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Finding Scholarships Online

By Morgan D. James

Scholarships are not just for straight-A students or for athletes anymore. Each year, thousands of dollars of scholarship money goes unclaimed. Use the internet to find out what money you could earn.

Applying for college or university can be a daunting procedure by itself. Also applying for scholarships can seem like a monumental task. Applying for scholarships doesn't have to be painful. You can now find many scholarships on the internet.

Using the internet to find scholarships might not be painful, but it will still be time-consuming. You will probably have to fill out a profile at each site on which you want to search. It is in your best interest to fill out your profile as accurately and as painstakingly as possible. Choose as many options as you can so that you will be given as many matching scholarships as possible. This way, you can weed out the ones you don't think are worth it.

A simple way to find scholarships online is to google scholarships. This, however, isn't always going to take you to the most reputable sites. You will be taken to contest sites as well as scholarship sites.

The best way to find scholarships online is through a few reputable scholarship search engines.

studentawards.com

This is the best scholarship website out there. It has scholarships sorted by their availability in Canada, the US, and abroad.

scholarship.com

This scholarship site is worth checking out. Although not as extensive as studentawards.com, it is best to search for as many scholarships as you can.

scholarshipscanada.com

Finding Scholarships Online

This site is dedicated to Canadian students or students studying in Canada. It has tons of helpful information.

With all scholarship search engines, you will likely find that some scholarships require money to apply. Find out if that is worth it to you. Only send money if the scholarship is coming from a reputable source. Be sure to establish the difference between scholarships that are based on your merit and scholarships that are more like contests, or that are based on financial need. Any money is good money, but it's also nice to know why you deserve that money.

Other places to look online include cfuw.org (the Canadian Federation of University Women) and aaaw.org (the American Association of University Women). The Rotary Club (rotary.org) also offers scholarships. Are you involved in any national groups, such as scouting, a church, or a club? Check out their websites too for scholarships you might not even know existed.

Governments often offer quite large scholarships. Check out your municipal, state/provincial, and federal government website to see if there are any awards to which you can apply.

Another place to check for scholarships is with local public broadcasting. Go to cbc.ca or radiocanada.ca or pbs.org or npr.org and search for scholarships to see if there are any salient scholarships. The places to look for scholarships are endless. Often, you will find wonderful scholarships simply by signing up for search engines. Don't be afraid to sign up and take the time filling out the profile.

If you are a graduate student, it is time for you to start looking at getting grants instead of scholarships. You can find out how to apply for grants and fellowships by asking one of your professors. You will want to apply for grants in your field.

In the end, remember that it will take you hours to find and apply for pertinent scholarships. However, because in the end you will be earning hundreds or thousands of dollars, it only makes sense to spend more time now for earnings in the future.

The key to successful scholarship organization is to be organized. Get started early so that you won't have to scramble at the end of any application. Online is only one place to look for scholarships (and be sure to add the www. at the beginning of these web addresses!). You can also ask for at your school (and your prospective school's) office of student awards and financial aid. Don't be afraid to call around and ask for help. Online scholarship engines are a great way to start looking for scholarships, but they are certainly not the last step in obtaining funding for your education.

After you've checked out all of the scholarships available, find out how you can get the best student loans at

http://www.theguideto-studentloans.com/types_of_student_loans/

How To Search For A College Scholarship

By Garrick Banks

With thousands of scholarships available, the task of finding all of the scholarships that apply to you can be quite troublesome. Luckily, there are several ways you can go about efficiently finding all of the scholarships that apply to you.

In the United States athletic scholarships are largely regulated by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which sets minimum standards for both the individuals awarded the scholarships (in terms of GPA's and standardized test scores for recipients), and for the institutions granting them (in terms of the proportion of scholarship recipients who must ultimately earn degrees).

In 1973, the NCAA split its membership into three divisions: Division I, Division II and Division III. Under NCAA rules, Division I and Division II schools can offer scholarships to athletes for playing a sport. Division III schools may not offer any athletic scholarships. Generally, larger schools compete in Division I and smaller schools in II and III. Division I football is further divided into I-A and I-AA.

Ironically, institutions that engage in misconduct may be stripped of the ability to award a certain number of athletic scholarships. Although this damages the ability of that institution to compete in sporting events, the greater impact is on the ability of student athletes, who may lose their only avenue to higher education.

1. Financial Aid Office

The most obvious first place to start looking is the financial aid office of the school you are interested in. This office usually contains useful texts as well as consellers that can help to start you on your quest for scholarships and financial aid.

2. Internet Scholarship Search Sites

There are numerous web sites out there that will let you, for a small price, apply to all of the scholarships that you qualify for. After filling out a few forms and answering some common questions a list will appear and you can check off that ones you would like to apply to electronically.

For example, CollegeNets Mach 25 Search is a free version of the WintergreenOrchard House Scholarship Finder database. Although they don't allow you to electronically file for applications it is still a great listing of over half a million unique scholarships and over \$1 billion dollars is given to students annually.

3. Other Places You Can Try

– Bulletin board of the financial aid office – Admission office booklets and pamphlets – The athletic department and school team coaches – The library – High School Guidance Counselors

For more great scholarship related articles and resources check out

<http://123scholarships.info>



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