

Show Me The Money!

Step-by-step approach to
accessing **GRANTS** and
SERVICES



What Grants are available?

- Canada Access Grant
- Provincial Access Grant
- Canada Study Grant for the Accommodation of Students with Permanent Disabilities
- Goods Access Program

What Services are offered?

- Tutoring
- Note Taking
- Educational Assistant
- Assistive Technology
- Alternate Text Format

Canada Access Grant

- Grant came into effect on August 1, 2005 to increase accessibility to post-secondary education for students with disabilities
- Maximum amount of \$2,000 yearly

Provincial Access Grant

- Grant came into effect on August 1, 2005 to coincide with the Canada Access Grant to help reduce student loan debt
- Maximum amount of \$2,000 yearly

Canada Study Grant

- Grant was created to help support the accommodations or adaptive equipment needed by students with permanent disabilities attending post-secondary training
- Maximum amount of \$8,000 yearly
- Does NOT cover tuition, books or supplies

Goods Access Program (GAP)

- Grant was put into place in September of 2006 to assist students that were not eligible for student loan funding but still needed specialized equipment to accommodate their disability
- Covers equipment and software ONLY

Tutoring

- Students with disabilities may need assistance with course materials, content, retaining information, study skills, time management and editing

Note Taking

- With certain disabilities, some students may require the services of an in class note taker
- Note taker may be paid a \$100 honorarium if student is funded through PSDS

Educational Assistant

- Students may need assistance with personal care and mobility
- Self-managed program is in place in conjunction with ILRC (Independent Living Resource Centre)

Assistive Technology

- Any device or computer software program that is used to increase, maintain or improve the functional capability
- Examples: Kurzweil, WYNN, Dragon Naturally Speaking, Digital Voice Recorder, computer/laptop

Alternate Text

- Converting traditional print into a format of your choice
- PDF, MP3, Kurzweil, Rich text

Important Points to Remember!

- In order for a student to access services through PSDS, they **MUST** apply for a student loan and meet the medical criteria
- They don't have to be eligible for Student Loan funding, but the medical does have to be approved

Where Do I Start?

- Apply for a Nova Scotia/Canada Student Loan
- Obtain a medical assessment form, have it completed by a qualified medical assessor, and submit it

Now What?

- When the medical assessment form is received, it will be assessed based on the medical information that was provided. Notification will be sent out if you qualify for disability services by student loan

What about the money?

- The Nova Scotia Student Assistance Office will assess the application for financial need. This assessment will determine what you may qualify for in grant money

Canada Access Grant (Max. \$2000)

- When you apply for a Canada/Nova Scotia Student Loan as a student with a permanent disability, your eligibility for this grant is automatically assessed, based on financial need. If you are eligible for the grant, you will receive grant funding before you receive any loan funding. For example, if your financial need is assessed at \$10,000, the first \$2,000 will be grant money and will be issued to you before the loan. If you qualify for the grant, you will receive this funding in your first term, along with any Canada/Nova Scotia Student Loan monies you may be entitled to.

Provincial Access Grant (Max. \$2000)

- To be considered for the Provincial Access Grant, students must submit a Pre-Study Report. This form is used to confirm your income during the pre-study period and to update your sources of income while you are in school. Until this form is processed, your Nova Scotia Student Loan, grants, and additional Canada Student Loan may not be issued.

Provincial Access Grant

- Funding for the Provincial Access Grant is limited; therefore, you should submit your Pre-Study report to the Nova Scotia Student Assistance Office as soon as possible.
- The maximum grant is \$2,000 per year if you are attending university and \$1,000 per year if you are attending community college

Provincial Access Grant

- If you are eligible and funding is available, you will receive this grant in one of two ways:

PAG Scenario 1:

- You could receive an additional cheque made payable to you if you have unmet financial need after receiving the maximum student loan and any other grants you may have been eligible for. Example: You are assessed with a financial need of \$17,000. You will receive the Canada Access Grant of \$2,000 and could receive a student loan of \$12,240, leaving an unmet need of \$2,760. You could receive \$2,000 if you are attending university or \$1,000 if you are attending college for your Provincial Access Grant. No other money will be issued

PAG Scenario 2:

- You could receive notification that the eligible amount of this grant was paid directly toward your student loan, reducing your debt. This will happen if your financial need was met with other grants and student loans

Points to Remember!

- These grants do not have to be repaid. However, they are considered taxable income, and a T4A form will be issued to the student
- If you withdraw from courses or your program, this could affect your grant

Canada Study Grant (\$8000)

- This grant covers academic accommodations such as tutoring, note taking, adaptive software, attendant care, etc. This grant will not cover tuition, books, or any other costs that are not directly related to reducing barriers associated with your disability. Once you have submitted your application, the Canada Study Grant Coordinator will notify you about what funding you may qualify for

Am I Eligible?

To be eligible to apply for this grant, you need:

- to have applied for a Canada/Nova Scotia Student Loan
- to have submitted your completed medical assessment form
- to have received notification that you have met the disability criteria
- to be eligible for at least \$1 of Student Loan through the Nova Scotia Assistance Office

Canada Study Grant

- This grant will not affect the amount of money that may be received from student loans, because it is a separate grant offered by the federal government and available in every province in Canada
- This grant does not have to be repaid. However, the grant is considered taxable income, and a T4A form will be issued to the student. Receipts for goods and/or services must be submitted

Goods Access Program (GAP)

- When students from Nova Scotia fail to meet the financial requirements of student loan BUT the medical criteria is met, they are eligible for GOODS ONLY from the Goods Access Program
- This grant does not have to be repaid. However, it is considered taxable income, and a T4A form will be issued to the student

Contact

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