

# 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 up to \$7,500 for local education and up to \$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.

## Application Requirements

Please carefully review scholarships and awards for eligibility and application requirements. To be considered, you must follow the application instructions and ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the deadline of April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. All applications must be submitted on [Bermudascholarships.com](http://Bermudascholarships.com). Should you experience challenges with uploading documents, please refer to the HELP feature on the Bermuda Scholarships website. **Late or incomplete applications may be considered with good reason.**

## Eligibility

In order to apply, you must:

- i. Be between the ages of 16 and 25 as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- 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 a 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 recent 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"/>	Support personnel reference letter (signed and dated no more than two years prior to 2026)
<input type="checkbox"/>	School reference letter (signed and dated no more than two years prior to 2026)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Official letter or certificate 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"/>	Statement of estimated costs for tuition and accommodation from college or university (for overseas education)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed financial need form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance letter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resume'

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 required documents by the time requested, you will be disqualified from consideration.

### Where to Find Scholarships and Awards

Apply online at [bermudascholarships.com](http://bermudascholarships.com) and use the search word 'Ministry' to find detailed descriptions and application requirements for all of our scholarships and awards.

### Minister's Exceptional Student Award Application Questions

There are two questions that you must answer. Please ensure you 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](http://bermudascholarships.com).
- Ensure that you include your name and the date at the top of the page.
- Each answer should be no more than 250 words.

### 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 in your academic journey?
3. Please explain what your disability or exceptionality is, how it has impacted you and how manage it?

### 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 ensure 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.**

- **Ensure that you answer the questions that are asked**, rather than submit a personal essay.
- **Reflect on the questions.** Think about your experiences, accomplishments and 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.
- **Carefully review your own application.** Ensure 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).