-8420 in metro Halifax or 1-800-565-8420, toll-free in Canada). The Department of Education will confirm whether you are eligible and, if so, will recommend that you receive the Bursary.

5. I am in my second (or third or fourth or fifth...) year of studies at a Nova Scotia university. Although I came here from another province (or country), I have lived here more than a year. I even have a Nova Scotia driver's licence. Why am I not considered a Nova Scotia student?

See the earlier definition of a Nova Scotia student outlined in Q&A number 3 above.

6. When will I receive my Bursary cheque?

The Bursary will be applied directly to your university tuition fees. Cheques will not be issued. Students will see the Bursary credit on their tuition invoice for each semester they are registered. For students taking five courses in both Fall and Winter semesters, the Bursary credit for each semester will be \$380.50, for a total of \$761.00.

7. I am taking non-credit courses at university. Will I receive the Bursary?

Only credit programs qualify for the Bursary. Some programs require students to complete one or more non-credit courses; in the case of these mandatory non-credit courses, the individual universities will determine if tuition will be reduced.

8. What about teachers in practicums? Continuing Studies? Thesis-Only students? Co-op students?

Continuing Studies, Thesis-Only, Co-op students and teachers in practicums are eligible. Their Bursary will be prorated, based on the amount of tuition they pay compared to a full-time student enrolled in comparable studies.

9. I am a Nova Scotian student registered and paying tuition at a Nova Scotian university but I am studying abroad. Will I qualify for the Bursary?

Yes.

10. I am a full-time student at one university and I have a letter of permission to take a course at another university. Will I receive the Bursary from each university?

This depends on where you pay tuition fees. The institution to which you pay tuition fees will issue you the Bursary. If you pay tuition fees to each university, you should receive a prorated Bursary from each university.

11. Which semesters qualify for Bursaries?

Bursaries are available for the Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer semesters.

12. Will Nova Scotia Community College or private career college students receive the Bursary?

The Bursary program is only available to university students.

13. Will the Bursary affect my income tax?

Based on current Canada Revenue Agency rules, “the full amount of scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries that are received by you as a student with respect to your enrolment in a program that entitles you to claim the education amount **are not taxable** and are no longer reported as income on your tax return.” However, universities are still required to report tuition paid (via the T2202A form) and the amounts of scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries over \$500 (via the T4A form) to the Canada Revenue Agency. The T4A form requires the students’ social insurance number.

If you have additional questions, please contact the appropriate officials at your university. If they cannot answer your question, contact the Student Financial Assistance Office at the Nova Scotia Department of Education (424-8420 in metro Halifax or 1-800-565-8420, toll-free in Canada).