



POST-SECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS 2024 APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

RTOERO is a bilingual trusted voice for healthy, active living in retirement. With members in districts across Canada, we are the largest national provider of non-profit group health benefits for education community retirees. We believe in the power of our community to secure a better future, and are committed to helping secure better futures for students, for each other, and for seniors in Canada.

1. Purpose of the RTOERO post-secondary scholarships

To award scholarships to post-secondary (college or university) students enrolled in programs that align with the strategic goal and values of RTOERO. These programs or fields of study should be preparatory for careers that can benefit our members and seniors in Canada.

The post-secondary scholarships are established with reference to our strategic goal:

To improve the lives of members and seniors.

Successful applicants will exhibit many of the exemplary character traits articulated in the RTOERO values of:

Accountability	Community Connection	Giving back to community
Inclusion and equity	Leadership	Service to others
Wellbeing	Commitment to healthy active living	

For more information on our goals and values, please view our [strategic plan](#)

2. Who is eligible for the scholarships?

Any post-secondary student recommended by an RTOERO member who is studying in a college or university program that leads to a career in either seniors health and wellbeing; education; environmental stewardship; or that reflects a strong commitment to diversity, equity and/or inclusion. Examples of such fields include: health sciences, medicine, nursing, personal care, geriatric health care, research into healthy active living for seniors, architects and designers of age-friendly spaces, conservation sciences, natural resource protection, pollution prevention, waste management, critical race studies, and careers in education. Please note that students must be enrolled in their programs at the time of submitting their application. *RTOERO members are not personally eligible for the RTOERO post-secondary scholarship, but are encouraged to recommend students in their lives who meet the criteria.*

Successful applicants may be awarded the RTOERO scholarship only once.

3. Value of the scholarships

A total of 20 scholarships valued at \$3,000.00 will be awarded to selected applicants.

4. How to apply

Students can complete their application via the “Application” button on our website at <https://rtoero.ca/giving-back/scholarships/>. This will take you to our Survey Monkey Apply site, where the application is posted. You will need to click the “register” button to create an account, and then select the RTOERO Post-Secondary Scholarship program. When you click “apply” you will be prompted to complete an eligibility quiz, which you need to pass in order to access the application. Once you have marked this task as complete, four subsequent tasks will become available: demographic information, short answer questions, application consent and understanding, and confirmation of enrollment. You will need to complete all of these sections in order to submit your final application. Once all are complete, simply select “submit”.

Please note that the Confirmation of Enrollment section requires you to upload an official Confirmation of Enrollment from your post-secondary institution, in PDF format. **This confirmation must be an official document issued by your college or university’s registrar which demonstrates that you are enrolled in your program at the time of submitting your application.** Letters of acceptance to a program or unofficial documents such as a copy of a timetable, student account or transcript will not suffice.

Hard copies of our applications are not available to download, as they must be completed online. You can, however, save your work and return to your application at a later date. Applications will be accepted until midnight on January 12, 2024.

5. Criteria used to determine successful applicants

The adjudicating committee have specific criteria they use to evaluate answers to each of the application questions. You will be asked to answer the following three questions in point form, using no more than 250 words per question.

Question 1: How will your program of study and goals for a future career achieve at least one of the following:

- improve the lives of seniors in Canada
- promote environmental stewardship
- impact the educational process in Canada
- reflect a strong commitment and dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion

Scored out of 24

Criteria:

- Career direction: Applicant has a clear career direction, demonstrated through area of study and career goals, which will have a direct impact on the lives of seniors, the environment, the education process in Canada **and/or** the fields of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).
 - Commitment/dedication to DEI could be demonstrated through:
 - Commitment to social justice and/or the dismantling of structural inequities
 - Making important contributions to the fields of Diversity, Equity and/or Inclusion through research, scholarship and creative endeavours
 - Advancing the ideals outlined in the [RTOERO DEI policy](#).

- Identify and provide connection to RTOERO goal and/or values: Applicant's career goals/ambitions are clearly connected with the RTOERO goal and/or values (see beginning of document).
- Personal commitment to career goals: Applicant states a personal commitment that is focused, specific and founded upon an experience or family connection that stimulated this drive or passion.

Question 2: What has influenced you to pursue this career?

Scored out of 12

Criteria:

- Sense of purpose: Applicant articulates a clear sense of mission or drive to pursue the career and is able to provide evidence of experiences where there is already observable commitment to prepare for the career.
- Personal mentor/experience: Applicant describes how a specific individual and/or life-experience inspired a passion and interest in the chosen career.

Question 3: How have you demonstrated, through contributions to family, school, work, or in the community and/or in your personal life, an alignment with the RTOERO goal and values?

Scored out of 16

Criteria:

- Alignment with RTOERO goal: Applicant describes in detail specific personal actions or behaviours that are clear evidence of personally aligning with the intent to improve the lives of seniors.
- Alignment with RTOERO values: Applicant relates life experiences that clearly demonstrate personal commitment and specific actions or beliefs to some of the stated values expressed by RTOERO.