

SEAQUAM SECONDARY SCHOOL
A SUMMARY
TO
POST-SECONDARY
Class of 2020

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Hello Class of 2020,

Your graduating year can be both exciting and stressful. Do not fear – Ms. G is here to help you navigate your transition from high school to the real world...whatever that means! I've prepared this guide for you with love, so please take the time to read it. Share it with your parents because they likely have questions too.

The big question for you is: what am I going to do with my life? For some of you that means:

- ✓ Continuing your education
- ✓ Working
- ✓ Travelling
- ✓ Volunteering
- ✓ A combination of all of these things

...all are valid paths. You need to choose what is right for YOU! Don't fret if you are unsure – very few people know exactly what they want to do for the rest of their lives and the average person will change career direction several times. What you decide today is not carved in stone for tomorrow. Changes can be made. For example, maybe you planned to study science, but when you started your post-secondary education you discovered that you aren't so great at science, but you excel in business. You just never know. Try not to stress too much and don't make things more difficult than they need to be. Eventually we all find our path. This link might give you some perspective:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OqhUrXhaAM>

Or how about this one:

<http://www.oneweekjob.com/documentary/>

If you want to work – get a job. If you want to travel save some money and hit the road.
Volunteer – help those less fortunate at home and abroad.

A great volunteer organization:

<https://www.lattitudecanada.org/>

All of these post-secondary options can broaden your understanding of yourself and your place in the world and give you direction for your future.

CAREERS - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?

Most students (and parents) think the only way to be successful is to complete a university degree. The value of a university degree is debatable - universities will report that degrees are a must for success, but this isn't necessarily the case. Bachelor's degrees do not train you for anything specific. They impart knowledge, but you will need to learn how to use your knowledge in the jobs you apply for. College and University Cooperative Education programs are a good place to learn some career specifics in your field and to gain experience, so be sure to check them out.

Speaking of jobs - a job is something you do to earn money, whereas a career is an extended journey of learning, training and experience. It is something you invest your time and passion into as opposed to simply showing up for a pay cheque. Bachelor's degrees can help you build a career, but specific **career programs** can too. **Skilled workers**, that is, people who have a specific skills set are in demand. According to the **2018 BC Labour Market Review**, 78% of jobs will require skills training. I will be attending the 2018 BC Labour Market Workshop in December, so will have new info on the market soon.

For an idea on the types of jobs, careers and occupations that exist in Canada, check out the **National Occupation Classification database:**

<http://noc.esdc.gc.ca/English/NOC/OccupationIndex.aspx?ver=16>

Job and Career Opportunities in Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/opportunities/student.html>

<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/findajob>

Or for BC specific, **WorkBC:**

<https://www.workbc.ca/>

WHERE ARE CAREER PROGRAMS OFFERED?

Trades schools, technical institutes and colleges offer *career* specific training. Check out schools like BCIT, KPU, Douglas College, Vancouver Community College, Vancouver Career College, and even private colleges like Sprott Shaw or Stenberg College for great career programs.

<https://sprottshaw.com/programs/career-list/>

<https://www.stenbergcollege.com/>

<http://www.career.college/programs-and-courses/>

<http://www.vcc.ca/services/services-for-students/career-services/explore-careers/#d.en.1900681>

Careers in the Trades are in demand

Look to the *Industry Training Authority* (ITA) for guidance on trades programs like electrical, carpentry, plumbing and culinary arts:

www.itabc.ca

Like a Bachelor's degree, an education in the trades takes 4 years. The difference with trades education is that you learn *both* in a classroom and in the workplace. To become a certified trades person, you will begin as an apprentice under the direction of a journey person (an expert in their field). As an apprentice, you get *hired* by the journey person and they *pay* you to learn from them! No loans required!

Learn how to become an apprentice at:

<http://www.itabc.ca/about-apprentices/apprenticeship-basics>

STUDY – THE BASICS

If you want to study at university, college or trade school here's what you need to do:

1. Plan

Many of you already know where and what you want to study, but if you don't that is okay too. Start by doing some research on Education Planner (www.educationplannerbc.ca). It has *fast facts* and *links* to almost all public PSIs in BC. I EXPECT all of you to review this resource and do some planning BEFORE you make a one-on-one appointment with me. *If you come unprepared, I will rebook our meeting.*

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/start/planning/>

Education Planner is also the site you use to make your *applications*, *although some PSIs do not use Education Planner for applications*. For PSIs that are not part of education planner, you apply through the PSI's own website. UBC is an example of a PSI that does NOT use education planner for their application.

To apply to PSIs in Alberta use:

<https://www.applyalberta.ca/need-more-information/undergraduate-students/>

To apply to PSIs in Ontario use: <https://www.ouac.on.ca/unilinks/>

USA

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

www.commonapp.org

SATs and ACTs – to study in the USA, you must write and SAT or an ACT. Also, SFU is part of the NCAA, so if you to play a varsity sport at SFU, you must write an SAT. Apply for SATS via *collegboard.org* or the ACT at *act.org*. Sittings in Canada are limited, so register right away.

2. Meet the Admission Requirements

In order to be accepted into a PSI, you must meet the *admission requirements*, which are a set of courses you need to take in high school, AND you must meet a competitive grade percentage, called an *admission average*. Every PSI and every Faculty and/or Program have different requirement. The courses accepted are often referred to as “approved” courses. Every school accepts different courses, so the best source of information for this is the PSI's *own* website; it is better that you look up this information yourself rather than relying on someone (me) to copy that information into this guide. The reason for this is – if I make a mistake transcribing the information you might find yourself missing a course requirement.

Ultimately, it is **YOUR** responsibility to know. Mr. Rickey and I are **resources**, not the source of information. We are not here to do the work for you. Please also be respectful of our time – please do not book appointments or email both of us with the same issue/question. There are several hundred of you and only 2 of us.

VERY GENERALLY SPEAKING universities require between **4-6 grade 12 academic courses, one of which is always English 12.**

Science – requires Chemistry 11 and Physics 11, English 12, PC 12, and 3 to 4 additional approved grade 12 academic subjects, at least one of which will be a grade 12 science courses (sometimes even 2).

Engineering – as above, but with the addition of Calculus 12 and Physics 12 as 2 of the 4-6 courses required.

Arts – English 12, plus 4 to 5 additional approved grade 12 courses

Business/Commerce – English 12, PC 12 (in some cases FOM 12 is accepted), plus 3-4 additional approved courses.

THIS IS BY NO MEANS AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST, SO DO YOUR RESEARCH!!

Changes to SFU and UBC

Both SFU and UBC have made **MAJOR** changes to their admission requirements. Both now review your grade 11 **AND** grade 12 courses. SFU also requires all students, regardless of faculty, to have a grade 12 **science** or grade 12 **math** course!

3. Apply

Applying is the act of telling a PSI who you are and what you intend to study. The initial part of an application is simple: you will provide your name, your address, your date of birth, your high school, your 9 digit Personal Education Number (PEN), the faculty or program you want to study, your grade 11 courses and final grades, final grades for any grade 12 courses you may have already completed, **and** the courses you are currently enrolled in.

YES, YOU HEARD THAT RIGHT!

YOU APPLY BEFORE YOUR GRADE 12 GRADES ARE AVAILABLE.

Depending on the PSI, you will eventually be asked to report your grades by means of a self-report through the PSI's student portal, typically term 2 grades, but some schools will make offers based on 1st term grades if they can, and sometimes even your grade 11 grades, if excellent.

After you submit your application, you will be notified by the PSI(s) of the steps that need to be taken to submit your grades and anything else that is required.

You will have to **read and follow instructions** that are sent to you. One of my biggest frustrations is students asking me questions about an email /instruction sent to them, when in reality, they haven't actually read them at all! **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY ALL CORRESPONDENCE THAT IS SENT TO YOU.** If you have a genuine need, I am here to help (some students get really freaked out at the thought of applying, so if that is you, come to me and we will start one together☺).

For more info on the steps to applying see:

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/apply/how/>

Accounts and Passwords

When you apply to a PSI, you will be asked to create an account and password. **Too often, students do not keep track of these very well and are often locked out of their accounts because they make too many password attempts. This is very frustrating for you and for me when you come to see me.** Waiting for a password recovery notification wastes time that you and I have together. Might I suggest that you use the same user name/id and password for all of the post-secondary accounts you make, this way, you are less likely to forget. For example, I might apply to 5 schools and make my user name/id the same for all. Alternatively, rather than using the “save password” for this site function, say “no/never” and manually input your password so that you are forced to remember it.

Grades and Transcripts

The grades you earn are communicated to you and your parents in the form of a report card each term, which includes comments and study habits. Your grades are also put together in the form of a *transcript*, which lists all of your course grades. When you apply to a PSI, you will be asked to submit your grades (as mentioned above and below), as part of an online self-report or with a copy of your transcript after term 1 or term 2. Most PSIs, however, have moved away from requesting paper copies of transcripts, and instead, receive your interim grades (in May) and final grades (in July) directly from the Ministry of Education. Leading up to these official transfers from the Ministry of Education, students will be asked by the PSI's they applied to, to self-report their 1st or 2nd term grades through their online portal. Some PSIs still request paper transcripts, so if you are asked for one, send it. Transcripts can be obtained from the Seaquam Office for free. Allow 1-3 days for processing.

In order for the **Ministry of Education** to send your grades to the PSIs you have applied to, you will have to complete the Student Transcript Service (STS) Request Form. We will do this together as a group during the TVR sessions on December 12 and 13. If you apply to a PSI in

advance of December, the PSI will likely tell you to complete it as well. If you are confident in your ability to complete the form in advance, you can do so on the following link (if you can read and follow instructions, then you can do it)!

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/transcripts-and-certificates>

The deadline to complete the STS is April 30, 2020.

Online/Distance Learning Grades

If you are taking any DL or Online courses, be advised that in order for the grades to be used in your admission average calculation, they need to be completed early – usually by April 30. Each school is slightly different, so be sure to check online. UBC and SFU are the earliest –

SFU – January 31

UBC – February 1

For more details on transcripts:

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/apply/transcripts>

OFFERS OF ADMISSION

If the PSI(s) you apply to want you, they will make you an “offer” which will have a deadline, which usually falls in May. PSIs make offers in rounds: 1st round, 2nd round and so on. For example, early offers go to the students with the highest grades and the best supplemental applications/profiles. A PSI might begin by making offers to students who are in the 95-100% admission average range. Then they will move to students who are in the 90-94% range and so on until they fill all of their seats. Generally speaking, averages start high and can come down to a final cut-off average that is lower than where they started.

Some *colleges* operate on a first applied, first priority process until their spaces are filled, so be sure to apply early. Nursing is one of these. The applications for nursing now open as early as on **OCTOBER 1, not NOV 1 as in previous years to allow students more time to make the application. To be safe, make your application to nursing programs as early as possible.**

Application Deadlines

Application deadlines vary, but the deadline for most BC PSIs is February 28 and Ontario PSIs March 1. SFU’s and UBC’s application deadlines are much earlier – in December and early January (see Calendar of Events for dates).

OTHER APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATIONS, ESSAYS, INTERVIEWS, LIST OF ACTIVITIES, PERSONAL PROFILES

In addition to doing the simple part of the application (who am I and what do I want to study), you may also have to submit supplemental, or **additional**, application items in order to demonstrate your excellence and experience in activities outside the classroom. For example, UBC requires a **Personal Profile** for all students. SFU's Beedie School of Business requires a **Broad-Based Application**, Sauder School of Business requires a **video interview** etc.... You will be made aware of these items in the application and admission process by the PSI(s) you apply to.

Many PSIs will also ask for a **list of your activities** (in a chronological resume format), which will include your activities in clubs, sports, arts, volunteer, work experience, enrichment programs, math contests and so on.

Planning 10 should have gotten you started on resumes and cover letters and CLC 11/12 should have your perfecting those items.

UBC Personal Profile video is a helpful resource:

<https://you.ubc.ca/applying-ubc/how-to-apply/personal-profile/>

Colleges

If you are not admissible, or if you are not ready for a big university experience straight out of high school, college is an excellent choice. In addition to university transfer programs, colleges offer career specific education. There is nothing wrong with starting at a college, in fact, I bet most of you don't even know the difference between a college and a university. Harvard is both a university and a college. Interesting? I will offer a prize to the first 10 students who can tell me what the difference between a college and a university is☺

Colleges have open intake and limited intake options. Admission to **open intake** programs requires that you:

- a) Graduate
- b) Have at least a C/C+ in English 12 (or an A in Communication 12)/or write a English placement test

Limited intake programs that have additional course requirements, usually a higher grade in English 12 and other courses or experience. These are typically programs that lead to a specific career/job. KPU has a great page on explaining open/ limited intake programs:

<https://www.kpu.ca/calendar/2018-19/ar/intaketypes.html>

College programs can lead to university programs. Associate Degrees and University Transfer programs have you complete 2 years at college and 2 year at a university (**you end with a Bachelor's Degree from the University you complete the last 2 years at. Nowhere does it say on your degree parchment that you started at college**). One of my former students is currently at KPU doing an Associate of Arts degree in Criminology. Next year, she will transfer to SFU, where she will finish another 2 years, after which she will be awarded a Bachelor of Arts – Criminology major - the same degree as she would have undertaken at SFU straight out of high school, but a different pathway to get there. Generally speaking anyone can go to college so long as they graduate and meet the minimum English grade requirement.

You apply in the same way as you would apply to a university (see above).

FINDING MONEY FOR YOUR EDUCATION- SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Scholarships are for *everyone*, not just high academic achievers. There are all kinds of scholarships - entrance scholarships, academic scholarships, leadership scholarships, sports scholarship, art scholarships, trades scholarships, religious scholarship, cultural scholarships and so on.

Education Planner also has a great page on scholarships and how to find them, so start there:

<https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/finance/scholarship>

I will provide assistance with any scholarship you bring to me. Any scholarship opportunities that make their way across my desk will be emailed to the Grad 2020 student group (be sure you sign up with me).

Awards and Funding for Trades Education

Due to the demand for skilled workers, there is dedicated funding for skilled/trades education. In addition to the District Authority Award and Seaquam's Community Awards, the following are great funding options.

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/graduation/getting-credit-to-graduate/career-and-skills-training/apprenticeship-and-trades/secondary-school-apprenticeship-ssa>

<http://www.itabc.ca/grants-tax-credits/employment-insurance>

<http://www.itabc.ca/canada-apprentice-loan>

<http://www.itabc.ca/grants-tax-credits/grants>

<http://www.itabc.ca/grants-tax-credits/tax-credits>

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/provincial-scholarships/district-authority-scholarships>

Entrance Scholarships to colleges and universities

One of your first options for free money is to apply for “entrance” scholarships from the PSIs you apply to. Visit the “financial aid and awards” page for each PSI you apply to. For example, there is a link to the scholarships page in the undergraduate admission page for SFU. Same goes for UBC. Sometimes the easiest thing to do is Google the name of the PSI and the word “scholarships.”

Big Money and Nominated Scholarships

I facilitate the following BIG MONEY national, NOMINATED scholarships. A nominated scholarship means that you need to be selected by Seaquam for a chance at these scholarships. You must see me for anything that is nominated.

IN FAIRNESS TO ALL STUDENTS, LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS YOU ENCOUNTER AN EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE BEYOND YOUR CONTROL.

- The **Loran** Scholars Foundation – up to \$100,000. DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 17, 2019 FOR NOMINATED APPLICANTS AND OCTOBER 24 FOR DIRECT POOL APPLICANTS. As you know from the meeting yesterday, you need to submit your good first draft to me by October 4, 3pm. Full details about Loran are at loranscholar.ca As you all know, this one is currently underway.
- The **Schulich** – up to \$100,000. This is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) scholarship and is also very competitive nominated. Only 1 student can be put forward for this. Applications have not yet been launched, but I will hold an info session for this in late November/early December. Until then, check the Schulich website for more information: <http://www.schulichleaders.com/>
- The **TD Scholarship for Community Leaders** – deadline November 16, 2019 This is a leadership scholarship and is also very competitive. You need a letter of recommendation from the principal, your counsellor, or a community member, but there are no limits to how many students can apply. You do not need to see me for this one. Apply directly to them:
<https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-banking/community-leadership-scholarship-for-canadians/>

Ministry Scholarships

The Ministry of Education has yet to update their **BC Excellence Scholarship** application page, so you will have to check back over the next month or so to confirm the deadline and details, but for the last several years the application and the deadline have been the same.

BC Excellence Scholarship – Deadline, February 15, 2020

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/provincial-scholarships/bc-excellence-scholarships>

Pathway to Teacher Education Scholarship – Deadline February 15, 2020

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/awards/pathway_teacher_education_application.pdf

School and District Awards

Seaquam Community Awards – money from private donors and/or organizations for Sequam students only.

Delta School District Awards – open to all students in the Delta School District

District Authority Award (formerly called the Dogwood Award)

Applications for school and district awards will be available after Spring Break.

Government of Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education.html>

For **international** students studying in Canada **OR** for Canadian students planning to study outside of Canada check out:

<https://www.educanada.ca/index.aspx?lang=eng>

More Scholarship Sources

- scholarshipscanada.com
- educationplannerbc.ca
- yconic.com
- schoolfinder.com
- disabilityawards.ca

Student Loans

canlearn.ca

HOW TO PREPARE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Start putting together a detailed **resume** of your **work** and **volunteer** experience and your **extra-curricular** involvement and **achievements**, as these will be required for your applications.

You will also want to start putting together a **cover letter/scholarship essay** that details your educational goals and why you are a good scholarship candidate.

Scholarships require **letters of recommendation**, so start thinking about who you might ask to provide these to you – teacher, school administrator, coach, community leader. You need to start asking your teachers for letters of recommendation early...at least 4 weeks in advance please.

You might also want to consider asking for a *general letter of recommendation* from someone who can write about **you and your activities well**. This person can be a coach, teacher, principal, vice-principal, counsellor, community member, employer, and so on. If you use a teacher, counsellor or school administrator, ask them to include your academic standing and achievements as well. Ask for multiple, signed copies so that if you are presented with a last minute opportunity you will have what you need to apply.

VOLUNTEERING

Many universities and scholarship providers look for students who volunteer, so get involved. Opportunities within our school and district will be announced over the PA or via the TV monitors. You can find your own opportunities through the following:

<https://www.govolunteer.ca/>

<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>

<http://www.delta.ca/your-government/volunteering>

<https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/483.aspx>

POST-SECONDARY VISITS/EVENTS

Many of the big universities visit high schools to give admission information. Here is a list of what is confirmed so far. Please note the locations:

Canadian Universities Event 50+ universities from across Canada in attendance	October 7, 6-8pm Delview Secondary
Canadian Universities Public Event 50+ universities from across Canada in attendance	October 8, 6-830pm Delta Hotels Burnaby Conference Centre 4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby 6-830pm (see attached)

UBC	October 28, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
U of Toronto	November 5, Seaquam Library 3pm
Western	November 7, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
McGill	November 8, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
U of Alberta	November 18, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
USask	November 19, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
Beedie School of Business	November 20, Seaquam Library at lunchtime
Choose BC Tour @Seaquam 25+ BC PSI will be in attendance	November 22, Seaquam (details to come; held during the first 2 blocks of the day)
U of New Brunswick	December 3, Seaquam Library at lunchtime

I am waiting on UVIC, Queens, and McMaster to confirm their visits to Seaquam. I will keep you updated on these.

If there is a university you would like a visit from, please let me know ASAP and hopefully I can arrange a visit to our school.

I will continue to promote opportunities that come through my office until the end of the school year; they will be promoted to you in a variety of ways:

- Grad 2020 email group (main method)
- School TV monitors/PA Announcements
- Bulletin boards outside career centre
- Lunch time info sessions
- Seaquam Website