

Scholarship Program- Rules and Regulations
A Compilation of 2005-6 (Mubdi Rahman), 2006-7 (Tazeen Siddiqui), 2007-8
(Shaarifa Khan), and 2009-2010 (Nour Qa'aty).
Academic Affairs Terms

Introduction

The progress of the academic sphere in the Muslim community in North America can be further enhanced and facilitated through the establishment of programs to foster excellence within the community. Scholarship programs have long been a means by which academic careers have launched. They not only act to recognize excellence within the community, but also act as an investment in youth leadership. It is with this purpose that the Muslim Students' Association initiates the MSA Scholarship Program.

This document outlines the immediate goals, long-term direction and the mechanics of the first year of the program. Attached to this document are the proposed regulations for the program and the student application.

Immediate Goals

The immediate goal of this program is to award a series of awards to Muslim students attending the University of Toronto. The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of leadership both within and beyond the Muslim community on campus, community outreach, good citizenship and academic merit.

1. General Mandate

- a. The mandate of the Muslim Students' Association of the University of Toronto (further "MSA") Scholarship Program is to award scholarships based on the following criteria:
 - i. Leadership within and beyond the Muslim community on Campus
 - ii. Community Outreach
 - iii. Good Citizenship, and
 - iv. Academic Merit
- b. The beneficiaries of the MSA Scholarship Program are students currently enrolled in an academic program at the University of Toronto.

2. Program Outline

- a. The program is a part of the Muslim Students' Association of the University of Toronto and is subject to the regulations and policies of the MSA.
- b. The program shall be overseen by an executive member of the MSA and the responsibility of the program will be within their portfolio. This will normatively be the Academic Affairs Coordinator.
- c. The executive member in charge of the program (further "the coordinator") will be responsible for the publicity of the program, the

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financial status of the program, and the establishment of the selection committee.

d. A sub-committee is to be formed within the executive council to approve the work of the program coordinator. This allows executive members who are not on this subcommittee to be eligible for the scholarship. Those execs will not have access to any information not available for other applicants.

d. The coordinator may delegate operations of the program to a non-executive member of the MSA. However, executive responsibility of the program remains the responsibility of the coordinator.

e. The program and its regulations will be reviewed annually by the MSA Executive Council scholarship subcommittee (or a legislated subcommittee thereof).

3. Financial Regulations

a. A Fundraising Campaign will occur annually to fund the scholarships to be awarded each year and to augment the funds of the program.

b. The financial health of the scholarship program is the responsibility of the coordinator.

4. Awards

a. All awards established within the MSA Scholarship Program are subject to the general mandate of the program.

b. A minimum of three weeks from the announcement of the scholarship to the due date of the applications is required.

c. Current MSA Executives who are members of the approval subcommittee or selection committee are forbidden from applying and/or receiving awards from the program. The coordinator of the program is also forbidden from applying and/or receiving the scholarship.

d. Only individuals who were students during the year of the scholarship cycle are eligible to apply (ex. For the 2009-10 Scholarship Program, all applicants must have been students for the 2009-10 school year).

e. All candidates should be returning to studies in the following school year (following the previous example, all eligible candidates must be returning students, i.e., returning for studies in the 2010-11 school year).

f. All applicants must be students at the U of T St. George campus.

g. The establishment of new awards will be subject to the financial health of the program and the will of the coordinator or the MSA Executive Council.

h. The primary awards of the scholarship program:

i. The awards shall only be judged on the criteria set out in the mandate of the program.

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- ii. The size and number of the awards will be determined annually from the financial health of the program.
 - iii. The awards are open to all students of the University of Toronto (St. George) presently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate or professional program of study.
 - iv. The awards are to be awarded together at the beginning of the school year, usually during the Eid dinner
- i. Individual donors may establish separate awards to be given through the program.
- i. A minimum size of donation will be determined each year for separate awards, based on the financial health of the program.
 - ii. The awards established through this method must reflect the general mandate of the program but may have additional selection criteria.
 - iii. The size and number of awards, the selection process and criteria are to be determined by the coordinator and the donor.
 - iv. Funds of these individual scholarships will be placed in the general endowment and the awards will continue as long as the funds from this scholarship remain.

5. Selection Committee

- a. The selection committee will be established by the coordinator. This committee is responsible for the selection of award recipients annually.
- b. The committee will consist of a minimum of seven members. The committee will primarily consist of current students, alumni, faculty and prominent community members.
 - i. At least three members of the committee will be current or past students of the University of Toronto. At least one of these members shall not have served on the MSA Executive Council. At least one of these members must be a current executive member of the MSA.
 - ii. No member may serve on the committee for three consecutive years.
- c. No direct family member of a member of the committee may apply for or receive the current scholarship.
- d. The decision of the scholarship committee is final.

Long-Term Direction

The long-term goal of the MSA Scholarship Program is to be a perpetually self-sustaining program with specific short-term direction to be determined by the Muslim Students' Association of University of Toronto.

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Over the next five years, the program will conduct its establishment phase. This phase will be dedicated to the establishment of the general MSA scholarship program and the growth of the scholarship endowment. During this period, the size and number of the awards will grow conservatively as the financial emphasis will be placed on endowment growth. The nature of the award will remain fairly general and will simply be based on the four general criteria of the program itself. At least four of these awards will be given annually, with the number increasing proportionally to the donor base and endowment size. If funds are deemed sufficient, the next goal of the program will be an entry scholarship based on the general mandate of the program to be awarded to a high school student entering undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto. This phase will act to establish the prominence of these scholarships and to establish their continuity.

In 2015, the establishment phase will have completed and the role of the scholarship program will be to guide the Muslim community on campus in the directions that are deemed necessary by the executive in consultation with community members. For instance, the program at that point may decide to award scholarships for exchange studies, or in a specific program, or in a specific year of study. The goal of this stage will be to maintain diversity within the program and community, as well as to provide opportunities for deserving Muslim students.

Throughout this entire process, an allowance will be made for donors who wish to award scholarships based on certain criteria that also follow the general spirit of the mandate. The scholarships of this type will be maintained for as long as the funds of the donation remain. A minimum size of scholarships of this type will be defined annually. The purpose of this is to maintain the stature of the program itself.