

Post-Care Tuition Waiver Program

The Saint Mary's University Post-Care Tuition Waiver Program supports individuals who have lived in care in the Nova Scotia child welfare system – including Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia – or have been in receipt of Department of Community Services' Youth Services Program. This bursary covers up to 100% of tuition and mandatory course fees for those selected.

Who can apply?

Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for the Post-Care Tuition Waiver Program:

- You have lived in care for at least one year in the Nova Scotia child welfare system, Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia or have been received Youth Services between the ages of 16-18 via signed agreement, as defined by Section 19 of the 2017 Children and Family Services Act.
- You have been accepted to a certificate, diploma or degree program as a part-time or full-time student for the upcoming academic year.
- You have financial need.
- You are entering or pursuing your first University credential (certificate, diploma or degree).
- High School, Transfer and Mature students are eligible to apply.
- You are not eligible for, nor currently receiving the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services Educational Bursary Program for Children in Care or the Post-Care and Custody Agreement.
- You will provide a signed verification of eligibility form completed by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services Disclosure Program.
- You are willing to meet with Financial Aid & Awards Officer to explore other sources of funding and complete orientation to SMU.

How do I apply?

Step 1: We require verification of past child welfare involvement to ensure eligibility for the bursary. Applicants must first seek verification by contacting the Disclosure Program:

Disclosure Program
Department of Community Services
Phone: 902-424-2755
Toll-free (within Canada): 1-833-424-2755
disclosureprogram@novascotia.ca
2131 Gottingen Street, 3rd Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3K 5Z7

Step 2: Fill out the Post-Care Tuition Waiver Application and submit it, along with the verification letter, to the Saint Mary's University Financial Aid & Awards Office either by email to financial.aid@smu.ca or by fax to 902-420-5151.

Application deadline

The deadline to apply for the September 2024 term is June 1, 2024. Late submissions will not be considered.

Selection process

Applications are reviewed by a selection committee. When reviewing applications, the committee will consider the following:

- Financial need
- Your educational goals, career aspirations and how this bursary can help you attain them.

The number of bursaries available may fluctuate from year to year, depending on funds available.

Questions?

Contact Saint Mary's University's Financial Aid & Awards Office by emailing financial.aid@smu.ca. If you wish to meet with one of our Financial Aid & Awards Officers, you can book an appointment by going to smu.ca/faa.

Post-Care Tuition Waiver Application

Fully complete all sections of the following form. Any missing details could render your application ineligible. You may choose to print the application form and complete it by hand or complete it electronically.

The following sections and supporting documents are required:

- Completed application form
- Financial need statement
- Educational goals statement
- Any other documentation to support extenuating circumstances.
- Verification through the Disclosure Program, Department of Community Services

Section 1 – Personal Information

Full name:			
SMU Student ID:	A00		
Email address:		Phone #:	

Section 2 – Educational Information

Which of the following statements best describes you?

- I am a current student at Saint Mary's University.
- I have been admitted to Saint Mary's University for a future term.
- I have not yet applied to Saint Mary's University.

SMU program of study:	
First term/start date:	

If applicable, please list any post-secondary institutions you have previously attended:

Institution Name:			
Program:			
Years Attended:		Did you graduate?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Institution Name:			
Program:			
Years Attended:		Did you graduate?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

Section 3 – Financial Resources

Have you or will you be applying for Canada Student Loans/Grants? No Yes

Will you be receiving any of the following forms of funding, sponsorship or benefits during the academic year?

Type of funding		Amount (if known)
Band sponsorship	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Employment Insurance benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Child tax benefit	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Scholarships, bursaries and/or awards	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Government grants	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Other (please specify):		
Other (please specify):		
Other (please specify):		

Section 4 - Financial Need Statement

In the space below, please provide details explaining why you should be considered for financial assistance. If applicable, you can use this section to provide explanation of any special financial circumstances you are facing in relation to housing, debt payments, family care, transportation, medical, or other. If necessary, you are welcome to attach additional information on a separate sheet.

Section 5 – Educational Goals

In the space below, please provide details explaining your educational goals. If necessary, you are welcome to attach additional information on a separate sheet. There is no minimum length required, however, some questions you may want to keep in mind when completing your statement are:

- Why did you choose your program/field of study?
- What are your educational goals and your career aspirations?
- How will a Saint Mary's University education and previous experience prepare you for this career?
- Why you believe you will succeed in your chosen profession upon graduation?

Section 6 – Declaration

By checking the three boxes below, I understand that my signature below means that:

- I certify that all the information provided is, to my knowledge, complete and accurate.
- The SMU staff with direct responsibility for managing the Post-Care Tuition Waiver Program may review personal and demographic information as submitted to SMU during the program application process.
- I will notify SMU in writing of any changes to my contact information, financial situation and/or enrollment.

Disclosure

This personal information is being collected under the authority of Saint Mary's University and is protected by the Nova Scotia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPOP). Access to this information is restricted to SMU staff with direct responsibility for managing the Financial Aid & Awards process, along with those individuals who serve on Awards selection committee(s). This personal information may also be used for administrative and statistical purposes by Saint Mary's University.

By checking here and typing my full name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Full name:		Date:	
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or

Signature of applicant:		Date:	
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Please submit your application form and all supporting materials to the Financial Aid & Awards Office either by email to financial.aid@smu.ca or by fax to 902-420-5151. Don't forget to include a copy of your verification letter received through the Disclosure Program. The Financial Aid & Awards Office will confirm receipt of your application.