



**Gujarati Cultural Association**

# Excellence *in* Education

**SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

## **APPLICATION PACKAGE**

A guide to criteria, eligibility, and application form



# Gujarati Cultural Association Excellence in Education Scholarship Program

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## A. Purpose:

The Gujarati Cultural Association (GCA) of the Golden Triangle is a not-for-profit association representing the interest of the Gujarati community within Waterloo region with the mission to promote and maintain the language and culture of Gujarat. The Association plays a key role in connecting people of Gujarat and other diverse communities by organizing cultural events, social gatherings, and in promoting the language and culture in the Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, and surrounding areas.

GCA values the contribution of all its members, their children and dependents and is also dedicated to serving the community. At GCA's 2020 Annual General Meeting the members approved an Educational Scholarship Program in partnership with community donors for students entering in their 1st year of a university or a college program.

This Excellence in Education Scholarship Program will provide financial support to the children of GCA members and support secondary school students to pursue a career in their field of interest.

Gujarati Cultural Association (GCA) will **award up to two (2) Scholarships for Excellences in Education in the amount of \$1000 each, to children of GCA members** entering the 1st year of a university or a college program. These scholarships will be awarded on criteria that have been outlined in this package.

## B. Eligibility:

- The GCA Excellence in Education Scholarship Program is applicable to children of current members of GCA.
- Any prospective student's parents, who are not current members of GCA, can become member and submit application in the subsequent year when their child becomes eligible.
- The eligible applicant must be in the process of completing a secondary school program and graduating in the year of the application, in Ontario.
- The eligible applicant must have been accepted to a university or college undergraduate program as a full-time student during the fall semester prior to receiving this scholarship.
- These are one time, first Year University or College entrance scholarships and are non-renewable and are non-transferable.
- These scholarships will be awarded on the basis of community involvement and volunteer experience, extra-curricular activities, an essay, as well as academic standing.

## C. Application Requirements:

The application package should include the following:

- A completed application form (included in this document)
- Copy of applicant's secondary school transcript
- Copy of applicant's high school diploma
- Copy of official document listing volunteer experiences
- Applicant's resume that includes details of academic achievements, extracurricular activities, work experience and volunteering contributions to the Community
- Copies of certificates that the applicant would like to submit to support their application
- Essay 400-500 words comprising of Section A and Section B
- A copy of the letter of acceptance from a post-secondary institute
- Letters of recommendation from a current academic teacher, workplace and/or a community organization that addresses the impact of the applicant's skills/contributions.

The completed application package should be submitted to the GCA scholarship committee by **July 31<sup>st</sup>** of the year of their high school completion. The package should be submitted in PDF format with all supporting documents in and emailed to [gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com](mailto:gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com).

Alternatively, applications can be submitted by mail to Scholarship Committee, Gujarati Cultural Association, 208 Oldfield Drive, Kitchener, N2A 3S9.

We encourage digital submissions, however if mailed, the package should be received before the deadline of **July 31, 2022 midnight**.

We recommend that you gather all required documents from your high school and organizations to submit your application before the deadline.

Scholarship recipients will be announced at GCA's Diwali function held in October/November each year. Recipients and parents will be requested to attend the award presentation at the virtual or in-person Diwali function.

## D. Awards Criteria:

The GCA scholarship committee will evaluate applications and determine awardees based on the following points system.

<b>Academic achievement based on school transcript</b> Points will be given based on marks and number of courses	10 Points
<b>Extra-curricular activities and leadership roles</b> Sports, music, clubs	10 Points
<b>Volunteering accomplishments</b> In school and in the community	40 Points
<b>Essay</b> Essay criteria are outlined in the application package	30 Points
<b>Quality and completeness of the application</b>	10 Points

Decisions made by the GCA scholarship committee will be final and cannot be appealed. Only those receiving scholarships will be notified.

All the materials submitted to the scholarship committee in support of an application become the property of the committee. Applications will be kept confidential and will not be shared beyond the scholarship committee members.

## E. Selection Committee:

This committee was formed based on the motion passed unanimously at GCA's 2020 Annual General Meeting to approve the Educational Scholarship Program in partnership with community donors for students entering 1st year of university or college post-secondary program.

The mandate of the committee is to assess applications for the Excellence in Education Scholarship Program and determine recipients based on the established criteria. The committee will also make recommendations to fine tune this program based on community input.

The scholarship selection committee will comprise of a select few members from the elected board of executives of the GCA and 1 community donor representative.

All questions and suggestion for this program should be emailed to:  
[gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com](mailto:gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com)



## APPLICATION FORM

**Submission Deadline: July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 12:00 Midnight**

The Gujarati Cultural Association (GCA) of the Golden Triangle is inviting applications for up to **two Scholarships for Excellence in Education** in the amount of \$1000 each to children of GCA members entering 1st year of university or college post-secondary program.

### 1. Applicant Information

Student Name	
E-mail	
Phone Number	
Home Address	
Student's High School Name, Address and Phone Number	
Post-secondary institute attending	
Post-secondary program enrolled in	

### 2. Applicant's Parents or Guardian's information

Father, Mother or Guardians Name	
Contact e-mail	
Phone Number	
Home Address	
Parent/Guardian's Employer & Job Title (optional)	

### 3. Resume

Resume should include the following accomplished within the last 4 (four) years in chronological order

- Extra-curricular activities and leadership roles (sports, music, clubs)
- Volunteering accomplishments in school and in the community

### 4. Essay Criteria

- The essay should be divided into 2 sections – Section A and Section B. Details for each section are outlined below.  
Section A - Title: **All About Me** – 200 to 250 word count  
Section B - Title: **An Interesting Perspective** – 200 to 250 word count  
An Interesting Perspective will be an exposition on any topic of your choice that you feel strongly about and is worthy of sharing.
- Essay should be double-spaced, 12 point Arial font with 1” margins.
- A total of 30 points will be assigned for  
Clarity, creativity, genuineness, originality, vocabulary and grammar.

### 5. Other Scholarship/Bursary

Have you received any other Scholarship/Bursary?                      Yes                       No

If yes, please provide detail \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted for this award, any false statements, omissions, or other misrepresentations made by me on this application may result in withdrawal of the award. I have read the criteria, procedures and regulations of this scholarship and if chosen as the successful candidate, I agree to abide by them.

By signing this document, I consent to my details being included in GCA publications and media releases.

Applicant Name (printed)	
Applicant Signature	
Parent/Guardian Name	
Parent/Guardian Signature	
Date	

**NOTE:** If you have any questions, please contact GCA Scholarship Committee at [gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com](mailto:gca-scholarship@googlegroups.com)

## Application Checklist:

The application package should include the following:

- A completed application form filled and signed by applicant and parent or guardian.
- Copy of applicant's secondary school transcript
- Copy of applicant's high school diploma
- Copy of official document listing volunteer experiences.
- Applicant's resume that includes details of academic achievements, extracurricular activities, work experience and volunteering contributions to the community
- Copies of certificates that the applicant would like to submit to support their application
- 400 - 500 word essay comprising of Section A and Section B
- A copy of a letter of acceptance from the post-secondary institute
- Letters of recommendation from a current academic teacher, workplace and/or a community organization that addresses the impact of the applicant's skills/contributions.