ECO Foundation

APPLICANT GUIDE

1. About the ECO Foundation Scholarship Program

The ECO Foundation Scholarship Program supports individuals who are developing the knowledge, skills, experience and leadership needed to contribute to Canada's environmental workforce and sustainability objectives. The inaugural program is structured around five scholarship categories that span entry into environmental education, career launch, workforce advancement and transition, Indigenous environmental leadership, and environmental innovation and technology.

2. Scholarship Categories

Scholarship	Who it is intended to support
Indigenous Environmental Leadership	Indigenous students or professionals pursuing environmental careers and leadership in stewardship and workforce development.
Emerging Environmental Talent	Students entering or in the early stages of relevant post-secondary, technical or trades education.
Environmental Career Launch	Final-year students or recent graduates preparing to transition into environmental employment.
Environmental Workforce Advancement & Transition	Mid-career, transitioning or underemployed professionals seeking environmental reskilling, certification or career mobility.
Environmental Innovation & Technology	Individuals pursuing education, research or advanced skills in CleanTech, climate technology, AI/digital environmental applications and other emerging areas.

3. General Eligibility

Applicants must meet both the general Year 1 eligibility rules and the requirements of the selected scholarship category. For general eligibility please refer to the following eligibility criteria:

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I. For applicable categories, to be eligible applicants must be currently enrolled in or have graduated from a recognized Canadian university or a college of applied arts and technology / publicly funded college designated by a provincial or territorial ministry of education.
II. Exceptions to criteria #1 and #2 apply for current students who are enrolled in a Canadian institution accredited programs at a recognized university / college outside of Canada.
III. For the purpose of this scholarship, mid-career professional transitioning into an environmental career is an established worker with years of experience in another field who redirects their expertise toward sustainability, conservation or green technology.
IV. An applicant can only apply under one category.
V. Scholarship funds can be used toward standard academic expenses like tuition, mandatory fees including field work, specialized research, environmental project costs, professional development courses and legitimate expenses toward event and conferences.

4. How Applications Will Be Assessed

Eligible applications will be reviewed using approved criteria and a standardized evaluation process. Assessment will consider factors appropriate to the selected category, which may include environmental commitment, leadership or potential, clarity of career objectives, relevance of the proposed education/training/innovation pathway, demonstrated or potential impact, and the expected value of the scholarship to the applicant's development.

The final scoring weights and tie-breaking rules will be approved before applications open. Reviewers must disclose conflicts of interest and maintain applicant confidentiality.

5. Application Process

1. Review the five scholarship descriptions and select the category that best matches your situation and goals.
2. Confirm that you meet the general and category-specific eligibility requirements.
3. Complete all required sections of the Scholarship Application Form.
4. Attach all required supporting documentation.
5. Read and sign the Applicant Declaration, Privacy & Consent.
6. Submit the complete package by the published deadline.
7. ECO Foundation will screen applications for completeness and eligibility before qualified applications proceed to adjudication.
8. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified following completion of the approval process.

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6. Key Dates and Award Information

Item	Year 1 Information
Applications open	9 October 2026
Application deadline	31 December 2026
Expected adjudication period	January 5 – January 22, 2027
Recipient notification	5 February 2027
Public announcement	ECO Impact 2027 | 24 February 2027
Number/value of awards	Up to $20,000 per scholarship under each category

7. Frequently Asked Questions

Can I apply if I am in a college, polytechnic, technical or trades program?

Potentially, yes. Relevant technical and trades pathways are intended to be accommodated within appropriate scholarship category, subject to the applicable eligibility requirements.

Are graduate students eligible?

Graduate-level applicants, including MSc and PhD students, may be eligible where their studies or research align with the purpose and criteria of the relevant scholarship, particularly Environmental Innovation & Technology and other applicable categories.

Does the Indigenous Environmental Leadership Scholarship require applicants to work specifically with TEK?

No specific knowledge system should be assumed as mandatory unless stated in the final category criteria. Applicants may, where relevant, describe Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous knowledge systems, Western scientific knowledge, or the integration of multiple knowledge systems in their environmental leadership or stewardship.

Can recent graduates apply?

Yes, the Environmental Career Launch Scholarship is intended for final-year students and recent graduates.

Can someone currently working in another sector apply?

Potentially. The Environmental Workforce Advancement & Transition Scholarship is designed in part for professionals transitioning from adjacent sectors into environmental work, subject to the final eligibility rules.

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Can I apply for more than one scholarship?

Applicants may apply under only one scholarship category.

What can scholarship funds be used for?

Eligible uses may include approved education, training, certification, professional development or related career-development costs consistent with the selected scholarship.

Will financial need be considered?

The current program framework does not establish financial need as a universal selection criterion. If financial need is to be considered in Year 1, the Foundation will define how it will be assessed before launch.

Are awards guaranteed in every category?

No. Awards are subject to the approved Year 1 budget and to applicants meeting the required eligibility and quality threshold.

How will my personal information be used?

Application information will be used for scholarship administration, eligibility verification, adjudication, award management and authorized reporting. Additional details are provided in the Applicant Declaration, Privacy & Consent.

8. Documentation Checklist

Before submitting your application, confirm that you have included all items required for your category.

☐ Completed Scholarship Application Form

☐ Selected one scholarship category (or complied with the Year 1 multiple-application rule)

☐ Completed all applicable category-specific questions

☐ Résumé or CV

☐ Proof of enrolment/program status, if required

☐ Transcript/academic record, if required

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☐ Proof of graduation, if applicable

☐ Training/certification information, if applicable

☐ Reference(s)

☐ Any category-specific evidence listed in the final call

☐ Signed Applicant Declaration, Privacy & Consent

☐ Application submitted by the deadline

9. Contact and Accessibility

Questions about eligibility, application requirements or accessibility accommodations should be directed to the ECO Foundation at ychaudhry@eco.ca.

Applicants who require a reasonable alternative format or application accommodation should contact the Foundation as early as possible before the submission deadline.