

# Grad Year Planner



## Choosing Your Program

- Make sure your school and program are eligible for student assistance funding.
- We fund students to study all over the world. However, there are advantages to studying in Nova Scotia. Call us to learn more.
- Is your chosen program valued by employers? Do some research before you invest your time and money. Not all diplomas are equally respected in the job market.

## Planning to Pay for School

- Research your study plans and how much they'll cost. How much will your tuition, equipment, travel and living expenses be?
- Research your intended career. What will your starting salary be? How will your student loan payments compare to it?
- Can a co-op program, internship, or apprenticeship help you "earn while you learn"?
- Scholarships are NOT just for students with top marks. Don't ignore them as a source of funding.
- What other financing options do you have to pay for school? Do you have RESPs, pensions, or other family supports? Student assistance is intended to supplement your resources, but may not be enough to cover all your costs.
- How much of your summer earnings should you save? Will you work part-time while in school?

You don't have to apply to ask us a question. Call us toll-free at:  
**1-800-565-8420** or find us on Facebook or Twitter



## When You Apply, You'll Need:

- Your Social Insurance Number (SIN) and your own email address.
- Information about your school program, including how many class hours/credits you'll be taking, expected start and end dates.
- Your bank account information and information about any RESP's or other investments in your name
- If applicable, any Custody/Separation/Divorce agreements or similar records that explain your family's living and financial support arrangements
- If applicable, receipts for any exceptional, unavoidable expenses to your family
- Medical documentation about your permanent disability, if you have one
- Your income tax return, and income tax returns for your parents/step-parents/spouse (if applicable)
- Scholarship information/amounts (or submit these as soon as you can)
- An estimate of your earnings for the pre-sudy period (usually the 8 weeks before school starts) and how much you expect to earn while you're in school.
- Documents/statements to validate any other sources of funding you will receive while studying (For example government pensions/payments, any disability income, EI, retraining program funding, spousal/child support payments, etc.).

## Planning Tools:

- **MyNSFuture.ca**  
*Nova Scotia's Higher Education Gateway. Research and plan your education now.*
- **myBlueprint.ca**  
*Use it to record your achievements, compare programs, research careers, and create portfolios. Your high school has given you a myBlueprint account.*

- **Designation 101**  
*Student Loan Repayment Rates are a good indicator of whether graduates of a college or university program are getting jobs in their field. Search "Designation 101" on our website.*

## Questions?

### Nova Scotia Student Assistance:

**1-902-424-8420**

Local & International

**1-800-565-8420**

Toll-free in Canada

Website:

**novascotia.ca/studentassistance**

### Post-Secondary Accessibility Services:

**1-902-424-6737**

Local & International

**1-800-565-8420**

Toll-free in Nova Scotia

## Alerts & Information:



**Nova Scotia  
Student Assistance**



**@NSStudentAssist**



**NSStudentAssist**

