

CONTEST RULES

2025 Desjardins Foundation scholarships Rules

CONTEST PERIOD

The **Desjardins Foundation scholarships** are organized by the Desjardins Foundation (the “Organizer”) and run from March 1, 2025, at 12 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) to March 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) (the “Contest Period”).

ELIGIBILITY

The scholarships are open to any individual who:

- Is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident¹
- Resides in Canada
- Is a member² of a Desjardins caisse in Quebec or of Caisse Desjardins Ontario Credit Union Inc. at the time they apply and at the time they receive their scholarship
- Is enrolled for the fall 2025 semester in a vocational training³ program, a college/CEGEP program or a university program (bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral level) at a recognized educational institution as a full-time or part-time⁴ student (part-time accepted for certain reasons⁵ only):
- Is age 30 or under on December 31, 2025

(the “Eligible Entrants”)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

¹ Visit the Government of Canada website for definitions of the terms [Canadian citizen](#) and [permanent resident](#).

² A Desjardins member is defined as a person with a personal everyday account at a Desjardins caisse affiliated with the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec or a member of Desjardins Ontario Credit Union. Members must have received confirmation from an authorized Desjardins representative that their account has been opened.

³ In Quebec, vocational training refers to a post-secondary program leading to a diploma of vocational studies (DVS) or attestation of vocational specialization (AVS) issued by the Ministère de l'Éducation, or a skills training certificate (STC) issued by a school service centre (SSC) or an English-language or special-status school board. In Ontario, vocational training refers to any program offered at a college of applied arts and technology.

⁴ For part-time college/CEGEP and university studies (for eligible reasons), a minimum of 6 hours of courses per week is required.

⁵ A part-time student will only be eligible if they have been diagnosed with a major functional impairment; have been diagnosed with a serious episodic disorder that causes major and permanent physical and mental health problems (medical certificate required); are the parent of a child under the age of 6; or are the parent of a child with a disability or impairment.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The scholarships are open to students enrolled in institutions that are on the [Government of Canada's list of designated educational institutions](#), the [school listing \(in French only\) of the Ministère de l'Éducation du Québec](#), the [list of Ontario colleges](#) or the [list of Ontario universities](#).

(the "Eligible Institutions")

EXCLUSIONS

The following individuals are not eligible to enter the Contest:

Employees, managers and directors of the Organizer (The Desjardins Foundation), members of their immediate families (siblings, children, parents), their legal or common-law spouses, or persons with whom they reside.

Jury members who evaluated applications, members of their immediate families (siblings, children, parents), their legal or common-law spouses, or persons with whom they reside.

Members who have defrauded or attempted to defraud a Desjardins caisse in Quebec, Caisse Desjardins Ontario Credit Union Inc. or any other Desjardins Group entity.

Members who have received a multi-year scholarship from the Desjardins Foundation that covers the fall 2025 semester⁶.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter, Eligible Entrants must:

1. Create a profile at www.desjardins.com/scholarships or if they already have a profile, log in to the platform.
2. Complete the application form and submit it between March 1, 2025, at 12:00 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time) and March 31, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time).
3. After the application form is submitted, the application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - a. Community involvement (cooperative, sports, community, cultural, student and business activities, etc.)
 - b. Academic perseverance (ability to overcome obstacles and pursue studies)
 - c. Financial need (financial assistance required to pursue studies)
 - d. Personal interests (involvement in music, art or athletic activities)
 - e. Overall evaluation (top picks, career goals and trajectory, clear answers, writing skills, etc.)

Each application will be evaluated by 2 jury members. The sum of the 2 scores will give a final score out of 200. A weighting will be applied to each of the criteria. It will vary by scholarship category. The weightings are shown in the table below. The applicants with the highest scores for each category in their region will receive a scholarship, provided the

⁶ A multi-year scholarship is a scholarship awarded by the Desjardins Foundation during a previous year's program that is automatically renewed for the duration of the student's current program of study.

official allocation to support diversity⁷ (visible minorities, ethnic minorities, Indigenous people, individuals with disabilities) is respected.⁸ There are 2 scholarship categories:

- Community involvement scholarships
- Academic perseverance scholarships

Criteria	Community involvement scholarship	Academic perseverance scholarship
1. Community involvement	50%	2.5%
2: Personal interests	2.5%	2.5%
3. Financial need	25%	25%
4. Academic perseverance	2.5%	50%
5: Overall assessment of the application	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

4. The Organizer will contact the Eligible Entrants who have been selected to receive a scholarship (the "Selected Entrants") to inform them of the next steps.

Jury composition

Applications will be evaluated by a jury of approximately 1,400 independent volunteer members, who are Desjardins employees, directors or retirees, or education professionals. Jury members will only have access to the information related to the application. They will not have access to any information that could be used to identify the Eligible Entrant.

Miscellaneous

No purchase or consideration is required to enter the Contest, other than the conditions listed in these rules.

Limit of 1 entry per Eligible Entrant, regardless of the entry method used.

PRIZES

The approximate total value of scholarships awarded will be \$3 million. This amount may be increased at any time, following a decision by the Organizer's board of directors.

The scholarship amount will be based on the Eligible Entrant's level of studies in the fall of 2025, regardless of the scholarship category:

- Vocational programs: \$1,000
- College/CEGEP programs: \$1,500
- University programs (bachelor's level): \$2,000
- University programs (master's level): \$3,000
- University programs (doctoral level): \$5,000

⁷ The Desjardins Foundation aims to promote diversity by supporting young people from many different backgrounds. The Foundation reserves the right to increase the total scholarship amount to support more applicants from the listed groups if targets are not met.

⁸ Inuit, First Nations and Métis people in Canada are considered Indigenous. Individuals with disabilities are those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Visible minorities in Canada are defined as individuals, other than Indigenous people, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour. Ethnic minorities in Canada are defined as individuals, other than Indigenous people and visible minorities, whose mother tongue isn't French or English.

Anything not included in these rules is excluded from the prize.

The winner, and not the Organizer or the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held, is solely responsible for paying any taxes incurred from prize winnings. More information on the tax implications of scholarships is available on the Organizer's website at www.desjardinsfoundation.com/scholarships.

The scholarship will be awarded by the Desjardins caisse or credit union where the Selected Entrant has an everyday account.⁹ The caisse or credit union will contact the winner to notify them of how the scholarship will be awarded. The scholarship will be awarded no later than October 31, 2025.

SELECTION OF WINNERS

Selected Entrants will be determined according to the evaluation of applications based on the selection criteria described in the **How to enter** section. Selected Entrants will be chosen by June 23, 2025, at 5 p.m. (Eastern Daylight Time) in the presence of witnesses at the Organizer's offices, following a procedure validated by the Desjardins Group Monitoring Office.

The odds of winning depend on the number of valid entries received during the Contest Period.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. To be declared a scholarship winner, Selected Entrants must:
 - a) Be reached by phone or email by the Organizer within 5 days of the selection process. Selected Entrants must be reached within 3 attempts and must review the message sent to them and go to www.desjardins.com/scholarships to complete the steps required to confirm their acceptance of the scholarship by the deadline. If they fail to do so, they will lose their right to the prize. In that case, the prize will be awarded to another Eligible Entrant following the selection process described in these rules. The same procedure will be followed until another entrant is selected.
 - b) Confirm that they meet the eligibility conditions and other requirements in these rules by completing the acceptance form available at www.desjardins.com/scholarships before the deadline. The deadline will be indicated in the email informing the Selected Entrant of the scholarship and in the Selected Entrant's profile at www.desjardins.com/scholarships.
 - c) Provide official documentation from their educational institution that confirms their status as a student for the fall 2025 semester, as declared in the application form. In the event of a change of program, post-secondary institution or student status (full-time/part-time) after the application is submitted, the Organizer must be notified as soon as possible. The change will be accepted or rejected at the Organizer's discretion.

(the "Winner").

Selected Entrants who fail to meet any of the above-mentioned terms or any other condition in these rules will be disqualified and, at the Organizer's discretion, the prize will be cancelled or a new selection process will be held for the prize, in accordance with these rules, until another Eligible

⁹ Selected Entrants who have an everyday account at more than one Desjardins caisse or credit union will be responsible for identifying the Desjardins caisse or credit union where they want to receive their scholarship. When Eligible Entrants submit their application, they will be required to specify their primary and, if applicable, secondary, Desjardins caisse or credit union.

Entrant is selected and declared the winner. In such a case, the same terms and conditions will apply and be adapted as necessary.

2. **Awarding of the prize.** Once the Organizer has confirmed that the Winner has accepted the scholarship by returning the acceptance form, and the Winner's primary caisse or credit union has confirmed their status as a member, the caisse or credit union will notify the Winner of how to claim the prize. Should the selected Winner refuse the prize, the Organizer will be released from all obligations related to awarding the prize and may, at its discretion, cancel the prize or hold a new selection process in accordance with the procedure described in the previous paragraph.
3. **Verification.** All entries and acceptance forms may be subject to verification by the Organizer. Any entry that is incomplete, inaccurate, illegible, mechanically reproduced, mutilated, fraudulent, or registered or submitted late, or that contains an invalid telephone number or is otherwise non-compliant may be rejected and will not entitle the entrant to a prize.
4. **Disqualification.** Anyone who enters or attempts to enter this Contest by means that do not comply with these rules or that are unfair to other Eligible Entrants (e.g., via hacking or using a voting group or false names) will be automatically disqualified and may be reported to the appropriate legal authorities.
5. **Contest operation.** The Organizer reserves the right to reject the entries of any Eligible Entrant who attempts or has attempted to undermine the legitimate operation of this Contest. It also reserves the right to obtain redress under the law.
6. **Eligible Entrant identity.** For the purposes of these rules, the Eligible Entrant is the person whose name appears on application form. The prize will be awarded to this person should they be declared a Winner. If a dispute arises regarding the identity of the person who submitted the application form, the entry will be deemed to have been submitted by the authorized account holder of the email address provided at the time of entry, as applicable. "Authorized account holder" means the individual who is assigned an email address by an internet provider, online service provider, or other organization that is responsible for assigning email addresses for the domain associated with the submitted email address.
7. **Acceptance of prizes.** Prizes must be accepted as described in these rules and cannot, under any circumstances, be transferred, in whole or in part, to anyone else, substituted for another prize or exchanged for cash, unless otherwise stated in these rules.
8. **Limitation of liability.** If the Organizer is unable to award the prize as described in these rules, it reserves the right to award a similar prize of equal value or, at its sole discretion, to award the monetary value of the prize indicated in these rules. Under no circumstances will the Organizer be required to award more prizes or to award a prize other than in accordance with these rules. In the event that there are more prizes offered than Eligible Entrants, the Organizer reserves the right to cancel the additional prizes.
9. **Limitation of liability – Use of prize.** The Winner releases the Organizer and the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held from any liability for damage that may arise from entering the Contest or from accepting or using the prize. The Winner acknowledges that upon receipt from the Organizer of the instructions to claim the prize, fulfillment of prize-related obligations becomes the sole and exclusive responsibility of the various product and service providers. The Winner agrees to sign an acceptance form to this effect. The Winner acknowledges that the only applicable guarantee is the usual manufacturer's warranty.
10. **Limitation of liability – Contest operation.** The Organizer and the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held cannot be held liable for any malfunction of any computer component,

software or line of communication, the loss or absence of network communication, or any transmission that is faulty, incomplete, incomprehensible or deleted by any computer or network and which may limit or prevent any person from reading the rules. Furthermore, the Organizer cannot be held liable for any loss or damage that may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, by any web page, software or other download or by the transmission of any information concerning Contest entry. More specifically, if the administration, security, impartiality, integrity or operation of the Contest is corrupted or seriously affected by a virus, bug, alteration, unauthorized intervention, fraud or technical failure or for any other reason, the Organizer reserves the right to cancel, modify, extend or suspend the Contest without prior notice.

11. **Limitation of liability – Receipt of entries.** The Organizer and the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held cannot be held liable for entries that are lost, misdirected or late, including as a result of a postal service-related problem or any breakdown, for any reason whatsoever, of the website during the Contest Period, including any damage to an Eligible Entrant's computer or mobile device.
12. **Limitation of liability – Situation beyond the Organizer's control.** The Organizer and the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held cannot be held liable in any way whatsoever in the event that their inability to act results from a situation or fact beyond their control, or from a pandemic or epidemic or a strike, lockout or other labour dispute occurring in the organizations or companies whose services are used for Contest operation.
13. **Contest changes.** The Organizer reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend this Contest in whole or in part should human intervention or an event take place that could alter or affect the administration, security, impartiality or operation of the Contest as provided for in these rules. It cannot be held liable in any way should this occur.
14. **Termination of the Contest.** If the Contest must be terminated, in whole or in part, for any reason whatsoever before the closing date provided in these rules, the Organizer may, at its sole discretion, award the prizes by choosing from all eligible entries received up to the date of the event resulting in the termination of the Contest.
15. Under no circumstances will the Organizer be required to award more prizes or to award a prize other than in accordance with these rules.
16. **Limitation of liability – Contest entry.** By entering or attempting to enter the Contest, individuals agree to release the Organizer or the persons on whose behalf the Contest is held from any liability or damage that may result from entering or attempting to enter the Contest. To be declared a winner, the Selected Entrants will be required to sign the Acceptance Form containing a statement of compliance with the rules and confirming these releases in favour of the releasees, including the Organizer.
17. **Communication with Eligible Entrants.** No communications, commercial or otherwise, unrelated to this Contest will be sent to Eligible Entrants without their express consent. Any communications or correspondence will be made solely in connection with this Contest, as provided for in these rules, at the Organizer's initiative or to obtain consent to use the text from entries made without purchase or consideration.
18. **Copyright.** Eligible Entrants agree that the Organizer may use, produce and reproduce, in whole or in part, indefinitely, free of charge, and for internal purposes within Canada, the text submitted for Contest entry, without mentioning the author's name. Eligible Entrants further agree that the Organizer may translate the text, as needed, without their approval as to the accuracy of the translation. Eligible Entrants also agree that the Organizer may correct the spelling of the text, as needed.

19. **Personal information.** In order for Eligible Entrants to enter the Contest, the Organizer needs to collect, use and share some of their personal information. For more information, see the Desjardins Group Privacy Policy at www.desjardins.com/privacy-policy.

By entering the Contest, Eligible Entrants authorize the Organizer, the member caisses of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec and Desjardins Ontario Credit Union to collect, use and share their personal information for the purpose of administering the Contest and awarding the prizes in accordance with applicable regulations and the Organizer's privacy policy.

By accepting the prize, subject to having given their consent, scholarship winners authorize the Organizer, the member caisses of the Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec and Desjardins Ontario Credit Union. to collect, use, disclose and share, if necessary, their name, place of residence (city and province), prize statement, photo, likeness, voice and/or other representations and recordings featuring the Winner in connection with the Contest, for publicity or promotional purposes, in any form of media (for example, Desjardins website, Facebook pages), without any form of remuneration or compensation. The Winner grants Desjardins the right to use and reproduce, in whole or in part, any visual content it may have captured for the purposes of the Contest.

20. **Intellectual property and copyright.** By submitting a text, photo, composition, drawing or any other work ("Work") for this Contest, the Eligible Entrant warrants that the Work is free of third-party rights, warrants that they hold all the necessary rights to the Work and authorizes its use, modification, transmission, adaptation, publication, communication or distribution in any format, media or technology including television, wireless or internet technologies. The Eligible Entrant agrees to provide, upon request, proof that they hold the intellectual property rights or copyright for the Work and to release the Organizer and hold it harmless from any claim, action or suit stemming from the use of the Work.
21. **Property.** All information and documents related to the Contest, including, but not limited to, application forms and acceptance forms, technical, technological and operational information, and information related to designs, computer systems, software, logos, trademarks and intellectual property, are and will remain the exclusive property of the Organizer. None of this information or documentation will be returned to Eligible Entrants.
22. **Decisions.** All Eligible Entrants must comply with these rules and with any decisions made by the Organizer, which are final and binding.
23. If a section of these rules is declared or deemed illegal, unenforceable or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, that section will be considered null and void, but all other sections that are not affected will be enforced.
24. **Contest rules.** These rules are available on the Desjardins Foundation website at www.desjardinsfoundation.com/scholarships or by writing to scholarships@desjardins.com.
25. In the event of a discrepancy between the French and English versions of these rules, the French version will prevail.
26. The Contest is subject to all applicable laws.