2020 LUPUS CANADA SCHOLARSHIP
Program Overview

Lupus Canada is proud to announce the 2020 Lupus Canada Scholarship program. We will be offering eight (8) one-time scholarships of $2,500 CAN to students diagnosed with lupus, who are entering into, or currently enrolled in, a post-secondary educational institution.

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation in various parts of the body; it is both life-altering and life-threatening. Lupus Canada is a national voluntary organization dedicated to improving the lives of people living with lupus through advocacy, education, public awareness, support and research.

Post-secondary education – a significant milestone for many students, brings with it both excitement and stress. For individuals living with lupus, post-secondary education may present an additional set of unique obstacles.

Living with a chronic illness such as lupus can certainly be stressful on its own, but with the added stress of school, people with lupus often experience flares – unpredictable bouts of increased disease activity resulting in symptoms such as debilitating fatigue, pain in muscles and joints, difficulty breathing or persistent headaches. For students, these flares can result in missed classes, lost study time or the need to reduce course load. A sudden flare can jeopardize academic standing as well as the ability to attain and maintain scholarships and financial aid. Many students are unable to maintain a part-time job because of lupus and so, financial resources are stretched.

Lupus Canada created this scholarship to help students living with lupus to succeed in attaining a post-secondary education. Through the financial support of the Lupus Canada Scholarship, we intend to recognize and raise awareness of the achievement of students living with lupus who have taken a positive and ambitious outlook in achieving their academic goals.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for the Lupus Canada Scholarship the applicant must be:

- A legal and permanent resident of Canada;
- Diagnosed with lupus by a physician;
- Seeking an undergraduate or graduate degree from a Canadian university; a diploma or certificate from a Canadian college or enrolled in a trade school educational program;
- Enrolled in or waiting acceptance from a Canadian-based institution of higher education for the fall semester of 2020;
- Taking a minimum 50% of a full course load; and,
- A student who demonstrates academic success and ambition.

*Previous recipients of the Lupus Canada scholarship program are not eligible.

Selection and Award Process

Selection of award recipients will be at the sole discretion of the Lupus Canada Scholarship Selection Committee. Recipients will be notified in the month of August 2020 via a personal telephone call and a confirmation letter. After a recipient's educational enrollment has been verified for the fall 2020 semester, the scholarship will be made payable directly to the educational institution. The scholarship of $2500 CAN will be awarded to cover the recipient's tuition and/or educational materials and expenses.

Application Process

To apply please submit the following documentation by May 29, 2020:

- A completed application form;
- A 500 word essay on how lupus has affected your student life and how you will benefit from this scholarship;
- A one-page letter of recommendation from a teacher, school official, professional colleague, or employer describing your unique qualities and how you overcome the limitations of living with lupus;
- An official academic transcript from your most recent year of education;
- Confirmation of your diagnosis of lupus from a physician; and,
- An interview by phone with the Lupus Canada Scholarship Selection Committee may be conducted at their discretion.

Please note that components of the application will need to be completed by the student, a school official or professional colleague, and your treating physician.

Employees and volunteers of Lupus Canada's Board of Directors and their immediate family members are not eligible.

Incomplete or late applications will be ineligible for consideration.