

Jason Lang Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who was Jason Lang?

The scholarship was established in memory of Jason Lang, a 17 year high school student who was killed in a school shooting in Taber, Alberta. The scholarship rewards outstanding academic achievement of Alberta post-secondary students.

2. What is the value of the Jason Lang Scholarship?

The scholarship has a value of \$1,000.

3. How do I qualify for a Jason Lang Scholarship?

To qualify for a Jason Lang scholarship, you must

- be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident,
- be an Alberta resident,
- have attended a participating post-secondary educational institution in Alberta,
- have achieved a GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 GPA on a minimum 80% course load or greater during the qualifying period from September to April, and
- be continuing full-time (defined as enrolled in a minimum of a 60% or greater course load) immediately in the next academic year at a participating post-secondary institution in Alberta.

4. I am a Convention Refugee, am I eligible for a Jason Lang Scholarship?

Yes, you are eligible for the Jason Lang Scholarship. However, you must provide a copy of a valid **Protected Persons Status Document (PPSD)**. The PPSD will have an expiry date on it (normally two years from the date of issue) and it must be valid for the entire period of study. You must also provide a copy of your Social Insurance Number (SIN) card showing the 900 series SIN number. The SIN card must have an expiry date and must be valid for the entire period of study.

5. Can I use courses taken during the spring and/or summer sessions to increase my GPA in order to qualify for the Jason Lang Scholarship?

No, only courses taken during the regular academic year – September to April are used to calculate your GPA.

6. I went on a student exchange for one semester. Do the marks I achieved while on an exchange count towards my eligibility for a Jason Lang Scholarship?

The Jason Lang Scholarship is administered within the general policy guidelines of the educational institution's student awards program. At most institutions courses taken at any other post-secondary institution are not considered for purposes of scholarships. Course grades from two institutions are not combined. It is recommended that you contact the Student Awards Office to determine your eligibility.

7. Who nominates me for a scholarship if I am enrolled at two educational institutions?

To be nominated you must achieve a GPA of 3.2 on a minimum of 80% course load or greater at one post-secondary institution. Only one institution can nominate you.

For example: You are attending Mount Royal College and the University of Calgary and taking more than an 80% course load when the courses are combined and have obtained a 3.2 GPA. You cannot be nominated as most schools grant advance credit for courses taken outside their educational institution.

8. I have been nominated for a Jason Lang Scholarship, but now I am doing a co-op term. Can I still receive payment of the scholarship?

Some educational institutions do not consider you a full-time student while you are on co-op. The Student Awards Office will send your nomination to Alberta Scholarship Programs after you have returned to full-time study. It is recommended you check with the Awards Office or the Office of the Registrar to determine your enrolment status.

9. How do I know if I am an Alberta resident?

You are considered an Alberta resident if:

- you have lived in Alberta for twelve (12) consecutive months before starting your full-time post-secondary studies, or
- your parents or one parent lives in Alberta, or
- you are married to an Alberta resident.

10. What programs are eligible?

The scholarship is for students enrolled in an undergraduate program or professional programs such as Law, Medicine, Pharmacy or Dentistry at a participating educational institution in Alberta (see Question 20 for a list of educational institutions). Students pursuing graduate studies (Masters or Doctoral level) are not eligible.

The post-secondary program must be a minimum of two years in length or greater, for example, a program must offer at minimum four academic terms or 64 weeks of academic instruction or 32 weeks of instruction each year excluding work term, co-op, etc.

11. How do I apply for a Jason Scholarship?

Students who meet the eligibility requirement outlined above are nominated by the Student Awards Office at the participating Alberta post-secondary educational institution they are currently attending.

12. If I qualify, when does the Student Awards Office submit my name?

There are two nomination deadlines: October 15 and February 15.

13. What information does Alberta Scholarship Programs require in order that I may receive payment of my scholarship?

To issue a cheque, Alberta Scholarship Programs requires your full legal name, social insurance number, date of birth, gender and current mailing address. If you have changed your name since you have received any type of funding from Advanced Education and Technology, e.g. a student loan, a copy of your legal name change will be required.

14. Is the cheque mailed to me or to the school?

The cheque is mailed to your home address. If you have a current student loan, the cheque will be mailed to the same address as your student loan. If you move, you must notify Alberta Scholarship Programs: phone (780) 427-8640 or send an email to: scholarships@gov.ab.ca

15. When do I receive my cheque?

For nominations received by the October 15 deadline, cheques are mailed in December, and for nominations received by the February 15 deadline, cheques are mailed at the end of March.

16. I know I qualify to be nominated for the scholarship. How do I find out if I was nominated?

Contact the Student Awards Office to inquire about your status.

17. The Student Awards Office has confirmed that I was nominated for a scholarship but I still have not received my cheque.

Cheques can be delayed for a number of reasons:

- information provided by the school such as mailing addresses may not be current,
- different first or last names: for example, if your legal name in our database is different from the one submitted to us by the school, for example you have changed your surname since the last time you applied for funding and now you are married, or are using a nickname at school but using your legal name when you applied for funding (documentation of the name change will be required before a cheque can be issued),
- you have changed post-secondary institution after being nominated, and the confirmation of enrolment is outstanding, or
- your cheque has been lost in the mail.

Contact Alberta Scholarship Programs either by phone at (780) 427-8640 or by email at scholarships@gov.ab.ca.

18. I have been informed that my cheque is lost in the mail. How do I get a replacement?

If your cheque has been lost in the mail, contact Alberta Scholarship Programs either by phone at (780) 427-8640 or by email at scholarships@gov.ab.ca. Provide your full name and the name of the award. There is a waiting period of 30 days from the time the cheque was mailed to you before a replacement cheque will be issued.

For example: a cheque was mailed on December 1st, and it is now December 20th and you have not received your cheque. A replacement cheque will be issued after January 1st. It usually takes approximately 10 working days to process a replacement cheque.

19. What are the participating educational institutions?

The following is a list of Alberta Post-Secondary Institutions that are eligible to select students for a Jason Lang Scholarship.

Public funded colleges:

Alberta College of Art and Design
Bow Valley College
Grande Prairie Regional College

Medicine Hat College
Mount Royal College
NorQuest College

Keyano College
Lakeland College
Lethbridge College
MacEwan

Technical Institutes:

NAIT

Universities:

Athabasca University
University of Alberta

Northern Lakes College
Olds College
Portage College
Red Deer College

SAIT

University of Calgary
University of Lethbridge

Private Colleges accredited to grant degrees:

Ambrose University College
Canadian University College
Concordia University College of
Alberta
DeVry Institute of Technology-
Calgary
The King's University College
St. Mary's University College
Taylor University College

The Banff Centre

20. What if I transfer to another post-secondary institution after being nominated?

For example: You attended Red Deer College and based on your GPA you qualify to be nominated. However, you have now transferred to the University of Alberta.

The Students Awards Office at Red Deer College may not be aware that you are attending the University of Alberta and may be under the impression that you have dropped out of school. Contact the Student Awards Office to inquire about your status.

21. I have transferred to another school. Who will confirm my full-time enrolment?

For example: I attended MacEwan and the Student Awards Office at MacEwan informed me that I was nominated. Now I am enrolled full-time at the University of Calgary.

The Student Awards Office at MacEwan sends to Alberta Scholarship Programs a list of names of the students who qualify. The awards office indicates on the list what school the student will be attending. Based on that information, Alberta Scholarship Programs will contact the school after classes start to confirm your full-time enrolment.

22. Can I receive both a Louise McKinney Scholarship and a Jason Lang Scholarship in the same academic year?

The Louise McKinney Scholarship has value of \$2,500, and you cannot receive more than the value of the Louise McKinney in the same academic year. Normally, the awards office will nominate students for a Louise McKinney first and then select students for a Jason Lang Scholarship. Sometimes the awards office, after nominating a student for a Jason Lang, will later discover that the student should have been nominated for a Louise McKinney. If this happens, the amount of the Louise McKinney will be reduced to \$1,500. Combined with the Jason Lang Scholarship of \$1,000; the total amount awarded will not have exceeded \$2,500.

23. What happens if I transfer to a non-participating post-secondary institution?

If you are nominated for a scholarship and you transfer to a non-participating post-secondary institution; you may receive the scholarship providing you are full-time. However, you will not be eligible to be nominated by the non-participating school.

For example: You are nominated by the University of Alberta and you transfer to Ryerson University. You can receive payment of the scholarship providing you are enrolled full-time. After you complete the year at Ryerson, you will not be eligible to be nominated for the scholarship.

24. How many Jason Lang Scholarships can I receive?

The maximum lifetime limit of scholarships is three. If you are nominated for a fourth scholarship you will be notified of your ineligibility by Alberta Scholarship Programs.

25. I just completed a one-year certificate program and I am enrolling in another certificate program, am I eligible?

You would not be eligible to be nominated for the scholarship. The length of the program must be a minimum of two years or greater, for example, a program must offer at minimum four academic terms or 64 weeks of academic instruction or 32 weeks of instruction each year excluding work term, co-op, etc.

26. I was nominated to receive the scholarship but I must postpone my studies for a year. Can I claim the scholarship at a later date?

The scholarship is not deferred. You must claim the scholarship immediately in the next academic year, either the fall semester or the winter semester.

27. What is the required course load to be able to receive payment of the scholarship?

If you have been nominated to receive a scholarship, payment of the award is conditional upon continuing your full-time studies. You must be enrolled in a minimum of a 60% or greater course load for one semester – either the fall or winter semester, to be able to receive your cheque.

28. I have been nominated by my school, but now I am taking courses at two different institutions. Can I still receive my cheque?

For example: you were nominated by the University of Alberta, and are now taking courses at Athabasca University and the University of Alberta. The courses when combined gives you full-time status.

If you are taking courses at two different educational institutions you must provide to Alberta Scholarship Programs proof of enrolment in these courses from both institutions.

29. Do I have to declare the amount of my scholarship on my income tax?

The federal Budget 2006 announced the elimination of federal income tax on all income from scholarships, bursaries, and fellowships. The federal legislation was approved on February 21, 2007, to authorize the policy changes.

The full amount of scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries are not taxable and are no longer reported as income on your tax return. The scholarships, fellowships, or bursaries must be

received by you as a student with respect to your enrolment in a program that entitles you to claim the Education Amount (Form T2202, Education and Textbook Amounts Certificate). If you are not eligible for the education amount, report on line 130 only the amount that is more than \$500.

T4A's issued by Alberta Advanced Education – Students Finance will show the tax amount of scholarships and bursaries in Box 28 – Other Income. Box 38, shows the footnote code as 05, which is for Scholarships/Bursaries. This amount should not be reported on your income tax return, as long as you are eligible for the Education Amount (Form T2202, Education and Textbook Amounts Certificate).

If you are unsure of your tax status, contact the Canada Revenue Agency at: 1-800-959-8281 or www.cra.gc.ca.