

# Short Guide to the Minister's Achievement Scholarship



Ministry of Education

## About

This guide was designed to give you information to help you apply for the Minister's Achievement Scholarship. This award was designed to help graduating students of CedarBridge Academy and The Berkeley Institute attend overseas post-secondary education.

## Value

This scholarship is valued at \$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 graduating from CedarBridge Academy or the Berkeley Institute in 2019
- ii. Have a minimum GPA of 2.5; however, successful candidates will likely be on track to achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher
- iii. Have participated in extra-curricular and/or community service in school and/or the community
- iv. Be Bermudian, and
- v. Have been educated in Bermuda for at least 5 years.

## Application Checklist

	Required Documents
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transcripts
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal reference letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Academic 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 essay questions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Letter from college stating estimated costs of tuition, room and board
<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://bermudascholarships.com/SitePages/scholarship.aspx?sid=244> to find the Minister's Achievement Scholarship 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 Achievement Scholarship Application Questions**

#### Instructions

1. Please read the instructions and the questions carefully.
2. Your answers must be typed in a single Word document and uploaded as part of your application on Bermudascholarships.com.
3. You must make sure that your full name and the date are typed at the top of the page of your answers.
4. Rather than writing a single essay, you are being given the opportunity to choose from a selection of questions to best represent you and your story.
5. Please keep in mind that all questions are weighted equally. There is no advantage or disadvantage to choosing particular questions over others. However, you should carefully review the questions and answer those that best reveal your personality, experiences, achievements and aspirations.
6. There are 6 essay questions to choose from. **Please choose only 2 questions.** Make sure to include the questions, with each answer immediately below the chosen question.
7. Answers should be no more than 250 words each.

## Essay Questions<sup>1</sup>

1. What difference would this scholarship make to you?
2. What have you done to make your school or your community a better place? In your response, you are encouraged to first consider what community means to you. Community can include a group, team or a place, such as your senior school, neighbourhood or home. Think about your role in that community. Was there an issue or problem that you saw that could use your help? What inspired you to act? What did you learn about your community and/or yourself? Did the experience change you? Did you work with others?
3. If you have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful that you believe your application would be incomplete without it, please share your story. In your response, you are encouraged to share a talent or skill that you're proud of. You don't necessarily have to be recognized or have received awards for your talent (although if you did and want to talk about, feel free to do so). Why is this talent or skill meaningful to you? Does the talent come naturally or have you worked hard to develop this skill or talent? Does your talent or skill allow you opportunities in or outside the classroom? If so, what are they and how do they fit into your schedule?
4. Describe an example of your leadership experience in which you have positively influenced others, helped resolve disputes, or contributed to group efforts over time. In your response, consider that a leadership role can mean more than just a title. It can mean being a mentor to others, acting as the person in charge of a specific task, or taking a lead role in organizing an event or project. Think about your accomplishments and what you learned from the experience. What were your responsibilities? Did you lead a team? How did your experience change your perspective on leading others? Did you help to resolve an important dispute at your school, religious institution or an organization? Your leadership role can go beyond school activities. For example, do you help out or take care of your family?
5. Describe the most significant challenge you have faced and the steps you have taken to overcome this challenge. How has this challenge affected your academic achievement? In your response, please consider that a challenge could be personal, or something you have faced in your community or school. Why was the challenge significant to you? This is a good opportunity to talk about any obstacles you have faced and what you have learned from the experience. Did you have support from someone else or did you handle it alone? If you are currently working your way through a challenge, what are you doing now, and does that affect different aspects of your life? For example, you can ask yourself, "How has my life changed at home, at my school, with my friends or with my family?"

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<sup>1</sup> These essay questions and instructions have been taken and adapted from International College Counsellors (2016). Essay Prompts: Class of 2017. Retrieved from <http://internationalcollegecounselors.com/in-the-essay/>

6. What was your greatest learning experience over the past four years that took place outside of the traditional classroom?

### 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 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 your answers 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).