



Centennial

BERMUDA FOUNDATION

2024 Scholarship Programme Overview & Application Guidelines

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ABOUT US

Centennial Bermuda Foundation (Centennial) is a private philanthropic foundation dedicated to supporting the Bermuda community. Annually, the Foundation provides up to \$4 million in community grants to a wide range of non-profits, charities and socially invested groups in Bermuda and up to \$1 million in student scholarships.

VISION FOR THE COMMUNITY:

We envision that all people in Bermuda be healthy, independent, financially secure and connected to community, with equitable opportunities for all.

OUR STORY

Centennial Bermuda Foundation administers its scholarship programme under a private and independent philanthropic Trust. When it started in the 1970's, scholarships were offered to Bermudian students by the Bank of Bermuda Limited, which was also the administrator of Bank of Bermuda Foundation.

That Foundation became Centennial Bermuda Foundation in 2020, to clearly define itself from any other banking institution.

In the past, scholarships were directed to students based on academic accomplishments, as well as involvement in extracurricular activities and were traditionally named in honour of executives within the Bank. Today, Centennial directs scholarship funding to students with financial need, in addition to academic merit and they are named according to the area of study.

A transformational in-depth review of scholarships began in May 2022, when Centennial conducted a survey of all island-wide scholarship providers who offer any form of post-secondary education funding for Bermudians. It assessed the current scholarship landscape and gathered data that provided a breadth of insight and identified gaps in scholarship offerings. This highlighted potential new opportunities for collaboration.

The process was integral in ensuring Centennial embraced and implemented the values of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (I.D.E.A.). Our Scholarship offerings over the past several years have seen some intentional steps to increase access and diversity by providing scholarships with a priority on financial need, in addition to academic merit.

INTENDED IMPACT & APPROACH

Centennial Bermuda Foundation's commitment to implementing the values of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access (I.D.E.A.) in its Scholarship Programme is an effort to address disparities and promote equal opportunities.

The two primary goals of the Centennial Scholarship Programme are the following:

1. Support the continued development of Bermuda's most valuable resource – its human capital.
2. Close the equity gap in Bermuda by funding those most impacted by the legacy of inadequate access to post-secondary opportunities.

APPROACH

The Centennial Scholarship Programme aims to contribute to the development of Bermuda's human capital, recognising it as a valuable resource. This reflects a commitment to investing in education as a means of fostering individual growth and societal advancement.

Tracking post-secondary persistence and completion rates for all scholarship recipients with a commitment to assessing the programme's effectiveness and ensuring that support extends beyond initial enrollment.

Encouraging post-secondary graduates to return to Bermuda with the intent to minimise "brain drain" by retaining highly educated and skilled individuals, thereby contributing to the local economy, leadership, and overall development.

EQUITY GAP CLOSURE

Centennial recognises historical disparities by focusing on those most impacted by the legacy of inadequate access to post-secondary opportunities. Intentionally targeting individuals based on various demographic factors, including gender, race, income level, disability, educational background, and first-generation college-goers.

Centennial will gather demographic data to identify and understand the distribution of funds in an equitable manner. This data-driven approach allows for a more targeted and impactful allocation of resources.

To achieve equitable access for all, Centennial Scholarship offerings will specifically target those with limited access and fewer opportunities in the past while eliminating barriers and providing the needed support to attain post-secondary success. We will also ensure we identify those well-rounded students who demonstrate the ability to successfully complete their education and contribute to our island community.

CENTENNIAL SUCCESS COACHES

Centennial's Scholarship programme is a comprehensive effort that goes beyond financial assistance. It strives to support students throughout their first year in post-secondary. All first year Centennial Scholarship recipients will be provided with a Centennial Success Coach, with the view of supporting first-year scholarship recipients in their transition to post-secondary education, with a specific goal of increasing the completion rate for students receiving the Centennial Scholarship. The programme aims to provide support to both non-traditional and traditional degree programme recipients.

The key features of the Centennial Success Coach component include:

1. **Holistic Support:** By providing mentorship and guidance throughout the academic year, and will encompass academic advice, personal development, and strategies for navigating the challenges of post-secondary education.
2. **Focus on Transition:** The primary focus of the programme is to support students with successfully transitioning into post-secondary education. This can be a critical period for many students, and having dedicated support can contribute to their overall success.
3. **Support for Both Traditional and Non-Traditional Programmes:** The programme recognises the diversity of students' academic pursuits by offering support to those enrolled in both traditional and non-traditional degree programmes, with an intentional effort to cater to a broad range of student needs.



Centennial's 2023/24 Success Coaches include: Tanya Bhandari, Krista Barnes, Tiffany Paynter, Christa Schweizer, Jonathan Beard, Camille Creary, Wesley Hall, Uneaka Daniels, Aaryn Cimino, Kristen Alexander, Samantha Nearon, Tiffany Whitter and Latisha Lister (not listed in order of photo)

SCHOLARSHIP TYPES & AMOUNTS

Our scholarship programme provides a great opportunity to students by funding up to \$1,000,000 annually. Approximately 50% of our budget is allocated to brand new scholars each year. We offer a minimum of one scholarship per category. We will offer more scholarships for deserving students to recognise the diverse talents and needs of students. We are committed to supporting as many eligible students as possible.

SCHOLARSHIP	FUNDING AVAILABILITY	GPA REQUIREMENTS	AMOUNT AWARDED
Bermuda College/ Community College <i>Inclusive of a two-year associate degree</i>	up to two years	minimum 2.0	Bermuda College: up to \$15,000/yr Overseas Community College: up to \$35,000/yr Available annually for duration of the programme
Undergraduate Degree <i>Inclusive of a three to four- year undergraduate degree (foundation year included)</i>	up to four years	minimum 2.0	up to \$35,000/yr Available annually for duration of the programme
Arts Degree <i>Inclusive of a three to four- year undergraduate degree (foundation year included)</i>	up to four years	minimum 2.0	up to \$35,000/yr Available annually for duration of the programme
Postgraduate Degree <i>Inclusive of graduate and doctoral programmes</i>	up to four years	minimum 3.0	up to \$35,000/yr Available annually for duration of the programme
SkillUp <i>Designed to support students preparing for careers requiring specialised skills and knowledge, often in trades, industries or professions that do not typically require a traditional four-year degree</i>	up to two years	No GPA requirement	up to \$35,000/yr Available annually for duration of the programme

NOTE:

An applicant should first decide which scholarship best fits their degree or programme. Only one scholarship can be selected.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **Bermudian Status:** Applicants must possess Bermudian status, confirming their legal and recognised citizenship or residency in Bermuda.
2. **Financial Need:** Applicants must demonstrate a genuine need for financial assistance. This involves providing the household gross income and household dependency information to support their claim to require educational funding.
3. **Educational Background:** A minimum of five years of education within Bermuda is required. This includes attendance at primary, secondary, or tertiary institutions located in Bermuda.
4. **Acceptance into an Accredited Institution:** An accredited institution can be either a traditional brick-and-mortar location or an accredited online/hybrid learning programme.

These requirements are designed to ensure that the scholarship is awarded to deserving individuals who have a strong connection to Bermuda and are in need of financial support to further their education.

HOW TO APPLY

Step-by-Step Guide to Set Up a Profile and Apply for a Scholarship

1. Visit the Scholarship Portal at www.centennial.bm/scholarships

2. Register for an Account:

- Click on the 'Register' button
- Select Scholarship Applicant
- Fill in the required personal, demographic and post-secondary information (e.g., name, email address, phone number, please be sure to include a valid and active phone number with area code)
- After submission, an email will be sent to you to verify your details and set up a password

3. Log In to Your Account:

- Use your newly created account details (email address and password) to log in

4. Complete Your Profile:

- Select 'My Profile'
- Enter detailed personal, demographic and educational information
- Provide details about your post-secondary institution and programme
- Select 'Submit Profile' to move forward to the application
- Select 'Apply Here'
- Select 'Open Scholarships'
- Select 'Start Application' after choosing the relevant funding opportunity

5. Eligibility Questionnaire

This is designed to save the student time, if a student is not deemed eligible, they will not be able to complete the application process, hence all students must complete the eligibility requirements first.

Provide the following details to determine eligibility:

- **Annual Gross Income:** The annual gross income is the total amount earned for the year before deductions; this includes any rental income from properties owned and leased, or any private business income, in addition it includes any income from scholarships that are currently awarded to any student in the household.
- **Household Number:** Provide the total number of people living in your household, including yourself.
- **Bermudian Status:** Do you have legal Bermudian status? Verification will be required with full application.
- **Post-secondary Education Programme:** Have you been accepted or provisionally accepted to an accredited post-secondary institution? (An accredited institution can be either a traditional brick-and-mortar location or an accredited online/hybrid learning programme.) Verification of acceptance letter will be required with full application.
- **Five Years of Education:** Have you completed a minimum of five years of education in Bermuda?

Select 'Submit Eligibility' to verify your eligibility.

If your details were denied eligibility, you are unable to move forward in the application process.

If you, believe that you provided information in error which resulted in your eligibility denial please contact info@centennial.bm.

6. Apply for Scholarships

If you are eligible, you will be asked to complete your application. Students who are not deemed eligible will not progress to the application stage.

- Fill out the scholarship application form with accurate and relevant information.
- Upload the required documents (Letter of Acceptance, most current transcript, references, or recommendation letter and proof of Bermudian status)

7. Review and Submit

- Carefully review your application to ensure all information is correct and complete.
- Submit your scholarship application before the deadline.

8. Follow Up

- Keep track of your application status.
- Check your email and portal account regularly for updates or further instructions.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OVERVIEW

APPLICATION CRITERIA	DEFINITION	SCORING %
Question #1	Please explain why you feel you are deserving of receiving a Centennial scholarship.	
Question #2	Please explain why you selected your post-secondary school and specific programme and why you think this is the right fit for you.	
At least 2 References/ Recommendation Letters	Reference or recommendation letters are vital components of a scholarship application. They provide the scholarship committee with an external perspective on the applicant's qualifications, character and potential.	
Community Service Hours	Please provide the number of community service hours completed.	
Volunteer Work Details	Please provide details of the volunteer work you have completed.	
Bermudian Status Verification	Please provide a certified copy of your passport or letter of status provided by the Department of Immigration.	
Transcripts	This document does not have to be your official transcript; your most current records are required.	
Acceptance Letter	Please provide a verification letter of acceptance or provisional acceptance into an accredited post-secondary institution. (An accredited institution can be either a traditional brick-and-mortar location or an accredited online/hybrid learning programme.)	

TIMELINE APPLICATION DATES

Submission Deadline: Applications are due on April 15th of each year.

Decision Timeline:

- Centennial staff screens all applications and prepares shortlisting packs to be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee – April
- Scholarship Committee reviews shortlisted applications – May
- Scholarship interviews are conducted – Mid-June
- Successful applicants are notified – end of June
- Scholarship & Award Reception is hosted – July

INTERVIEW PROCESS

If you have been selected for an interview, you will receive an email and SMS notification containing the details on how to schedule the interview through Calendly. This platform will provide you with information on the date, time and location of the interview.

If you are unable to attend in person due to being abroad, remote interviews are available to students.

The interview will not last more than 30 minutes.

The panel will consist of 2-3 members from the scholarship committee, including the Programme & Operations Coordinator.

Final Announcements

Centennial is committed to providing scholarships with a priority on financial need, in addition to academic merit. This commitment reflects our vision that there are equitable opportunities for people to lead purposeful lives, have financial security and enjoy a sense of belonging within the community.

On average, some 20 scholarships and awards are granted annually.

Centennial supports students pursuing a wide range of interests and courses of study. In addition to providing scholarships to individuals, Centennial partners with other scholarship providers to maintain the website www.bermudascholarships.com, where further details on scholarships in Bermuda can be found.

All funding decisions are made at the discretion of the Centennial Board of Directors based on recommendations made by the Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee is comprised of community volunteers and staff (a list of the Scholarship Committee members can be found on the Centennial website www.centennial.bm/about).

IF AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP

1. **Scholarship Award Notification:** You will receive an official notification confirming your scholarship award, usually via phone or email. This notification will include important details regarding your scholarship agreement.
2. **Acceptance of the Scholarship:** This Scholarship Agreement shall be signed and executed by the Recipient within 10 days of the date this agreement is sent to the student. It's important to accept the scholarship in a timely manner as funds may be reallocated if we do not hear back from you.
3. **Understanding Scholarship Terms and Conditions:** Carefully read and understand the terms and conditions of the scholarship.
4. **Scholarship Disbursement:** Payment of this Scholarship will be made upon receipt of a final budget confirming final costs and expenses for the student. Funds will be paid to your account ORU to the post-secondary institution, to assist first and foremost, with tuition and living expenses. Scholarship payments may be split across the two semesters depending on when funding is required. Funds may be used to assist with related costs in your attendance overseas (travel, food, books, etc.). Payment will only be made once we receive this signed agreement and your final school transcript and any required student reports as outlined in your scholarship agreement.
5. **Reception Attendance:** All recipients are invited to attend the scholarship reception to honour and celebrate the selected students.
6. **Reporting Requirements:** You are required to submit two reports which are detailed below; along with your grades through the Scholarship Portal.
7. **Renewal Process (if applicable):** Your Scholarship each year is contingent upon producing satisfactory academic progress. This means an overall passing grade as set by your place of study. Recipients should make every effort to submit grades on time or contact the Foundation if there are extenuating circumstances in meeting this deadline. The Foundation reserves the right to withdraw scholarship funding should conditions not be met.
8. **Recipients of a One-Year Scholarship:** If you have received a scholarship for just one academic year from Centennial provided you meet scholarship requirements you can apply for future scholarships with the Foundation. Applying for future Scholarships with the Foundation will be the student's responsibility. Centennial encourages students to stay informed of scholarship offerings throughout Bermuda.
9. **Coaches Assignment:** If this is your first scholarship with Centennial you will be assigned a coach. You will be required to connect regularly with your coach to support your post-academic journey.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PROGRESS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Centennial places great emphasis on the importance of timely and thorough reporting for all awarded scholarships. This process is essential for maintaining transparency and ensuring the effective utilisation of scholarship funds.

Below are the detailed guidelines for the scholarship reporting process:

ACCESSING REPORTING TEMPLATES

- **Grants Management System Portal:** Centennial's reporting templates are accessible through the grants management system portal. Scholarship recipients are required to log in to this portal to access and submit their reports.
- **Template Guidance:** Each template is designed to capture specific information about the student's progress. It is important to read the guidance notes provided with each template carefully to ensure that all required information is accurately reported.

REPORTING PROCESS

- **Timelines:** Reports must be submitted according to the scheduled time determined on Grant Agreement provided by Centennial.

PURPOSE OF REPORTING

- **Informing Progress:** The primary objective of these reports is to provide Centennial with insights into the student's academic and personal development. This helps in assessing the impact of the scholarship.
- **Identifying Additional Needs:** Reports also serve to identify if the student requires further assistance, be it financial or otherwise, to continue their education successfully.
- **Compliance:** Failure to submit reports in a timely manner or to adhere to the reporting guidelines can affect the student's scholarship status and may lead to a reassessment of their scholarship award.

APPLICATION TIER	REPORTING TYPE	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Scholarship Recipient	Mid-Year Progress Update	Update on student's post-secondary experience and academic performance during the first semester.
	Year End Progress Update & Budget	Annual update on student's post-secondary experience and academic performance; and include an overview of the budget for the upcoming academic year.
	Graduation Report	Report that the student submits upon completion of the degree or programme.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES PROTOCOL

The Extenuating Circumstances Protocol is designed to address situations where a scholarship recipient may need to temporarily defer their studies and scholarship due to serious and unexpected circumstances. This includes significant medical or family emergencies, or other extenuating circumstances that impact the ability to continue studies as planned.

The following procedures apply:

1. Notification and Request for Deferral

- Inform the Scholarship Committee as soon as possible about the need for deferral, providing clear reasons.
- Submit detailed documentation or verification of the circumstance, such as medical records, letters from healthcare professionals or other relevant proof.
- Ensure that the school allows enrollment at a later date.

2. Scholarship Committee Review

- The Scholarship Committee will review each request and supporting documents.
- Decisions regarding deferral are at the committee's discretion and are not guaranteed.
- In the case of reinstatement, proof of acceptance into a programme or resumption of studies must be provided.

3. Reinstatement Process

- To reinstate a deferred scholarship, notify Centennial at least 30 days before resuming studies.
- The reinstatement of the scholarship is subject to review and approval by the Scholarship Committee.
- All eligibility requirements must be met at the time of reinstatement.

This protocol is reserved for serious and unexpected situations, as Centennial prefers not to have students defer their scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee will consider the impact of the special circumstance on your scholarship status and make decisions accordingly.

Questions?

Contact Programme & Operations Coordinator
Terré Smith at tsmith@centennial.bm



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www.centennial.bm