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## Scholarship Programs: Does Your Employer Have One?

February 17, 2016 By [Glenda Healy](#)



Did you know that **the workplace can be a great place to look for scholarships**? Many large companies and corporations believe in investing in education and one of the ways they do so is by sponsoring scholarships.

### Full time employees

Many employers (banks, retail chain stores, oil companies, etc.) offer scholarships to their employees and their family members as part of their benefit package. But some places that offer scholarships aren't so obvious. Also, many scholarships are based on academic merit, but not all. Check with your boss, Human Resources, or the company handbook about any available scholarships.

Here are a few examples of company-sponsored scholarships:

#### Costco Wholesale Canada Ltd.

Scholarship Program for employees or children of employees  
Amount: up to a maximum of \$2500 per year for tuition and fees

#### Keurig Canada

Scholarship Program for employees' children who are pursuing, or plan to

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pursue, an undergraduate or graduate education

Amount: up to twenty scholarships

### Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)

The RBC Scholarship Program for the Children of Employees

Amount: one hundred \$2500 scholarships

### Unions

And don't forget to inquire if your union offers scholarships (if you belong to one!)

### Canada Employment and Immigration Union (CEIU)

National Scholarships for members in good standing of the CEIU, their spouse, their common-law spouse and/or their dependant(s)

Amount: five to fifteen \$1000 National Scholarships

### National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE)

Scholarship program for the children, grandchildren, or foster children of National Union members

Amount: four \$1500 scholarships

### United Food & Commercial Workers (UFCW) Canada

BDM Scholarship Program: Applicant must be a UFCW Canada member, or a dependant/spouse of a UFCW Canada member; you don't have to be an A+ student.

Amount: eighteen \$1,000 scholarships

### Part-time employees

Scholarships are available not only for full time employees but for part-time workers as well. In fact, **many of the employers who regularly hire students offer scholarships** (think fast food restaurants and grocery stores).

Usually there is a requirement that the student must have had to work there for approximately four-six months. Also, you will more than likely need to have a recommendation from your employer; hopefully, this will lead to you being an even better employee because you want to make a good impression for that recommendation! A win for both sides!

**Receiving a scholarship from your workplace looks great on a resumé and it is also advantageous on other scholarship applications.** It shows not only that you are deserving of a scholarship, but also that you are a great employee!

### McDonald's

McDonald's is one of Canada's leading youth employers. It has a long-standing scholarship program as a way of recognizing and rewarding restaurant employees for their achievements at work, at school and in their communities. Consult the owner/operator or restaurant manager of your local

restaurant for more information about the program.

### Sobeys Inc.

The Sobeys & Empire Work Experience & Scholarship Program (including franchisees and affiliates such as *Foodland*, *FreshCo*, *IGA*, *Lawton's Drugs*, *Safeway*, *Thrifty Foods*, etc.) awards numerous scholarships each year to employees across Canada, including the Future Leader Awards which includes financial support and summer internship employment opportunities. In total, these scholarships support over 75 employees with financial awards of more than \$120,000 currently.

### Tim Hortons

The Team Tim Hortons Scholarship Program is offered to restaurant employees, their children or grandchildren. Speak to the restaurant owner or manager about the eligibility criteria to apply for a scholarship. Every year, a total of 220 scholarships across Canada and the United States are awarded, each valued at \$1,000.

**Check out the employee benefit package where YOU work! It could lessen your debt in that first year of postsecondary education!**

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