

MDS Service Scholarship

Purpose

MDS hopes to promote service and volunteering in a younger generation. By providing a scholarship to students, we can encourage them to participate in MDS service, without detracting from their ability to earn money over the summer to pay for their education.

Criteria for Students

1. This scholarship will be awarded to students attending Canadian Mennonite University (CMU), Columbia Bible College (CBC), or Steinbach Bible College (SBC).
2. Priority will be given to full-time students. Please refer to your school to confirm the credit requirements to be considered full-time.
3. Students must be in good academic standing with their school.
4. Students must be in a degree program.
5. Priority will be given to returning students. Students may be in undergraduate or graduate programs.
6. Students must meet the MDS criteria for long-term volunteers. This includes being at least 19 years old, a Christian, willing to abide by MDS Core Values, and affirm the Shared Convictions for the time they are serving with MDS. A full list of criteria can be found on the MDS application form.
7. MDS is looking for students who are service-oriented, self motivated, do well working in a team, and are aligned with MDS values.
8. Students must complete at least 4 weeks of service with MDS to receive the scholarship.
9. Students must submit a 500-word reflection on their time serving with MDS. This essay may be used to share an impactful story, explore the highs and lows of their service time, or any other comments on their experience.
10. Students must be eligible to volunteer at both Canadian projects or U.S. projects. MDS operates in both Canada and the U.S., and Canadian service opportunities cannot be guaranteed for all students each year. MDS does not provide assistance with visas.
11. Applications are due by the end of January. This will be followed by an interview with MDS.

Funding

1. Upon completion of the student's service, submission of their reflection, and verification of their enrollment, MDS shall forward the scholarship directly to the student's school.
2. The scholarship will cover the cost of 4 3-credit hour courses (tuition only, no extra fees). If a student does not take 4 courses in their first semester, the remaining scholarship will be given for the second semester.
3. Up to 8 scholarships shall be available, given to the most qualified students from any of the participating schools. No set amount of scholarships shall be reserved for any particular school.
4. Students may apply for the scholarship multiple times during their studies.

MDS Commitment to Students

1. MDS will cover the travel costs of students to and from their place of service, as per MDS Long-Term Volunteer Travel Reimbursement Policy.
2. MDS will seek to provide an orientation (or sufficient materials) to prepare the students for their time serving with MDS.
3. While on project, all food and lodging costs will be covered by MDS.
4. MDS will inform students if they have been accepted for the scholarship by mid-March and seek to provide more specific placement information by the end of March or early April. Due to the nature of MDS's work (responding to disasters) these timelines are subject to minor changes.