

# Short Guide to the Minister's Exceptional Student Award



Ministry of Education

## About

This guide was developed to help you apply for the Minister's Exceptional Student Award. This award helps students with disabilities attend post-secondary education.

## Value

This award is valued at \$5,000 for local education and \$25,000 for overseas education.

## Term

The award is tenable for the length of your post-secondary programme of study for up to 4 years.

## Eligibility

In order to apply, you must:

- i. Be between the ages of 16 and 25 as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019
- ii. Have a diagnosed or identified disability
- iii. Have participated in extra-curricular and/or community service in school and/or the community
- iv. Be Bermudian
- v. Have been educated in Bermuda for at least 5 years, and
- vi. Demonstrate financial need.

## Application Checklist

Required Documents	
<input type="checkbox"/>	To show eligibility, you must submit ONE of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A letter from a medical professional or psychologist documenting your disability, <u>OR</u></li><li>2. The first page of your IEP, <u>OR</u></li><li>3. A document demonstrating receipt of special education services.</li></ol>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcripts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal reference letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	School reference letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Evidence of extra-curricular or service activities in school and/or the community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of Bermuda status
<input type="checkbox"/>	Proof of 5 years of Bermuda education
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed application questions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter from college stating estimated costs of tuition, room and board (for overseas education)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed financial need form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance letter (by time of interview, if shortlisted)

In its discretion, the Minister's Scholarships and Awards Committee or a representative of the Ministry of Education may ask you for additional documents to help support your application. If you do not submit the requested documents, you may be disqualified from consideration.

### Where to Find Scholarships and Awards

Use this link <https://www.bermudascholarships.com/SitePages/scholarship.aspx?sid=250> to find the Minister's Exceptional Student Award or use the search word 'Ministry' on [www.bermudascholarships.com](http://www.bermudascholarships.com) to find detailed descriptions and application requirements for all of our scholarships and awards.

### Application Requirements

Please carefully review scholarships and awards for eligibility and application requirements. To be considered, you must follow the application instructions and make sure that your application is complete and submitted by the deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. There is no guarantee that late or incomplete applications will be considered.

### Minister's Exceptional Student Award Application Questions

There are two questions that you must answer. Please make sure to read the instructions and questions carefully:

- You must type out the questions followed by each answer in a single Word document.
- This document has to be uploaded as part of your application on Bermudascholarships.com.
- Make sure to include your name and the date at the top of the page.
- Each answer should be 100 to 250 words in length.

### Application Questions

1. Tell us about your senior school experience and how you have dealt with any challenges that you have faced.
2. What difference would this award make to you?

### Application Tips

You should:

- **Begin your application as soon as possible.** Don't wait until the last minute in case you have problems getting all of the documents or have computer problems.
- **Ask for help** so that someone else can help you review and proofread your application. They can make sure that you have all of the needed documents and read over your answers.
- **Ask people who will write good letters to be your references.** Ask them early enough to give them time to write strong letters of recommendation.
- **Read and reread the questions asked so that you understand what is being asked.**
- **Make sure that you answer the questions that are asked,** rather than submit a personal essay.
- **Reflect on the questions.** Think about your experiences, accomplishments, challenges, how you have grown, successes, and what you are good at. You should also think about what you are going to study and how getting this award would help you achieve your goals.
- **Even if you have someone helping you, you should carefully review your own application.** Make sure that you edit your answers so that they are clear and don't have any mistakes. Be sure to check that you have all of the documents needed for your application.

### Questions

If you have any questions, contact the Ministry of Education at 278-3300 or at [scholarships@moed.bm](mailto:scholarships@moed.bm).