

BUSINESS ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Introduction

Industry trusted, The Optical Group (TOG) has been supporting Independent Canadian Eye Care Professionals for more than 30 years. Our Vision is to continue to provide Canadian Independent ECP's with exceptional customer service and support. We are constantly looking for new programs and partners to benefit our members, thus the introduction of the scholarship initiative that began 4 years ago. We are here to support our members and their businesses.

Purpose

These student scholarships further strengthen our commitment to continue to support Independent Eye Care Professionals across Canada and aligns with our vision of supporting future Opticians.

Support

The Optical Group is offering a three-year Scholarship to two (2) individuals accepted into Year One of the NAIT (Northern Alberta Institute of Technology) Optical Sciences Eyeglasses Program for the Fall of 2024.

These scholarships will cover the four (4) semester Eyeglasses Program, the two (2) semester Contact Lens Program, and associated tuition fees and textbooks.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must apply and be accepted into Year One of the [NAIT/OAC Optical Sciences Eyeglasses Program](#) for the Fall 2024 intake
- Applicants must be enrolling in a full semester of courses for the Fall 2024 intake
- Applicants must be a Canadian Citizen or Permanent Resident of Canada, and reside within Canada, outside of the province of Alberta and the Territories (*therefore, designated a NAIT/OAC student*).
- Applicants must be employed by a business member of The Optical Group

Submission Requirements

The scholarship application submission process is completed online.

Along with providing basic contact information during the online submission process, scholarship applicants are required to submit answers to the following questions:

- ❖ **Using 200 words or less, if you were limited to just one person to get advice and help from, who would you choose and why?**
- ❖ **Using 200 words or less, why did you choose this field of study, what excites you the most about the optical Industry?**
- ❖ **Using 200 words or less, what will this scholarship mean to you? How will it impact your career goals?**

To submit your answers to the above questions during the online submission process, you must upload a **PDF document** that contains your answers. If your answers exceed the maximum number of words as outlined above, your submission will be invalid and not considered for the scholarship.

Deadline

The final deadline for scholarship submissions is **11:59 PM Central Time on Thursday, August 8th, 2024**.

Selection Process

All scholarship submissions will be reviewed by a panel of individuals from The Optical Group and OAC.

The selection process will be complete by August 16th, 2024.

The chosen recipients of the two (2) scholarships provided by The Optical Group will be contacted and announced by Monday, August 19th, 2024.

Recipient Responsibilities

The scholarship recipient will be expected to meet the following responsibilities during their three (3) year scholarship:

- ❖ Maintain a passing grade in all courses to maintain the Scholarship for all three (3) years.
- ❖ Be an upstanding community citizen and reflect the professional spirit of the OAC to maintain the scholarship for all three (3) years.

Official Rules

GENERAL: By applying for these Student Scholarship opportunities, applicants agree to abide by the Official Rules and the decisions of The Optical Group, OAC, and the selection committee with respect to all aspects of the opportunities, which are final.

By applying for these Scholarship opportunities, the recipients consent to the use of their names (first and last), city and province/territory of residence, and/or photograph, without further remuneration, in connection with any publicity carried out by or on behalf of The Optical Group or OAC with respect to these Scholarship opportunities.

The Optical Group and OAC will not be responsible for late or incomplete entries; all such entries are void. The Optical Group and OAC do not assume any responsibility for incorrect or inaccurate capture of entry information, technical malfunctions, human or technical error, lost, delayed or garbled data or transmissions, omission, interruption, deletion, defect or failures of any telephone or computer lines or networks, computer equipment, software or any combination thereof. The use of an invalid email address will disqualify the entry.

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation, and enforceability of the Official Rules, or the rights and obligations of applicants and The Optical Group and OAC, in connection with these Scholarship Opportunities, shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with (i) the laws of the Province of Manitoba and the laws of Canada applicable therein in respect of residents of the other Canadian provinces/territories, without regard to conflicts of law principles. These scholarship opportunities are subject to all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws.

No monies will be physically given to the recipients of these scholarships. The scholarships awarded will cover the costs of tuition and textbooks for the two (2) year NAIT Eyeglasses Program and the one (1) year Contact Lens Program and textbooks required in the programs.

If a scholarship recipient withdraws from the Fall 2024 academic term before the NAIT deadline, they forfeit their scholarship; the scholarship opportunity cannot be transferred to a future academic term. In the case of a scholarship recipient having to forfeit their scholarship, the selection committee will select another recipient to receive the scholarship.