



Epilepsy Scholarship Awards

The 2010 OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship Awards are proud to offer up to 14, \$1,000 scholarships to students across Ontario, who are affected by epilepsy. This year we would like to extend the OBCL Scholarship Awards by offering four additional awards for individuals whose lives have been impacted by epilepsy.

Students will now have the opportunity to apply for four new awards – The Margaret Burka Memorial Grant, the Award of Excellence, the Continuing Studies Award and the Artistic Merit Award in addition to the up to 10 OBCL scholarships awarded annually. These new scholarships are intended to offer opportunities for students previously ineligible for our OBCL Scholarship Awards. For example, instead of focusing on the written abilities of a student, the Artistic Merit Award will be awarded to students who excel in visual learning and demonstrate strong artistic ability.

Clearly indicate which scholarship award you are applying for on your application form. Applicants may apply for one scholarship award, per year.

Descriptions of the New Awards:

- The Margaret Burka Memorial Grant:** This grant is awarded to a student that does not have epilepsy, but is living with the epilepsy of a loved one. This award is intended for an individual who has a loved one, such as a sibling or parent, who has been diagnosed with epilepsy. We understand that epilepsy affects the family as a whole. We are interested in hearing from family members or caregivers whose lives have been changed because of epilepsy. We want to recognize supportive family members and acknowledge how integral these individuals are in the lives of those diagnosed with epilepsy.
- Award of Excellence:** This scholarship is awarded to an exceptional individual who has confronted remarkable barriers in their academic and personal lives due to epilepsy, and succeeded. These barriers have likely had an impact on their ability to achieve academic success and in some cases, stood in the way of their academic learning. We invite those who have encountered challenges meeting grade requirements in school to share how they dealt with these obstacles and continued their academic studies.
- Continuing Studies Award:** This award is given to an individual, over the age of 21 years, who would like to further their post-secondary education. This award is specifically for adult learners pursuing professional development or re-training. The Continuing Studies Award is intended to encourage individuals who would like to further their education, through career development or career change courses.
- Artistic Merit Award:** This award is given to an individual whose strength lies in artistic/visual creative expression. Instead of writing an essay, the applicant will submit an artistic representation of themselves and their own experiences of epilepsy. Possible submissions include a storyboard, or poster utilizing photographs, collages, drawings, a web site, short video, etc. We would like to encourage individuals who might not consider writing to be their strength, to represent their life with epilepsy in a creative way.



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APPLICATION DEADLINE: May 31, 2010

Please include the following with your application:

1. Application form
2. A handwritten cover letter.
3. A copy of your resume listing education, work experience and other achievements or interests.
4. 3 letters of recommendation:
 - i) 1 letter from your neurologist or physician
 - ii) 1 letter from a teacher
 - iii) 1 letter from a non-family member
5. An unofficial copy of your current academic transcript.
6. A copy of your university or college application(s), acceptance letter(s), or confirmation of enrolment. *(If these items are unavailable, enclose at the telephone numbers & address of the admissions) office.)*
7. Essay (between 600 - 1200 words)
8. Signed Waiver
9. Proof of Landed immigrant status (if applicable)

Eligibility for the OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship Awards:

The OBCL scholarships are open to all Ontario students, between 16-21 years of age, who are Canadian citizens or have landed immigrant status and are currently under an Ontario physician's care for epilepsy. (Please note individuals over the age of 21 years are eligible for the Continuing Studies Award.) Visa students are not eligible. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000.00 are awarded to successful applicants. Please consult the eligibility criteria for each award and submit all required documents no later than May 31, 2010.

Section B: University/College Students: *Complete this section if you are an undergraduate student currently attending a Canadian university or college.*

Name of university/college: _____
Expected graduation date: _____
Address of university/college: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____

Note: Please include a copy of your most recent academic transcript with your application.

PART 2: HAND WRITTEN COVER LETTER (1 PAGE)

PART 3: RESUME (attach to your application)

- **Education:** List by most recent qualifications first - include courses of study undertaken
- **Work Experience:** List employment experience starting from first to most recent
- **Other Achievements/Interests**

PART 4: LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (3)

PART 5: TRANSCRIPTS

PART 6: PROOF OF UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE / ENROLMENT

PART 7: PROOF OF LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS (IF APPLICABLE)

PART 8: SHORT ESSAY (OR CREATIVE WORK if applying for the Artistic Merit Award)

Please submit a short essay that answers the following question. The essay must be between 600-1200 words in length, typed and double-spaced. The theme of the essay is:

“How is my life different with epilepsy?”

Reflect on how living with epilepsy has shaped the person you are today. How has epilepsy had an impact on your life? Would you be the same person if you did not have epilepsy?

We encourage all applicants to reflect on personal experiences and examine how epilepsy has become a part of their lives. Please be creative and provide a unique insight into your individual experiences.

PART 5: WAIVER

I hereby agree and declare to Epilepsy Ontario and its partners as follows:

1. That I hereby give Epilepsy Ontario my permission to use, reproduce, copy, publish, broadcast or otherwise use my name, picture, likeness and/or comments attributed to me, or any material based upon or derived there from this submission;
2. I understand that the winning entries, including author's names, may be posted on Epilepsy Ontario's web site www.epilepsyontario.org;
2. That any comments attributed to me represent my own personal views;
3. That I agree and understand that I do not and shall not have any right of approval of any element, any claim for additional compensation or benefit, nor any claim (including, without limitation, claims based upon invasion of my privacy, rights to my image, defamation, or right of publicity) arising out of or related in any way to the use of the information contained in this submission.

AGREED TO this ____ day of _____, 2010

Signed:

Witness:

Parent or guardian must sign if applicant is under age.

Applications must be postmarked no later than midnight, May 31, 2010 to be eligible for the 2010 OBCL Scholarship Awards. Please return this application form and all requested documents by mail to Epilepsy Ontario:

The OBCL Epilepsy Scholarship Awards

Epilepsy Ontario
308 - 1 Promenade Circle
Thornhill, ON, L4J 4P8

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