

Every summer throughout university I would wake up at 6 in the morning, slip on my steel toed boots and head to work for a 12 hour day in the shipping and receiving department of a tree farm in Ontario. For the most part I enjoyed this as it was a welcome change from spending long hours sitting in classrooms and libraries, but there were certainly days I wished I could have slept in until noon instead. I was always grateful that my parents helped pay for my rent and tuition throughout university, as I knew many of my roommates and friends didn't have that luxury. I still chose to work during my summers to help save up enough money to pay for other costs that students incur, like books, hydro, internet and cable, food, and a little cash for fun on the weekends.

All in all I enjoyed working during the summers throughout university. With that being said, there is a lot that high school students can do to help offset the cost of their degree so that they don't have to slave away during summer break. There are thousands of scholarships, bursaries, and grants worth millions of dollars available for students who are willing to put in some work researching and applying. While grades and extracurricular activities are the basis for many scholarships, there are numerous scholarships that cater to a wide spectrum of students. For example, some scholarships are "regional" (applicants need to originate from a particular town or area) while others can be more select and designated for a specific applicant (someone with a disability or a certain cultural background). From my own experience, I remember spending about 15 hours researching and writing essays to apply for scholarships. I was fortunate enough to receive two scholarships worth a total of \$5,500 from the Golf Association of Ontario and the Rotary Club of Burlington Lakeshore. A much better hourly rate for my efforts than I was paid at my summer job!

I encourage every student to leverage their excellence in academics, or their participation in athletics, school committees, and other extra-curricular activities to apply for at least three scholarships. A little bit of work applying for student awards now might just mean you get to sleep in a little longer during your summer break!

Check out these helpful links:

<http://www.scholarshipscanada.com/>

<https://yconic.com/>

<http://www.universitystudy.ca/>