

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents	1
1. GENERAL	2
1.1 Why was the Nursing Student Tuition Grant developed?.....	2
1.2 How many students will receive the Nursing Student Tuition Grant? Is there a cap?	2
2. GRANT ELIGIBILITY	2
2.1 Which students are eligible to apply for the Nursing Student Tuition Grant?.....	2
2.2 Is this grant open to Part-time and full-time students?.....	2
2.3 Are Students in masters and doctorate programs eligible to receive this grant?	2
2.4 Why aren't students at private post-secondary institutions eligible for the Nursing Student Tuition Grant?	3
2.5 Am I eligible for other financial awards as a recipient of the Nursing Student Tuition Grant?	3
3.0 GRANT FUNDING AND REPORTING	3
3.1 What is the dollar value of the Nursing Student Tuition Grant?.....	3
3.2 How long will the Nursing Student Tuition Grant be available?	3
3.3 Will there be reporting requirements?	3
3.4 How and when is the Nursing Student Tuition Grant paid to students?	3
3.5 If tuition is already paid, or less than \$2,000, will students still receive the full grant?	4
3.6 Has the funding already been sent to eligible post-secondary institutions?.....	4
3.7 Under what conditions must the grant participant pay back any grant stipends that they received?	4
3.8 If a student withdraws after classes start and before we release funds, are they still eligible?	4
3.9 Will schools be required to issue T4A's to students receiving the grant?	4
3.10 Should the Nursing Student Tuition Grant be claimed on Student Financial Aid applications?	4
APPENDIX A – Nursing Student Tuition Grant: Eligible Programs and Public Post-Secondary Institutions	5

Nursing Student Tuition Grant

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Find answers to commonly asked questions related to the Nursing Student Tuition Grant.

1. GENERAL

1.1 WHY WAS THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT DEVELOPED?

- The Nursing Student Tuition Grant aims to increase enrollment and retention in nursing programs across BC.

1.2 HOW MANY STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT? IS THERE A CAP?

- The Nursing Student Tuition Grant will be available to all students enrolled in eligible nursing programs from September 1, 2023, through to August 1, 2026.

2. GRANT ELIGIBILITY

2.1 WHICH STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT?

- To be eligible for the grant, applicants must be enrolled in an eligible nursing program at a BC public post-secondary institution:
 - Practical Nursing (Access to Practical Nursing excluded as students can access the APN Education Incentive Bursary)
 - Bachelor of Science in Nursing (including advanced entry and LPN to BSN programs)
 - Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing
 - Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing
- The Nursing Student Tuition Grant is available to Canadian Citizens and Permanent Residents only.
- There is no application process. Tuition grants will be automatically applied by public post-secondary institutions.
- See Appendix A for a list of qualifying programs and corresponding post-secondary institutions in BC.

2.2 IS THIS GRANT OPEN TO PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME STUDENTS?

- Yes. However, students will only be given a maximum amount of grant funding based on the time it would take to complete the program full-time, (see 3.1).

2.3 ARE STUDENTS IN MASTERS AND DOCTORATE PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THIS GRANT?

- No, students in graduate level programs are not eligible to apply for the Nursing Student Tuition Grant. These grants are intended for entry-to-practice programs at the diploma or baccalaureate level, depending on the occupation.

2.4 WHY AREN'T STUDENTS AT PRIVATE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS ELIGIBLE FOR THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT?

- Limiting the grant to students in the public PSI system allows us to know the number of seats offered and when and where, which is essential to budgeting appropriately.
- The government has made significant investments in programs at public PSIs. Ensuring the success of these programs long-term, along with supporting established relationships between students and employers in their communities, is a prudent use of public funds.

2.5 AM I ELIGIBLE FOR OTHER FINANCIAL AWARDS AS A RECIPIENT OF THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT?

- Yes. Receipt of the Nursing Student Tuition Grant does not preclude students from receiving other grants or bursaries, including the Nursing Student Tuition Grant – Indigenous (BSN) or an Indigenous Student Recruitment Bursary (PN and BPN) through the Priority Program Bursary program.

3.0 GRANT FUNDING AND REPORTING

3.1 WHAT IS THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT?

- The value of the grant is \$2,000 per program year per eligible participant. Only nursing program years (not prerequisite or qualifying years) are eligible.
- The total maximum value of this grant per student is \$6,000 for bachelor's programs and \$4,000 for diploma programs. Students may be eligible for lesser amounts depending on when they start and finish their programs.

3.2 HOW LONG WILL THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT BE AVAILABLE?

- Funding is in place to support the cost of this grant for students enrolled in any year of a qualifying program between September 1, 2023, and August 1, 2026.

3.3 WILL THERE BE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?

- Normal accountability mechanisms for program cohorts will apply. Reports will include the following:
 - Total number of eligible students by education program, by year of study
 - Total value of grant payments by education program, by year of study
- The Ministry will not be collecting personal student information due to privacy concerns.
- The Ministry requests that each institution tracks the maximum value per student. The Ministry will not be collecting information about individual award recipients, only aggregate numbers.

3.4 HOW AND WHEN IS THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT PAID TO STUDENTS?

- Each eligible student will receive \$2,000 as a tuition reduction from the Post-Secondary Institution, or applied as a credit to their student account if there are no current fees owing.

- If an eligible student has already graduated (e.g., graduated December 2023, fulfilling the requirement of enrolment as of September 1, 2023), they should follow their institution's procedures for requesting a refund from their student account.

3.5 IF TUITION IS ALREADY PAID, OR LESS THAN \$2,000, WILL STUDENTS STILL RECEIVE THE FULL GRANT?

- Yes. However, students are only eligible to receive \$2,000 once per full-time, full-year courseload and up to a maximum amount as outlined in 3.1.
- Students will receive the grant as a credit to their student account if there are no current fees owing. This credit may be retained or paid out as a refund to the student depending on an institution's policies.

3.6 HAS THE FUNDING ALREADY BEEN SENT TO ELIGIBLE POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS?

- Funding will be transferred shortly to cover anticipated expenditures for the life of the program. Institutions are asked to draw down on that amount to cover grants to eligible students.

3.7 UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS MUST THE GRANT PARTICIPANT PAY BACK ANY GRANT STIPENDS THAT THEY RECEIVED?

- None – the grant will be applied to offset tuition costs each program year for students enrolled at the fee payment deadline or it will be applied as a credit to the student's account if there is no current tuition balance.

3.8 IF A STUDENT WITHDRAWS AFTER CLASSES START AND BEFORE WE RELEASE FUNDS, ARE THEY STILL ELIGIBLE?

- The intent of this funding is to support students who will go on to become nurses. If a student withdraws from their nursing program before funding has been disbursed, they would not be eligible to receive this grant.

3.9 WILL SCHOOLS BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE T4A'S TO STUDENTS RECEIVING THE GRANT?

- Yes, according to the CRA, Institutions (or other partners issuing funding on behalf of the government) are responsible for issuing T4As to students for government programs where the student receives a direct benefit, including tuition waivers. A T4A must be issued when a student receives \$500 or more from all grants/bursaries issued by the institution or organization.

3.10 SHOULD THE NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT BE CLAIMED ON STUDENT FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS?

- The funding for this program meets the criteria of a tuition waiver or reduction, aligning them with the StudentAid BC definition of a targeted resource (i.e. government-provided funds specifically intended to offset educational expenses, notably tuition fees). When completing the Student Financial Aid application, students must report these grants as a targeted resource, consistent with StudentAid BC's process for the Provincial Tuition Waiver Program.

APPENDIX A – NURSING STUDENT TUITION GRANT: ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC
POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Program Title	Credential	Post-Secondary Institution
Practical Nursing Diploma <i>(Access to Practical Nursing programs not eligible)</i>	Diploma	Camosun College College of New Caledonia College of the Rockies North Island College Northern Lights College Okanagan College Selkirk College Thompson Rivers University Vancouver Community College Vancouver Island University
Bachelor of Psychiatric Nursing	Degree	Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Bachelor of Science in Psychiatric Nursing	Degree	Douglas College
Bachelor of Science in Nursing <i>(Registered Nurse Re-Entry for Internationally Educated Nurses programs not eligible)</i>	Degree	British Columbia Institute of Technology Camosun College Coast Mountain College College of New Caledonia College of the Rockies Douglas College Kwantlen Polytechnic University Langara College North Island College Selkirk College Thompson Rivers University University of British Columbia University of British Columbia – Okanagan University of Northern British Columbia University of the Fraser Valley University of Victoria Vancouver Community College Vancouver Island University