



GUIDELINES

Merck Canada Inc. is pleased to offer the Merck Canada Indigenous Student Scholarship. This scholarship aims to address the systemic barriers Indigenous students might face and promote greater equity and inclusion; providing opportunities for Indigenous students to pursue their academic goals and achieve their full potential.

Here's what you need to know.

NUMBER, VALUE, AND DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to eight yearly scholarships, valued at \$5,000 Canadian are available to eligible students pursuing studies at the bachelor-level. Scholarships are available for one year.

Previous recipients may re-apply; however, you can only receive a maximum of 4 Merck Canada scholarships.

Note: Only the first **60 submitted** applications will be accepted for consideration for the scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible if you:

- You are a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident of Canada.
- You identify as Status Indian, Non-Status Indian, Inuit, or Métis.
- Are entering or returning to full-time studies in a first bachelor (undergraduate program) in the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Are under the age of 29 as of the application deadline date.



ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

You can study at Canadian educational institutions that have recognized degree granting powers or their affiliates (e.g., universities)

FIELDS OF STUDY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Your program of study can be in any field or discipline in the pursuit of your first bachelor's degree. University preparatory programs such as CEGEP pre-university diplomas are not eligible. Depending on the curriculum, an applied Bachelor program may be considered as a university level program.

CONDITIONS/RESTRICTIONS

- If you start post-secondary studies in January, you are eligible for the summer competition of the same year.
- You may have taken up to two years off after high school or CEGEP (Province of Quebec) before starting university as long as you haven't enrolled in any post-secondary courses during this time.

HOW TO APPLY?

To apply for the scholarship, please submit an online application no later than **1:00 PM EDT March 5, 2026**, by visiting <https://portal.scholarshippartners.ca/welcome/Merck-EN/>

Remember, the application must be completed and submitted by you and not by your parent or guardian. If you have any questions, please contact SPC at. <https://spc.univcan.ca/>

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

1. A reference form from an individual who is not related to you. The form must come from a past or present teacher who knows you and is familiar with your academic history; or from a person who is familiar with your volunteer, community involvement and/or extracurricular activities.
 - If you choose to submit from a past or present teacher, please use this [form](#).
 - If you choose to submit from a person who is familiar with your volunteer,



community involvement, and/or extracurricular activities, please use this [form](#).

2. Transcripts of the last three terms of available marks. Home school grades will only be accepted if they have been validated through a recognized independent evaluation process.
3. You will be asked to provide a 350-word essay outlining:
 - *Please tell us about yourself and your Indigenous heritage, and how receiving this scholarship will contribute to your personal growth.*
4. Applicants are required to upload current and valid documentation that supports their citizenship, membership, registration, or enrolment within a First Nations [Status or Non-Status], Inuit, or Métis community, as recognized by the Government of Canada. This documentation must be one of the approved forms listed below.

Status First Nations: A Status First Nations applicants must provide documentation to verify their status within First Nations communities. Accepted documents include a valid Certificate of Indian Status (commonly known as a "Status Card") or a citizenship, membership, registration, or enrolment card issued by one of the following authorities:

- The Registrar of the Federal Government's Indian Register;
- A Band within the meaning of the Indian Act that has control of its membership list; or
- An Indigenous group under a modern land claims agreement.

The document should be in the scholarship applicant's name and, if possible, include their birth date. If dated, it must not be expired at the time of submission.

Non-Status First Nations: In situations where documentation is unavailable due to displacement or lack of formal recognition, applicants can provide a letter of support that:

- Is authored, signed, and dated (within one year of the application deadline) by a representative of a recognized Indigenous organization.
- The author must provide their contact details (email address and phone number).
- Identifies the applicant's name and, if possible, their birth date.
- Details the applicant's lineage and connection to the Indigenous community, including a narrative of their heritage.
- Provide a historical and geographical account of the applicant's ties to the community.

Clarifications for Non-Status Applicants:

- **Accepted Organizations:** The letter of support must come from recognized Indigenous organizations such as First Nation councils, provincial or territorial Indigenous advocacy



groups (e.g., Native Women's Association of Canada or Friendship Centres), or other groups actively involved in Indigenous rights that are recognized in Canada.

- **Representative Requirements:** The letter of support must be signed by an individual with authority in the organization (e.g., an elder, chief, or director of cultural programs) and dated (within one year of the application deadline) by a representative of a recognized Indigenous organization. The author must provide their contact details (email address and phone number).
- **Letter Content:** The letter must outline the applicant's connection to their heritage and explain the lack of formal documentation due to colonialism, displacement, or administrative issues. It should include geographical or cultural context.
- **Alternative Evidence:** If a letter from an accepted organization cannot be obtained, applicants may provide a combination of supporting documents such as family records, oral histories from elders, or historical documents that demonstrate the family's Indigenous ancestry.

Métis: Applicants who identify as Métis must provide documentation to verify their citizenship, membership or registration within a recognized Métis nation, community, or group. Accepted documents include a valid Métis citizenship, membership, registration, or enrolment card issued by:

- One of the Métis Settlements in Alberta;
- A provincial organization that is a member of the Métis National Council, which includes the Métis Nation British Columbia, the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the Manitoba Métis Federation, and the Métis Nation of Ontario;
- An Indigenous group under a modern land claims agreement; or
- A Métis organization that is recognized by the Government of Canada.

The document should be in the scholarship applicant's name and, if possible, include their birth date. If dated, it must not be expired at the time of submission.

Inuit: Applicants who identify as Inuit must provide documentation to verify their citizenship or membership or registration within a recognized Inuit community or group. Accepted documents include a valid Inuit Métis citizenship, membership, registration, or enrolment card issued by:

- An Inuit organization recognized by the Government of Canada;
- An Inuit organization recognized by the Government of Nunavut; or
- An Indigenous group under a modern land claims agreement.



The document should be in the scholarship applicant's name and, if possible, include their birth date. If dated, it must not be expired at the time of submission.

Detailed instructions can be found in the application. Remember, your application must be complete to be evaluated, and deadline extensions will not be granted.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications are assessed on **academic performance, essay submission, and content and relevance of the reference form.**

SELECTION PROCESS

A committee of Canadian university and college representatives, chosen by Scholarship Partners Canada (SPC) select scholarship recipients. Merck Canada Inc. has no influence in the decision. The selection committee's decision is final.

Preference will be given to students residing in different provinces, in order to provide geographical representation of students from across Canada.

All applicants will receive results of the selection process by email.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

You will receive scholarship confirmation in **late Spring** following your application. When you receive your confirmation, complete the online acceptance process and submit any necessary documentation, which includes proof of registration from your educational institution.

SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT

Payment will be made after the acceptance process and document review. It can take 6 to 8 weeks, depending on the method of payment chosen. Funds will be sent to your educational institution on behalf of the sponsor.



Please make sure to pay your tuition fees within the defined time frame, regardless of the timing of scholarship payment. Your institution will reimburse you according to their normal practices.

We will communicate with you through your student portal account. Be sure to keep contact information up to date and to notify us of any changes.

www.univcan.ca.

SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS CANADA

Ref: Merck Canada Indigenous Student Scholarship
1610-350 Albert Street Ottawa ON K1R 1A4

Scholarship
Partners Canada.
Partenaires en bourses
d'études Canada.

[Online Support Request Form](#)

Toll free: 1-844-567-1237