

The Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities

2025/26 Scholarship Guidelines

The Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship aims to make a profound impact on the lives of Canadian youth with disabilities through scholarships of up to \$40,000 to pursue post-secondary education and achieve their career aspirations.



About the Scholarships

- 2-4 scholarships available per academic year.
- Up to \$10,000 CAD per year for publicly funded, post-secondary education in Canada directly payable to the academic institution. This includes up to \$7,500 for tuition and a \$2,500 stipend.

Program Requirements

- No restrictions on the area of study or discipline. Certificate, diploma, trade and bachelors degree programs are eligible.
- Program must be minimum of 1 year to maximum of 5 years in duration.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be:

- A person with a disability, defined as a functional limitation – whether permanent or episodic – that is compounded by barriers. Attitudinal and physical barriers can prevent the student’s equitable access to meaningful participation in post-secondary education.
- A Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada.
- Eligible for domestic tuition at a publicly funded post-secondary institution or training program at a public university, college or institute in Canada.
- Under 30 years old as of May 14, 2025.
- Enrolling full-time in the eligible academic year for a 1- to 5-year post-secondary program.
- Enrolling in a publicly funded Canadian institution.
- Not receiving other financial awards that total more than \$2,500 per year (excluding student loans and automatically awarded entrance scholarships).
- Responsible for ensuring that any funding received from the Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship will not negatively affect the status of any benefits and subsidies that they are eligible for.

Restrictions & Conditions

- The scholarship may be withdrawn if the recipient fails to remain in good standing according to their academic institution or fails to satisfactorily submit progress reports and other requested supporting documentation at the end of each academic year.
- Recipients must not concurrently receive additional education-related financial awards exceeding \$2,500 per year (excludes student loans and automatically awarded entrance scholarships).

Read the full [Terms & Conditions](#).

Submission

Applicants are required to submit a complete application package online at RickHansen.com/Scholarship by **May 14, 2025 at 23:59 PDT**. The complete application package consists of:

1. Completed application form:
 - a. Personal Information
 - b. Academic Institution & Program Information
 - c. Tuition & Financial Award Information
 - d. How do you demonstrate Rick and Amanda Hansen's values of perseverance, inclusivity and being a difference maker?
 - e. What are your career goals, and how will your selected program help you achieve them?
 - f. How will this scholarship help you overcome financial barriers you may have?
2. 1-2 page resume outlining professional skills, academic achievements, and community involvement (please do not include any photographs)
3. 2 reference letters (1 must be from an academic educator of a school you are currently or were previously enrolled in as a student)
4. 2 most recent years of education transcripts (copies sufficient)
5. Proof of Disability Form completed by an authorized medical practitioner. For a list of authorized medical practitioners, please visit the Government of Canada's list of [Authorized medical practitioners for the purposes of the medical expense tax credit](#).



Selection Process

The Scholarship Selection Committee will evaluate eligible applications on the following evaluation criteria:

- **Rick & Amanda Hansen's Values:** Demonstrating *Perseverance, Inclusivity* and *Being a Difference Maker*. A *Difference Maker* is someone who creates positive change in their community and in the lives of others.
- **Career Aspirations:** Clarity of career goals and alignment with chosen academic program.
- **Academic Readiness:** Ability to successfully complete the chosen academic program.
- **Financial Need:** Financial necessity of scholarship.

The Scholarship Selection Committee may invite shortlisted candidates for an interview at their discretion. Decisions are final.

Key Dates



Apply

March 2, 2025 to May 14, 2025.

Applicants must submit their application online at RickHansen.com/Scholarship



Select

June to July 2025.

Applications are evaluated by the selection committee. Interviews may be requested.



Award

July to August 2025.



Announcement

Fall 2025.

Cohort 2025/26 is announced.

Rick and Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities

Scholarship Application Checklist

Before submitting your application, please make sure you have completed and included the following: **Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.**

- Completed application form. Ensure it includes:**
 - 1.** Personal Information
 - 2.** Academic Institution & Program Information
 - 3.** Tuition & Financial Award Information
 - 4.** How you demonstrate Rick and Amanda Hansen's values of perseverance, inclusivity and being a difference maker
 - 5.** Your career goals, and how your selected program will help you achieve them
 - 6.** How this scholarship helps you overcome financial barriers you may have

- 1-2 page resume**

- 2 Reference Letters (one must be from an academic educator of a school you are currently or were previously enrolled in as a student)**

- 2 most recent years of education transcripts**

- Proof of Disability Form completed by an authorized medical practitioner**

Frequently Asked Questions

1. I have applied for other scholarships but am not sure if I will receive them. Can I still apply?

Yes, you may still apply for the scholarship. If you are selected for the Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship as well as other scholarships, you may accept up to \$2,500 in other scholarships. Anything more than this will need to be declined, if you choose to accept the Rick & Amanda Hansen Scholarship for Youth with Disabilities. This excludes student loans and automatically awarded entrance scholarships.

2. I will receive a stipend as part of a masters/PhD program of an amount greater than \$2,500 per year. Do I still qualify for the scholarship?

Yes, since the stipend is essentially a salary, you still qualify for the scholarship.

3. I have received the Rick Hansen Foundation School Program Difference Maker of the Year Award in the past. Can I still apply for the scholarship?

Yes, you may still apply for the scholarship as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

Required Forms:

4. Can I include my evaluation report from a psychologist/audiologist/etc. instead of the Proof of Disability Form?

We do require that the Proof of Disability Form be completed. You may have the form completed by an authorized medical practitioner who is most familiar with your disability, including a psychologist, audiologist, etc. For a list of authorized medical practitioners, please visit the Government of Canada's list of [Authorized medical practitioners for the purposes of the medical expense tax credit](#).

5. Are reference letters required (at least 1 from an academic educator)? What if I am not currently in school?

Yes, we require two reference letters and at least one from an academic educator. If you are not currently in school, we recommend you contact an instructor or educator from a previous post-secondary education or high school you have attended.

6. Can my educator reference letter be from a sports coach, tutor, or a non-academic educator?

At least one reference letter must be from an academic educator at a school you attended as a student. References may not be submitted by family members or private tutors.

7. Do reference letters need to be specific to this scholarship?

No, however the reference letters should be dated within the last 6 months.

8. My reference would like to submit a letter directly. Is this ok? Who should they send this to?

Yes, please have them email the reference letter to schools@rickhansen.com, with the applicant's (your) full name and email address clearly stated.

9. I will not be able to obtain one of the required documents before the application deadline.

Can this be submitted at a later date?

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept applications or any of the required documents after the application deadline.